

A Decade of Quests and Border Crossings

This new issue is monumental in a host of ways, most notably since it marks our tenth year of publishing on-line, open access and peer-reviewed work for a growing audience of readers in more than 120 countries. We continue to explore new ways of providing valuable work to our readers, who now number in the tens of thousands, and for this issue we're trying out yet another new pathway in this regard: the publishing of a first draft of a full-length book, by Julius Grey. I have long hoped that we could become a platform for books that are better suited to the open access environment than to traditional print, and two previous issues were specifically published to suit this purpose: Seymour Melman's (posthumously published) work *War Inc.*, that appeared as volume 5.2, and the co-edited work entitled *Quests Beyond the Ivory Tower: Public Intellectuals, Academia and the Media*, published as Volume 3.2. With Julius Grey's major new work on *The Ideology of Capitalism, and the Alternatives*, we are now offering an as-yet unfinished manuscript for commentary and intervention from our readers. As will be clear from perusing the first pages of this manuscript, its status as "unfinished" relates much more to the apparatus of the published work (footnotes, references) than to its substance. As it currently stands, it's like a long Essai, in the French tradition, that has the feel of a profound iteration from an erudite scholar in a kind of intellectual salon, rife with the literary, historical, cultural and legal references one would expect from the remarkable Julius Grey, arguably the most important civil rights lawyer in Canada. It's a radical, profound, provocative and endlessly insightful work that I expect will generate considerable enthusiasm amongst our readers.

Julius Grey "Manuscript", as I have called it in the Table of Contents, is complemented by another remarkable work, by Marc Angenot, whose contributions to the history of ideas, in this case linking history and law, are so powerful, well-illustrated and beautifully-described that the reader is left, as I always have been in the face of his work, with the sense that he should be our era's touchstone in the way that Foucault or Zizek are. His work, originally in philology, and literature, and history, are indeed far more grounded than those to whom so many scholars turn for fundamental insights and basic frameworks, and my own belief, bolstered by a publication I did several years ago for the *Yale Journal of Criticism*, entitled *Marc Angenot and the Scandal of History*, is that he deserves a central place in our intellectual canon. This article is *AmeriQuests*' most recent effort in this regard.

These two central contributions are part of the broader objectives of *AmeriQuests*, to discuss borders, quests and issues within (but not confined to) the Americas, achieved through our consistently high quality work relating literary, migratory, environmental, historical and sociological trends from region-to-region, across physical, historical, disciplinary and symbolic borders. This quest is undertaken masterfully by Albert Braz, with his wonderful article "Fictions of Mixed Origins: Iracema, Tay John, and Racial Hybridity in Brazil and Canada", and by Martin Rapisarda, our American Poetry Editor, who makes his debut in *AmeriQuests* with a "Suite" of moving (c'est le cas de le dire!) poems that cross borders en route to building surprising juxtapositions and provocative lines that remain deeply ensconced long after the journey of reading them. And finally, *AmeriQuests* continues its well-ensconced mission to review works relating to the broad themes of the journal, a contribution to the many fields with which this journal intersects.

There are many exciting developments to be noted as well, for this anniversary issue. We have just received a grant from Vanderbilt University to develop our *AmeriQuests* portal, alongside our existing partnerships with the Government of Québec, and with a range of amazing facilities at Vanderbilt University including the W. T. Bandy Center, the Robert

Penn Warren Center, the Center for Second Language Studies and the Curb Center; this collaboration is expanding internationally with new collaborations with the VU Amsterdam Law School and the Institute for Advanced Studies, of the Toulouse School of Economics, that will help us develop the Portal, a remarkable new tool for those interested in the kinds of quests we've embarked upon over the past decade. We are most grateful for this support, for the vistas it creates, and for the panoply of worlds we can envision from the ever-expanding networks that our borderless environment creates. Here's to the next ten years!

Robert Barsky, Founding Editor