

Editors' Note

When, more than 25 years ago, Inge Leimberg and I talked about the idea of a journal in our field that would be different from others because it would encourage scholars to relate their findings to each other and would promote critical debate by publishing responses, it soon became clear to us that such a journal could and should not exist on the printed page alone. It was to assume the faster, cheaper, and more flexible form of an electronic set of files as well. Back then, this meant floppy discs, but when the internet came up, *Connotations* was among the first journals to put a selection of articles and responses online. Debates that were dispersed among several volumes of the journal could thus easily be followed in their entirety. With the help of a grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG), in the years 2008-2011 all the content of *Connotations* became electronically available, free of charge. Until now, the printed version has appeared alongside with the electronic one but readers have, at long last, fully adopted the electronic medium for the retrieval and use of scholarly articles, and the hardcopies of *Connotations* have mainly been restricted to the purpose of giving the journal a visible presence at academic conferences and similar events. Thus, while my co-editors, Burkhard Niederhoff and Angelika Zirker, and I still believe that the printed medium has its very own qualities, it simply does not make sense, economically and otherwise, to go on producing hardcopies on a regular basis. Accordingly, this will be the last regular printed issue of *Connotations*, and we would like to thank our publishers, Waxmann Verlag, for 25 years of excellent cooperation. The journal, published at www.connotations.de, is livelier than ever, and will count on the unflag-

ging support of its contributors and readers, who are invited to join the *Connotations Society*.

Remembering the beginnings of *Connotations* also means commemorating those who are no longer there to help us with their advice. John Russell Brown (1923-2015), who with great enthusiasm supported *Connotations* from the first, and for many years, sadly passed away on August 26, 2015. He had joined us for what was to become the first of the *Connotations* symposia in 1990, "The Idea of Tolerance in Pre-Revolutionary England," and, through his scholarship, sympathy and fervour, embodied the spirit of *Connotations* as a journal and society for critical debate like few others. Readers will sense this when perusing his short note on "Revisiting Halberstadt, July 1997" in volume 7.2 of our journal (<http://www.connotations.uni-tuebingen.de/brown00702.htm>). To my co-editors and myself, he will stay "Full character'd with lasting memory." On June 14, A. C. Hamilton (1921-2016) and on July 24, Dale B. J. Randall (1929-2016) passed away. Both were members of our editorial board. Their expertise and encouragement, especially in the early years of *Connotations*, will never be forgotten.

Matthias Bauer

For the Editors of *Connotations*