

## ARNOLD RICHARDS: AN APPRECIATION

It is customary to hail an outgoing editor of a journal like *JAPA* by reminding readers how well he has discharged the responsibilities he was charged with. Thus, we applaud Arnold Richards for encouraging the submission, and supervising the selection, of high-quality contributions from a full spectrum of viewpoints in every area of psychoanalytic interest—clinical, theoretical, experimental, child, applied, historical, educational, and organizational. He recruited an editorial board that ensured the representation of perspectives from all over the physical and theoretical map, made sure to include talented, younger members of the profession as well as tried and true judges, and faithfully respected their judgments. And he has made free use of experts outside the field to appraise work on less familiar topics.

But to say that Arnold Richards has ably discharged his responsibilities is a comic understatement that will bring a smile to the face of anyone who knows him or the journal. Having turned the organization's newsletter into *The American Psychoanalyst*, he went on to embrace *JAPA* with the kind of creative passion usually seen in an artist's projection of a lifetime oeuvre. There was no aspect of the journal he took simply for granted, no possibility radiating from it that his unsleeping imagination didn't spy out and follow up. His manifold skills—intellectual, esthetic, professional, collegial, communicative, managerial, and marketing—were all brought to bear. He wanted subscribers to look forward to each issue of the journal as an enticing event in itself, besides adding value to the archive. Understanding that esthetic appeal plays a role in that, he developed a fresh, contemporary format, using lively color that ingeniously coded numbers of each volume by season, with imaginative special dressings for anniversaries and commemorations. He tapped his broad culture and intellectual imagination to ferret out a wide variety of illustrations, historical and allegorical, to make the volumes come to life.

He recognized that penetrating book reviews are as intellectually helpful as formal papers, and just as essential in keeping readers au courant, and so he embedded a sub-journal in *JAPA*, called the *JAPA Review of Books*, with its own associate editor (Glen Gabbard and then Warren Poland), charged with publishing more reviews more quickly, with more depth, as well as multiple reviews of controversial books and review essays of related books.

Wanting his readers to look forward to an exciting experience each quarter, rather than resigning themselves to thumbing a file of miscellaneous papers, he not only promoted specially edited (though still refereed) issues—on, for example, human development, research, practice and technique, and psychoanalysis and culture—but also managed, regularly and quite remarkably, to gather together thematically related papers in a way that focused issue after issue on specific subjects of contemporary interest, often with a synthesizing editorial introduction. This, along with the appointment of associate editors tasked in research and child analysis, contributed to his overall plan of preserving a balance among research, theory, and practice.

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With the aim of enlarging the *JAPA* family, he conceived of using the journal as a nidus for the unprecedented coming together of representatives from every variety of psychoanalytic institute and journal in New York, together with speakers from abroad, in annual symposia. He was not slow in bringing *JAPA* into the electronic age with the founding of the *JAPA* Netcast, where selected papers from the journal are discussed by interested parties. By establishing these new institutions, he sought to unburden *JAPA* of a house-organ image, encourage a larger readership and pool of contributors, and put *JAPA* in the vanguard of encouraging interdoctrinal communication.

The journal and its parent organization profited enormously from his vision in first imagining the advantages of self-publishing, and then using his unique managerial skills to realize that advantage by himself arranging production, copy editing, and distribution. This innovation not only secured vastly greater financial resources for the journal and the association, but enabled him to tailor the dimensions of the journal precisely to its scholarly needs without compromise. He vigorously explored exchange advertising with other journals.

All this was done while he practiced, taught, supervised, actively arranged and regularly contributed to ongoing internet education, participated in the life of three psychoanalytic institutes, edited four

estschriften for eminent psychoanalysts, wrote scientific and historical papers, some with his wife, Arlene, served as chair and then member of the board of directors of the YIVO Institute (where he helped organize a landmark conference of world scholars on anti-Semitism), organized with his wife the post-9/11 New York Disaster Counseling Coalition to provide free mental health services for police, firefighters, and EMS workers, conducted study groups near his summer home, and traveled widely (always looking for ways to advance the journal).

Those who have worked with Arnold Richards will never cease to wonder at his unlimited energy, but even more at the cornucopia—the unflagging fertility—of his imagination and inventiveness and the multiplicity of matching talents, all dedicated to *JAPA*. What we have been watching for the past ten years is nothing less than the love affair of an omniscient editor with his journal.