

# Editor's Foreword

This year's issue begins with the usual JMS Forum, this one featuring a selection of peer-reviewed articles arising from the 'Mennonite/s Writing VIII: Personal Narratives of Place and Displacement' conference hosted by the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg from October 19 to 21, 2017. This section is edited by Guest Editor, Dr. Robert Zacharias, Assistant Professor in the English Department at York University in Toronto, and the co-convenor of the conference. He introduces these papers in a separate foreword. Allow me as editor, to offer heartfelt thanks to Robert for his tireless work in chairing the conference planning committee, providing the lead on our major grant applications, and serving as Guest Editor.

The 'General Research Paper' portion of this issue features three unrelated peer-reviewed papers, nevertheless papers that deal in their own ways with the theme of 'place and displacement.' Dawn Bowen tells of a 'grapes-of-wrath' migration of landless Old Colony Mennonites during the depression to the woodlands of northern British Columbia where two provincial governments worked with the Canadian National Railway – Saskatchewan's seeking to end rural poverty, BC's to build a rural economy. Ironically the scheme worked all too well, and a booming BC interior undermined the Old Colony goal of cultural isolation, causing a new dislocation as many Old Colonists moved ever farther northward or radically southward, to British Honduras. Rebecca Janzen recounts and interprets the sojourn of young Amish and Old Order Mennonite women teachers from the United States in northern Mexico where they sought to reform Low

German-speaking Old Colony Mennonite schools; in their "letters home" to the U.S., these young women provide an insight into their own cultural constructions of 'Place and Displacement.' Linda Arthur Bradley revisits a topic that she has researched before, and that is the changing meaning of dress among Church of God in Christ, Mennonite (Holdeman) women, and the ways changing fashions indicate their increasing closeness to the wider world, especially as livelihoods among the Holdeman Mennonites take them from the farm to town and small city.

In the final review section we once again help build the canon of Mennonite scholarship, in particular in Literature and History; the former group is shepherded by Robert Zacharias and the latter by Brian Froese of Canadian Mennonite University. A special thanks again to the copy-editors for this issue, Mary Ann Loewen and Muriel Smith, and to the *Journal's* managing editor, Andrea Dyck.

Royden Loewen, editor