

## Incoming Editor's Note

Stephen H. Daniel

Three years ago Bertil Belfrage pointed out to me that in 2009 and 2010 Berkeley research will take on special significance as we celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of some of Berkeley's most influential works. In anticipation of those events, Bertil thought that getting the *Berkeley Newsletter* back in business would provide scholars with a means to exchange insights that otherwise might not appear in regular publications. Indeed, from 1977 to 1998 the *Newsletter* had been a source of just the kind of tidbits that often point to new avenues of enquiry. But more importantly, it was a place where researchers could share discoveries about Berkeley's life, test ideas about historiography, or pursue provocative interpretations.

Last year, thanks to the support of Marc Hight (and Hampden-Sydney College), Silvia Parigi, Laurent Jaffro, and Tom Stoneham, Bertil's vision for restarting the *Newsletter* was realized. The aims of the 2005 issue (#16) were modest: update the Berkeley bibliography, provide a forum for book reviews and abstracts, and open up a space for short research notes. With its inclusion of a longer article, the current issue (#17) adds another feature to the *Newsletter's* repertoire, one that will expand in future issues.

Work on the *Newsletter* during these past two years has been transitional, aimed at linking its earlier life in print to its next phase as an internet journal. Toward that end, one of the great benefits of the new on-line format lies in its providing access to all of the earlier issues. Because of this, we are able to listen in on the discussions of a previous generation of scholars even as we explore new ways to appreciate Berkeley's life and thought. Again, the credit for maintaining that continuity goes to Bertil Belfrage. Having returned the *Newsletter* to a viable condition, Bertil can now focus on other tasks, including his multi-year project of a new critical edition of Berkeley's works.

In future issues the *Newsletter* will include notes, articles, reviews, and bibliographic updates. It will also include occasional bits of news and announcements (e.g. about conferences); but because that function is also already covered in the *Berkeley Briefs* of the International Berkeley Society and on the IBS website, those items will be kept at a minimum. As many of you know, I have recently been elected president of the IBS, and I am currently editor of the *Berkeley Briefs* (which normally is distributed to IBS members twice a year). I am pleased to see how the *Berkeley Newsletter* (which is concerned with scholarly research) and the *Berkeley Briefs* (which is concerned with the community of Berkeley researchers) complement one another. I also maintain the IBS website, so I will make sure that news of interest to the Berkeley community is disseminated. Apart from conference announcements and the comings and goings of scholars, though, there is usually not much news to report; but there always is more scholarship. That is why editing the *Berkeley Newsletter* will be the most appealing of my three tasks.

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