



Transitions: A Way of Life

One indication of vitality is growth and repeated transformations. We see it when our children move through predictable somatic and psychological changes as they progress through childhood into adulthood. Nature is replete with metamorphic renovations as juvenile forms give way to more mature forms. The trochophore (free-swimming larva with cilia) and the veliger (second larval stage seen in the diagram above with beginnings of foot, shell, and mantle) bear faint resemblances to their end product, the mature bivalve mollusk that forms the basis of a tasty meal.

Institutional vitality is frequently enhanced with transitions. New people bring new ideas and approaches. However with time those new ideas become traditional, staid, and standardized. Frequently, the infusion of new persons is again needed to bring a new freshness, a welcome change.

From its humble beginnings in 1949, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* (formerly *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation*) has been altered and improved many times over with the arrival and departure of multiple editors and their staffs. With this journal issue we now mark another such editorial transition.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as *PSCF* editor from December 1999 through the current issue. I have learned and grown by reading manuscripts (that I normally would not have read), communicating with authors and reviewers, and being forced to write the letter that declines to publish a specific manuscript. The success of the journal during the past years has been due to a very capable team that provided consistent service and expertise. Managing editor Lyn Berg has been a delightful co-laborer. She has consistently managed to make the issue "come out right" even when some details seemed to be lacking. Book review editor Richard Ruble successfully managed the myriad details in selecting books for review, editing reviewer critiques, and providing that information for the book review section of the journal. The copy readers, Kelly Story and Robert Greenhow, capably flagged most of the errors of commission and some of the errors of omission that were seemingly embedded in the text. Finally, the participation of editorial board members in giving advice and encouragement as well as umpiring some of the difficult decisions about manuscript acceptances has helped to improve our journal. To all of you, I simply say, "Thank you for your service and participation. It has been a pleasure to work with you."

I have confidence that Arie Leegwater, the incoming editor, will bring welcome changes in style, content, and approaches in 2008 and the years following. I look forward to seeing the transforming metamorphosis of the journal from its trochophoric to veligeric form. ★

Shalom.

Roman J. Miller, *Editor*

In This Issue

The contentious problem of global warming fills the first pages of this journal issue. Thomas Ackerman provides a scientific summary of global warming which is followed by Loren Swartzendruber's sermonizing perspective. Most of the remaining articles and communications of the issue deal with various aspects of science education. Your responses and reflections, if voiced as letters to the editor, may provide continuing dialogue on these important matters. Finally, we conclude the issue with book reviews, letters to the editor, and a three-year index.

Looking Back: The Journal 50 Years Ago!

Fifty years ago in the December 1957 issue, the *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation* published three major articles:

- "Crossing In Relation to the Origin of New Groups" by William J. Tinkle, Anderson College
- "How the Study of Science. Has Increased My Faith" by H. Harold Hartzler, Goshen College
- "The Scientific Method and Faith" by John C. Sinclair, UCLA

To hear these voices from the past, you can access these articles as well as several communications from that issue at the ASA website by using the following link:

www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1957/PSCF12-57dyn.html