

Introduction

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ABSTRACT: *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies* concludes its twenty-three-year journey with a grand finale that celebrates its history as the only interdisciplinary, scholarly, double-blind peer-reviewed periodical devoted to the critical discussion of Ayn Rand and her times.

KEYWORDS: Rand studies, Objectivism, academic journals, scholarship

This special 2023 double issue of *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies* constitutes the final volume in our twenty-three-year history.

In 2020, when *JARS* celebrated its twentieth anniversary, I provided an in-depth tribute to all those who had contributed to this project (Sciabarra 2020). Here, I will only repeat that this journal was the brainchild of the late Bill Bradford and that it is to him that we owe our creation. And it is to the hard work of all our editors, advisory board members, peer readers, and contributors that we have owed our continued success. Since 2013, we have been grateful for the remarkable support of the Pennsylvania State University Press family, which has led to our greater visibility as the only globally accessible academic journal devoted to Ayn Rand and her times.

In these more than two decades of our existence, *JARS* has been a trailblazing periodical that has both reflected the growth in and furthered the dissemination of scholarly discussions of Rand's work. There is barely a topic that this

journal's contributors haven't touched upon over these many years; we have featured articles examining significant issues in ontology, epistemology, methodology, ethics, aesthetics, politics, economics, social theory, culture, literature and literary criticism, psychology, sexuality, history, anthropology, and the natural sciences, truly exemplifying the interdisciplinary nature of our project.

From the beginning, we have been committed to introducing at least one new *JARS* contributor with every issue that we've published; in this issue, we add *three* new contributors to our ranks, for a final tally of 191 authors, who have written 422 articles in the span of 23 years.

Among those articles, there have been 129 formal book reviews. But when one counts the many scholarly surveys that we have featured, which have traced Rand's impact on everything from literary fiction and popular culture to progressive rock, our contributors have examined well over 200 works relevant to Rand studies. There are still dozens of books that we never got around to discussing here. But this only underscores our conviction that Rand studies has grown so extraordinarily that not even we can keep up with the demand for reviews of that expanding literature. It is more apparent than ever that Rand has truly become a part of the scholarly canon.

We are proud of the role we have played in creating the first forum for the critical scholarly discussion of Ayn Rand's life, thought, and legacy. We leave this field in 2023 a far better place than it was in 1999, when our first issue was published.

Our deepest appreciation extends especially to our devoted readers, without whom none of this would have been possible.

CHRIS MATTHEW SCIABARRA is a founding coeditor of *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies*. He is the author of the "Dialectics and Liberty Trilogy": *Marx, Hayek, and Utopia* (1995), *Ayn Rand: The Russian Radical* (1995; second edition, 2013), and *Total Freedom: Toward a Dialectical Libertarianism* (2000). He is the coeditor, with Mimi Reisel Gladstein, of *Feminist Interpretations of Ayn Rand* (1999) and, with Roger E. Bissell and Edward W. Younkins, of *The Dialectics of Liberty: Exploring the Context of Human Freedom* (2019). His future work will expand on this dialectical research project and its implications for human freedom and personal flourishing.

REFERENCE

- Sciabarra, Chris Matthew. 2020. Introduction. *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies* 20, no. 1 (July): 1–3.