Editorial

Michael Beaney

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Last year saw more change than usual in the running of the *BJHP*, and change will continue through 2020, as we enter a transitional period in which my editorship comes to an end (after ten years) and two new co-editors take over. Alix Cohen and Sacha Golob were appointed last November to succeed me when I officially retire at the end of 2020, although they will gradually be taking over more duties through the course of 2020, to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Having joined the editorial team in 2011 as Associate Editor with responsibility for early modern philosophy (with Pauline Phemister), Alix is currently Deputy Editor of the *BJHP*, and Sacha is Associate Editor with responsibility for post-Kantian philosophy, having joined us in 2017. Together they will bring extensive expertise and editorial experience to running the journal. Speaking for both the *BJHP* and the British Society for the History of Philosophy (BSHP), we are delighted that they have agreed to co-edit the journal, and they have exciting plans for its further development.

At the beginning of 2019 Stephen Clark retired as Associate Editor with responsibility for ancient philosophy and, until John Marenbon joined us in 2018, for medieval philosophy. He took over this role in 2010 and we worked closely for nearly a decade, with hardly a day going by without our exchanging at least a few emails about *BJHP* matters. Stephen has extraordinarily wide-ranging knowledge not just of ancient philosophy but also of philosophy and history of philosophy more generally, and he gave me much good advice and support throughout that time, for which I am deeply grateful. Sophia Connell was appointed in January 2019 to take over from him, and quickly settled into the role, drawing on her own expertise and contacts in ancient philosophy.

The other person to whom I would particularly like to express my thanks in this, my last new year’s editorial, is Pauline Phemister. She joined the *BJHP* as Reviews Editor in 2009 and became Associate Editor with responsibility for early modern philosophy (with Alix Cohen) in 2011. For most of the fifteen years before that, we served together on the management committee of the BSHP, so our collaboration and friendship go back a long way. Like Stephen, she has been an enormous source of advice and support, and I have learnt a lot about history of philosophy, too, from our discussions and her writings. We will both be retiring from our *BJHP* duties in 2020, and we have recently advertised for two new Associate Editors to take over from us.
There have been other changes as well. In June 2019 Kate Morse succeeded Rebecca Guest as the Managing Editor for philosophy journals at Taylor and Francis, our publisher, and I would like to thank both of them, as well as all the staff at Taylor and Francis, for their work and support in running the journal. As usual, I would especially like to thank our Production Editor, Katie Johnson, whose efficiency and e-friendliness (as one might term it) has been exceptional. We also appointed a new Editorial Assistant, Emma Syea, in August, to take over from Katharine O’Reilly, to whom I am also deeply grateful, not just for her incredible efficiency over the last four years but also for handing over to Emma in such a seamless way.

While acknowledging all the debts that I have as Editor of the BJHP, I also thank all the others who contribute each year to the smooth running of the journal: the Associate Editors, Board Members, the many referees whose reports are essential in enabling us to publish articles of the very highest quality, and the authors of these articles themselves, who respond so well to the comments and criticisms they receive. For institutional support – personally, practically, and intellectually – I have been enormously grateful to the Department of Philosophy at King’s College London, where the BJHP Editorial Office is based, and especially to the successive Heads of Department: Rosa Antognazza, Bill Brewer, and Maria Alvarez. Thanks for 2019 also go to Gabriele Gava, who guest-edited the special issue on ‘Kant’s Philosophical Method: Receptions and Transformations’ (27.2), and Sarah Hutton and Ruth Hagengruber, who guest-edited the special issue on ‘Women Philosophers in Early Modern Philosophy’ (27.4), the first of (at least) three special issues that we will have on the work of women in the history of philosophy. 2020 will see two special issues published on ‘Historiographies of Philosophy 1800–1950’ and on French spiritualism.

In my editorial last year I reported that, between 2016 and 2018, submissions to the BJHP had remained at a fairly constant level – between 320 and 340. In 2019 we received over 400 submissions, significantly higher than in any previous year. I would like to think that this is a result not just of our encouraging more submissions across the full range of history of philosophy, supported by the conferences organized and sponsored by the BSHP, but also of our ongoing concern to get submissions as efficiently and productively reviewed as we can. Last year we published 53 articles (the same number as in 2018), one discussion note, two translations with accompanying introductions, one further text with accompanying exposition, and 32 book reviews. Excluding the special issues, our acceptance rate for articles in 2019 now stands at around 9%. As to the other key statistics on which I report each year, the average length of time between submission and first decision has been around 45 days, and between submission and final decision around 50 days, both figures slightly improved from last year. Over 95% of first decisions continue to be made within three months, and almost all accepted articles are
pre-published online within two months of acceptance and appear in print within 6–12 months, depending on the scheduling of the special issues.

It has been an enormous privilege to edit the *BJHP* over the last nine years, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the other members of our editorial team. As I prepare to hand over, I am happy with what we have accomplished and the direction in which the journal has gone, building on the extraordinary achievement of its founding editor, John Rogers. We have made progress in broadening the canon of those we study in history of philosophy, and in having Editorial and International Advisory Boards that are more representative of the discipline and field. Over the last few years, inspired by all the articles I have read in editing the *BJHP*, which have broadened my general outlook, I have developed an interest in Chinese philosophy, and I am especially looking forward to devoting more time to this after I retire as Editor. Chinese philosophy is just one tradition – or set of traditions – that we would like to see discussed more in the pages of the *BJHP*, and I know I speak on behalf of the whole editorial team, and not least, Alix and Sacha, in saying that we will continue to promote work on currently under-represented periods and authors. In a world that looks as if it is becoming increasingly fractured and conflicted, fostering deeper dialogue between the various philosophical traditions is more needed than ever.

I conclude with my usual encouragement to all those interested in the history of philosophy to join the British Society for the History of Philosophy (bshp.org.uk), whose official journal the *BJHP* is. Full annual membership of the Society, which includes subscription to the *BJHP* (six issues a year, including the two special issues) is available for just £45 within Europe or £50 outside Europe. The BSHP is a recognized charity and its funds enable us to organize and support conferences and other events and scholarly activities on topics and themes across the full range of the history of philosophy. Joining the BSHP opens up the possibility of applying for money for such activities: see the BSHP website for details of the funding schemes.

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