EDITORIAL
The First Issue of the New Year

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January 2013 brings a mega-issue of 244 pages of the international journal I had conceived of, established, managed, and made a reality (hopefully readers will have noticed the quality of the inaugural issue). "My" journal — my creature — is now renamed *International Studies in Humour,* for reasons independent of my wishes, and into whose details I am not going here. I am grateful to Prof. Marta Dynel for suggesting the excellent new name, which reflects indeed the actual nature of this refereed e-journal. I am confident that nobody would be misled by the new name into mistaking it for *HUMOR,* the flagship journal of humour studies for two decades now.

In this issue, an effort has been made to propose for this journal a tone and features that would give it a distinct profile or "personality" with respect to such excellent venues as *HUMOR, Humoresques, Ridiculosa,* or *Studies in American Humor* — of course, future evolution will depend on the submissions we shall get — while hopefully maintaining a quality not inferior to any of these journals. Humour studies have had in living memory an uneven record of institutional acceptance in academia, with the classics and then literary studies (think of the late 19th-century journal *Le Moliériste*) being the forerunner disciplines accepting humour scholarship, with psychology following fairly early in the 20th century. Departments in other disciplines (e.g., computer science *vis-à-vis* computational humour as being a subdomain of artificial intelligence) have been slower in that regard, and younger scholars are perhaps unaware of the kind of difficulties their elders have experienced. It is therefore quite essential that this field's journals abide by the highest standards.

In this mega-issue, I have been striving to give representation to disparate disciplinary areas within humour studies. Thus, the very first paper is in epistemology, as an illustration of philosophy being conducive to offering new perspectives on humour. That same article is also in the history of transportation. Typologically, the humour analysed is that of numskull towns, and in one section, pupils' howlers.

The second article is in clinical psychology, and is concerned with gelotophobia (extreme fear of being laughed at), in relation to gelotophilia (joy of being laughed at) and katagelasticism (joy of laughing at others). The third paper is in folklore studies; it discusses a family of humorous folktales, and attempts a historical reconstruction of how a particular version came to possess given symbols (the orange and unleavened bread), and how these were reinterpreted as cultural circumstances changed.

This issue of the journal also comprises three review essays — their respective domains are pragmatics, the zoological imaginary (and its treatment in French *pataphysique*), and the history of political cartoons — and as can be seen, these essays differ significantly from regular book reviews, without their having to fully conform with the category of regular articles, even though they may resemble these. It is the policy of this journal that articles are posted online when a new issue is launched, but book reviews can be added at a later date. Several reviews are in the pipeline.

I think that this mega-issue is being successful in illustrating a possible role for an international e-journal in humour studies, in that in an e-journal abiding by the same high standards as good journals in print, you can delve into such depth of analysis, or to offer interdisciplinary work while satisfying criteria from a variety of disciplines, in a manner that would be unfeasible in a printed periodical with a fixed page quota. All the more so, as practical necessities have apparently dictated that extant journals in

humour studies should rather shun excessive specialism. You need length to make specialist material accessible. Moreover, we can reproduce iconography in colour.

In the present issue, I am also trying to illustrate the kind of bibliographical format "latitudinarianism" we adopt. While insisting on standardisation, we nevertheless allow for discipline-dependent differentiation. Thus, psychologists are afforded the comfort of their usual bibliographical format, whereas the other departure allowed is that such humanists who are used to including publication data in footnotes are allowed to do so (in the format illustrated in the paper "Considerations about the Pantomime of the Orange and the Unleavened Bread Within a Judaeo-Spanish Folktale"). Otherwise, the usual citation style is by author and year.

The languages of this journal are English and, on occasion, French. Authors retain their copyright for their paper, but give this journal the permission to publish it in the present and the future. It is my hope that this journal will manage to attract also such humanists who have been contributing to scholarship about humour, but have thus far refrained from publishing in extant humour studies journals, only publishing instead in journals or paper collections in various compartments of the humanities. I would also like to point out an advantage this journal offers to the French-speaking research communities: the issues of *Humoresques* and *Ridiculosa* are thematic; there is a *desideratum* for a thematically miscellaneous forum for papers in French, and this journal may be it. I would like to mention my Amsterdam book series *Topics in Humor Research,* which welcomes monographs as well as thematic paper collections (the book series is in English only, because of the publisher's constraints).

The present relaunch of my journal was intended to be with two issues, 1(2) of December 2012, and 2(1) of January 2013, instead of the present "mega-issue" 2(1) subsuming also 1(2). Unfortunately and distressfully, that plan was spoilt at very short notice by the circumstance that most of the backlog I had painstakingly built up (from early contact to evaluation and approval, to revision and formatting), turned out to be no longer available (I have avoided duplication), having in a sense gone the way the originally named journal had gone — which since July 2012, caused me six months of grief and made some restructuring necessary — but this contingent shortcoming (reflected in a less various pool of authors in the present issue than I had confidently expected until 21 December 2012) can hopefully be remedied in issues 2(2) of 2013, and 3(1) of 2014, owing to a number of already announced submissions. A new backlog will hopefully come into being. We need this journal in this field.

Keywords for each published item (except book reviews) are indicated in the table of contents of each issue. Moreover, the journal already has a Subject Index of 22 pages. Entries point to one or more issues of the journal, and at least one paper inside each issue pointed to. Care was taken in naming index entries, so as to facilitate search inside the papers pointed to in the subject index.[2] Suggestions are welcome.

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[2] Note however the following. If you look up "Kierkegaard, Søren" or "Megaphone" in the Subject Index and then, having found there the pointer "2(1, Nissan on Varejka)", you would search the review essay "Imagined Elephants in the History of European Ideas: Varejka's Pataphysical Way to the Subject" for "Kierkegaard" and find him mentioned on pp. 157, 158, 159, 169; or then you would search for "megaphone", and find it mentioned on p. 158. Were you to look up in the Subject Index, say, the entry "Backstabbing" instead, upon finding the pointer "2(1, Nissan on Varejka)" you would better search that same review essay for "backstab" (the stem without the suffix), and would then find "backstabbed" in a caption on p. 132 (with a pointer to Fig. 30 two pages later), and "backstabbing" in the last line of a footnote on p. 133, in the context of the discussion of a 1525 work by Albrecht Dürer. As this is a refereed e-journal, and readers may read papers directly from the screen as well as from a printout, I chose to have the page number appear in both the header and footer of pages, as experience shows that this reduces the need to scroll up or down in order to identify the page.