

EDITOR'S NOTE

Prior to assuming the editorship of *Tradition* in 2001, I solicited advice from family and colleagues as to the advisability of accepting the position. Some enthusiastically underscored the opportunity to significantly shape the contours and content of learned discourse within the Orthodox community and beyond. Others expressed serious reservations concerning the feasibility of maintaining rigorous standards of quality while publishing on a quarterly basis with a volunteer editor and staff, the burden of balancing academic and rabbinic duties with editorial responsibilities, and the personal discomfort—not to mention political fallout—generated by the need to reject the majority of the abundant number of unsolicited submissions to the journal. All, of course, were quite correct. Perhaps it is not surprising, therefore, that I finally accepted the position, took pride in the final product, yet recently decided to resign the editorship, yielding to the pressures of increased professional responsibilities.

Throughout my tenure at *Tradition*, I benefited from the enhanced clarity of vision gained by standing upon the shoulders of giants: my distinguished predecessors, Rabbi Norman Lamm, Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger ז"ל, and Rabbi Emanuel Feldman. Profound *hakarat hatov* is due to our dedicated consulting and associate editors, talented editorial assistant, expert production manager, and the officers of the Rabbinical Council of America, for their invaluable roles in assuring that *Tradition* continue to speak—in Ben Jonson's words—with a "newness of sense and antiquity of voice."

Many thanks to the authors of the essays, columns and letters published in the journal—as well as to those whose submissions, for a variety of reasons, were not accepted for publication—both for their submissions and for their patience. Special thanks to my beloved wife, Linda, for her consistently wise counsel in the face of difficult editorial decisions.

TRADITION

The current issue combines the last essays accepted under my editorship and the first to be accepted by the incoming editor, Rabbi Shalom Carmy. Professor Carmy, who teaches philosophy and Jewish studies at Yeshiva University, is a revered teacher and distinguished scholar, renowned for his unique blend of creative scholarship and literary craftsmanship. Rabbi Carmy's name has long been intimately associated with the journal, and I am most pleased that he has consented to assume the vital role of steadfast guardian of *Tradition*.

Michael A. Shmidman