

FROM THE EDITOR

Forty years ago, James D. Thompson brought the *Administrative Science Quarterly* to life. Some might say ASQ's birth is as good as any event for dating the beginning of organization studies as well. Regardless of your stance on the field's genesis, I trust you will agree that 40 years of publication is cause enough for celebration. If not, stop reading, for beyond lies ASQ's 40th anniversary gift to the field: a set of essays penned especially for the occasion by distinguished scholars responsible for large chunks of our history over the last four decades.

The idea of an anniversary issue arose last October at our annual editors' meeting. Wouldn't it be fun, someone mused, to commission a set of essays from pioneers of organizational behavior and theory and then publish them as a surprise? In an instant, we were brainstorming names of scholars to invite, the only criterion being that nominees had to have grown up, as it were, alongside ASQ from nearly the beginning. We resolved to keep our charge simple: Write whatever you want on the general theme of what the field has accomplished, what it has failed to accomplish, and what it needs to do. We also resolved to publish the essays pretty much as we received them, subject only to routine copy editing.

We are pleased and deeply grateful that Michel Crozier, Fred Fiedler, David Hickson, Hal Leavitt, Jim March, Lyman Porter, Philip Selznick, Ed Schein, Karl Weick, and Mayer Zald accepted our invitation to write for the occasion. Unfortunately, Professor Crozier, because of a recent accident, was not able to complete his essay in time to meet the deadline for this issue. But he was so enthusiastic about writing it that we have agreed to publish it in the September 1996 issue.

All the authors in this issue have managed to craft essays that both entertain and edify, a fitting combination after forty years. On the following pages there are no regressions, no methods, and no theory sections, yet plenty of provocative ideas and even a few revelations. Our intent is for you to have as much fun reading this issue as we had putting it together.

Stephen R. Barley

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