

The Editor's Desk

Heading into our second ten years of publication, the time felt right to redesign our format. Actually, one of our subscribers—a book lover, artist, and graphics designer—first suggested the change, then guided our efforts. We trust you'll be as pleased with the new design as we are.

This first redesigned issue was shepherded and guest-edited by James H. Meredith, long-time associate editor and book review editor. Jim has divided his time over the last few months among editing this issue, teaching, and working on three separate book projects. Beyond this, he is also organizing a Society of War, the Arts, and Culture. As the name suggests, the purpose of this society is to further the study of war and its effect on us and our culture. Like WLA, the society will examine all aspects of artistic expression and cultural studies. For the immediate future at least, Jim will act as the Executive Director and seek volunteers for jobs as the society develops. Please write or call him if you'd like to volunteer for a job or if you have suggestions about programs the society could sponsor. We not only hope to sponsor panels at various conferences around the country, but we'll also host our own special topic conferences, like the one we recently hosted commemorating the 100th anniversary of Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. We're presently planning a conference celebrating Ernest Hemingway's 100th birthday—Ernest Hemingway on War—during August 1999. As we finalize our arrangements, we'll publish updates in WLA and send you a newsletter as well. Unless you tell us otherwise, we'll consider WLA subscribers as members of the society. Subscription to the journal will be your only dues.

In this issue we begin, too, a series in which we reprint classic pieces of war literature. The inaugural selection is Ambrose Bierce's Civil War short story, "Chickamauga." Jim Meredith made this selection and penned the headnote for it as well. We invite readers to join in this celebration of classics.

Finally, upcoming issues of WLA will include features on Korean War poetry, Richard Wilbur's WWII poetry, letters

from Bosnia, photography from El Salvador, a recollection of A-Bomb testing during the 50s, and a marking, through poetry, of the 30th anniversary of the Tet Offensive. The Fall/Winter issue will devote the majority of its pages to Korean War poetry, as selected and reviewed by W.D. Ehrhart. ■