



The Journal of the History of Biology at 50

MICHAEL R. DIETRICH

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

USA

E-mail: Michael.Dietrich@dartmouth.edu

It is a privilege to inaugurate this landmark year at the *Journal of the History of Biology*. 2017 welcomes the 50th volume of *JHB*. Launched in 1968 by Everett Mendelsohn, *JHB* has played a foundational role in the development and recognition of history of biology as a field. Indeed, as the field has grown, *JHB* has grown from two issues per year to four. Where the first three volumes featured authors from three nations, the most recent three volumes include authors from 18 different nations. Remarkably, even as much has changed, both Everett Mendelsohn and Garland Allen had articles in the first issue of volume 1 and in the last issue of volume 49.

Since 1968, *JHB* has had six Editors. Everett served as founding Editor, and in 1989, Shirley Roe joined him as Co-Editor; a promotion from her position as Associate Editor. In 1999, Everett and Shirley decided it was time to pass the *Journal* to new hands, and Garland Allen and Jane Maienschein were selected to share the Editorial duties. In 2006, Gar and Jane were succeeded by Paul Farber, and in 2012, I took over from Paul.

Until 2012, the *Journal* had been managed by very able hands who tracked manuscripts, reviews, and replies by mail and then email. These Managing Editors, Staff Editors, and Assistant Editors were invaluable parts of the *Journal*, and included Ginny Domka, Marie Glitz, Julia McVaugh, Vivian Wheeler, Nancy Clemente, and Judith Swazey. As part of the editorial transition in 2012, I adopted the online Editorial Manager system used by Springer, and effectively moved management of the *Journal* away from its paper-based past. That said, *JHB* remains indebted to the exceptional managerial staff at Springer, including Marielle Klijn and Sujeetha Sudhan, who oversee our production pro-

cess and manuscript system, and to our always helpful Editor at Springer, Ties Nijssen.

The Editors at *JHB* have had the very good fortune of having the support of extraordinary Associate Editors, Editorial Board Members, and Reviewers. Their advice on matters mundane and profound has been essential. The dedication and thoughtfulness of our cast of anonymous reviewers deserves special mention. Every research article in *JHB* has been scrutinized by reviewers who have offered advice and insight that have improved the contents of this journal. The generosity and professionalism of our reviewers is tremendously appreciated by Editor and author alike.

Book reviews have not been a completely consistent feature of *JHB* over the past 50 years. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Judith Swazey wrote reviews in a feature called The JHB Bookshelf. These duties were taken on by later Associate Editors, such as Diana Long Hall and Robert G. Frank, Jr., who began adding reviews from outside scholars. The Associate Editor for Reviews became the Book Review Editor in 1999 and has been ably filled by Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Mark Largent, and now Mark Borrello.

As we begin this 50th volume, the *Journal of the History of Biology* remains committed to publishing highly original history of biology of exceptional quality. *JHB* has been home to the first article published by many notable scholars, and, in some cases, to their last. We welcome all submissions, and look forward to working with authors from every nation and at all stages of their careers.

The scholarship published in *JHB* helped establish history of biology as a field and has infused it ever since with compelling and insightful historical analysis. As we look back on 50 years of exceptional scholarship, we look forward to 50 more.