

COMMONWEALTH: GENESIS

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Wes Leckrone, the incoming Editor of *COMMONWEALTH*, has asked me, as the Founding Editor from 1985-1993 (and co-Editor for Political Theory since 1994), to write a brief retrospective on this journal's development to date. I am happy to do so, especially since it allows me to thank some of the many people and institutions involved in its creation and evolution.

In the first issue (1987) I wrote: "It is especially satisfying to bring to life a wholly new publication." It stemmed from several years of discussion and planning. We began on a high note, with the monetary support of a number of excellent Pennsylvania colleges and universities and the financial input and intellectual backing of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association. Among those instrumental in helping me get the journal off the ground were my first Managing Editor, Annette Steigelfest, PPSA President Frank Colon, PPSA Past President Donald Buzinkai, and Council Member Thomas Baldino, who succeeded me as Editor in 1994, and who was followed in 2002 by Gerard J. ("Gerry") Fitzpatrick. Both supervening Editors have been invaluable in advancing the mission of the journal (see below). I also benefitted from the contributions of a powerhouse Editorial Review Board recruited from some 25 prominent colleges and universities across the nation, from Cambridge to Berkeley, as well as friends from various professional associations and editors of other political science journals.

The journal's original mission was to publish "important scholarly research from among the many subfields and perspectives in the discipline as well as those of an interdisciplinary nature. Open to a variety of approaches and methodologies, it [sought] studies...based on theoretical perspectives (empirical and/or normative) as well as those which advance knowledge by using historical approaches." Additionally, we encouraged articles dealing with Pennsylvania state and regional politics and public policy. Such studies have been featured in virtually every issue, and they were the sole focus of three special policy issues in 2008-2009. Additional editorial input was recruited for these special issues, including Michael Cassidy, Michael King,

and Beverly Cigler. As COMMONWEALTH transitions to a central focus on such studies, henceforth to be published by Temple University Press, I would note that the journal has flourished over the years where virtually all other state political science journals have disappeared. We must be doing something right.