

Postscript

This issue has been a pleasure to assemble, a pleasure and a bit of a pain since we were unable to make it as large as we first had in mind. We want to thank James Alan McPherson for working with us with such good spirit over a long time. And we want also to warn that though we present fiction by men, this is not an issue of men's fiction. We did not solicit men to send work that would express a male point of view, and none of the contributors sent stories knowing they would appear under this banner. We first thought simply to devote an entire issue to fiction, and it was only after we had begun collecting stories and became interested in a few relationships among them that we said well, why not? We put out a Women's Issue recently. Let's see what men are writing.

If there is a male point of view here, and if that view seems influenced by women and their writing over the last decade or so, we leave it for readers to discover. We feel we have noticed more than glimmerings of such a thing but doubt that those recognitions governed our choices. At the very least, though, the relations of men and women in these stories are deeply reflective of our era.

We have been equally pleased to complete this issue within Huck Finn's centennial year and charmed to find some of Twain's characteristic themes—fathers and sons, boys (and young men) together, innocents abroad, even when that's not so far from home, a love of technology, some satire, and some spirited play with the hereafter—still available to writers.

Our one regret is that the issue is less thick than at first planned. Budgets, timing, and the staff available to work on it forced us to trim, leaving us with several stories to place in future issues. Among these are "Domestic Depravities" by Tom Grimes, "Three Hunters" by David Guterson, "Sunday Biography" by Jeff Kross, and "A Theory of Dentistry" by Peter LaSalle. We hope you will look for these stories.

D.H.