

Introduction

TO HONOR JULES CHAMETZKY, a founding editor of *The Massachusetts Review*, on his retirement from his co-editorship in 2001, the editors asked Anne Halley and Mary Heath, with the help of Paul Jenkins and David Lenson, to prepare a special issue. Because of Jules' ranging interests and his leadership role in serving several organizations, the response from invited contributors caused the single to become a double issue.

We open this volume with the first recorded "idea" for a review, a memo from Jules in October, 1958. David Clark, a member of the original *MR* board, explains the memo's context and import in a note. Then John Hicks, who joined the board in 1960, and remained a co-editor until 1984 (he and Jules were co-editors from 1963 until 1974) offers some reminiscences of the early days at *MR*. We reprint a poem, "June Rain, 1972" by another member of the first *MR* board, Robert Tucker, who died while still serving as editor in 1982.

Jules made *MR* a founding member of the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, and Pauline Uchmanowicz discusses the history of CCLM and Jules' role in it in her essay. When Jules retired from *MR* (the first time) in 1974, he was recruited to serve as a negotiator for the first contract and then as President of the faculty union; union comrade and colleague Bruce Laurie both discusses the beginnings of the Union and interviews Jules about his memories of it. When Jules left the presidency, he became the first Director of the Institute for the Humanities at the University. Esther Terry, who was Associate Director at the Institute, here offers him an appreciation. Werner Sollors first worked with Jules at the Kennedy Institute of the the Free University in Berlin in 1970-1971. His essay weaves together phrases and ideas from Jules' work in Ethnic and Jewish-American literature, fields of study and concentration that emerged to flourish during his academic career, and to

which he has been deeply committed. Hilene Flanzbaum, who co-edited *Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology* with Jules, John Felstiner, and Kathryn Hellerstein, has contributed an essay on editing that anthology.

We set out to make this issue reflect Jules' intellectual and aesthetic and social-moral concerns: civil rights, the visual arts as well as literature and ethnic studies. Colleagues from Germany as well as this country contribute essays that address those interests they share with him. Some of his former students have also contributed to this issue, and we include fiction and poetry. Lisa Baskin contributes eleven drawings by her late husband, Leonard, both of them long-time friends and past editors of *MR*. And finally, Jerome Liebling studies an old family photograph taken when Jules was fourteen, and meditates on the life of his friend that began in Brooklyn, New York.

We salute your abounding spirit.

—*The Editors*

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