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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

This issue is devoted entirely to articles examining the history of social welfare. It did not come into being as our other Special Issues do: with a formal proposal to the Editorial Board, a Call for Papers, and other solicitations of manuscripts.

In this case, we simply became aware of an accumulation of manuscripts on historical topics. With four or five in the editorial pipeline, it seemed likely that we could publish those which were accepted in the same issue. This collective impact might give each paper more readers than it might have had individually. Then a few more arrived, and the possibility of filling an entire issue occurred to us. We added to the critical mass by delaying the publication of a few previously accepted articles and putting pressure for speedy revisions on more recently submitted manuscripts. At a panel presentation during the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, I mentioned the forthcoming issue and more manuscripts appeared. Most of these did not arrive in time to be reviewed for this issue. However, this only means that you will have more social welfare history articles to look forward to in subsequent issues of *JSSW*.

I don't know whether this blossoming of productivity by social welfare historians is an accidental, one-time event or whether it is a sign of a growing movement. I don't know whether they came to us by accident or because there are insufficient outlets for historical work and the *JSSW* is recognized as a journal which has successfully filled other gaps in social welfare publishing. In any case, we are grateful for the event and proud to have been able to facilitate this important area of scholarship.

ROBERT D. LEIGHNINGER, JR.
Editor

