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Jim Midgley Retires as Book Review Editor

For the last dozen years our Book Review section has been piloted by James Midgley, now Dean Emeritus at the University of California–Berkeley. We didn't always have book reviews. Our first Book Review Editor was Paul Adams, who began in 1983, a full ten years after our founding. He served for two years and was succeeded by Shimon Gottshalk in collaboration with Bruce Thyer until late 1987. Shimon carried on alone until 1992. Soliciting books to review, persuading scholars to review them, and riding herd on the reviewers is hard work. Neither the book review editors nor the reviewers get much of any reward from their departments for their efforts. We were grateful for their efforts and did not expect a prodigious output. Some issues had reviews, many went by without any.

Somehow, Jim changed all that. Undertaking the job while he was otherwise engaged as Dean and Asst. Vice President for Research at Louisiana State University and Dean at UC–Berkeley, Jim courted publishers, corralled reviewers, got them to report on time, and sent tear sheets back to the publishers to show them that it was worth their while to send us their books. We suddenly had half a dozen reviews per issue.

If that wasn't enough, we also had Book Notes, brief reports on books that deserved notice but couldn't be fit into the schedule for a full-scale review. Many of these Jim wrote himself. The contribution of our Book Review section to the popularity and scholarly reputation of *JSSW* is incalculable.

To carry on this weighty legacy, and in appreciation of the work load it involves, we are fortunate to have two new Book Review Editors, Marguerite Rosenthal, Professor Emerita at Salem State College and Jennifer Zelnick, also at Salem State. They have already produced their first issue. If you are interested in reviewing books, and can deliver the reviews on time, I'm sure they would be happy to hear from you.

On behalf of Fritz, Melinda, the Editorial Board, and the subscribers and readers of *JSSW*, thanks, Jim, for all your hard work.

Bob Leighninger
Editor