

EDITORIAL

I've been looking back on what's happened with the *JSE* since we parted ways with our former publisher, Allen Press, and switched to a more cost-effective and flexible online publishing system that allowed us to offer both print and electronic versions of the *Journal*. We were quite sure, when this happened, that the transition would reduce our production costs, and we figured that the savings could partially be passed along to readers by allowing us to increase the size of our journal issues—provided (of course) that we had enough acceptable submissions to sustain the increase.

I predicted at the time that we'd probably be able to add about 100 pages annually to the *JSE*. And I'm pleased to report that the prediction has so far panned out, by a comfortable margin. So I submit the following for your consideration.

Our last two volumes with Allen Press were Volumes 22 and 23. The former added up to 594 pages (a reasonable size for a journal), and the latter added up to 572. Now some previous volumes were larger. For example, Volume 13 (1999) was 724 pages; Volume 14 (2000) was 678; Volume 16 (2002) was 716; and Volume 18 (2004) was a whopping 812 pages. I don't pretend to know to what extent the US and global economic situations influenced our ability to produce somewhat larger journal volumes prior to Volume 22 (2008). Many things of relevance could have changed—and no doubt did change—between 2002 and 2008 (Volume 22). So I was particularly interested to see how the *JSE* grew beginning in 2010, when we produced Volume 24. It seemed to me that the *JSE*'s more immediate prior history might make for a more illuminating comparison, especially since both the US and global economy have been especially depressed and volatile since 2008. Moreover, I took over as Editor-in-Chief with Volume 23 in 2009, our last year with Allen Press, and I know first-hand how our publishing options were constrained that year by concerns over printing costs. Perhaps some of my predecessors as Editor-in-Chief would like to weigh in and shed further light on the matter. I'd welcome that.

Our first post–Allen Press volume, Volume 24, added up to 804 pages, and Volume 25 was 888. Our first three issues of the present year's volume already add up to 758 pages. That's almost 250 pages per issue for the current year, and an average of nearly 223 pages per issue since we left Allen Press. Granted, our recent issues have been bulked up somewhat by including a *JSE* index and announcements at the end. That probably accounts for, let's say, 15 pages per issue not devoted to scholarly material.

During the Allen Press era, announcements were always included in each issue, but an index was added only to the last issue of the year. So let's say that effective volume sizes for Volumes 24 and 25 should be reduced by 45 pages. By that count, Volume 24 was 759 pages and Volume 25 was 843 pages. And the first issues of our current Volume 26 should then be figured to be 713 pages. The average adjusted issue size from Volume 24 onward thus averages out to 210 pages. This is still a generous helping of material, by any reasonable standard, and it's a dramatic change from the average issue size of almost 146 pages for Volumes 22 and 23. And I believe it demonstrates how our new publishing arrangement has arrested what looked like a downturn in our ability to offer subscribers bang for their buck, and inaugurated a healthy trend of being able to provide both substantive and substantial issues. Our Managing Editor, Kathleen, and I figured initially that under the new regime we'd be able to increase issue size by about one article or 25 pages. Clearly, we've done better than that.

For those who are merely curious or who want to make a more detailed analysis, here's a list of the *JSE* volume sizes since the journal's inception.

Vol. 1:	196 pages (2 issues)
Vol. 2:	243 pages (2 issues)
Vol. 3:	219 pages (2 issues)
Vol. 4:	270 pages (2 issues)
Vol. 5:	270 pages (2 issues)
Vol. 6:	401 pages (4 issues a year from here on)
Vol. 7:	476 pages
Vol. 8:	588 pages
Vol. 9:	611 pages
Vol. 10:	626 pages
Vol. 11:	590 pages
Vol. 12:	654 pages
Vol. 13:	724 pages
Vol. 14:	678 pages
Vol. 15:	586 pages
Vol. 16:	716 pages
Vol. 17:	796 pages
Vol. 18:	739 pages
Vol. 19:	671 pages
Vol. 20:	675 pages
Vol. 21:	812 pages
Vol. 22:	594 pages
Vol. 23:	519 pages
Vol. 24:	744 pages
Vol. 25:	828 pages
Vol. 26:	758 pages (1st three issues)

Of course (as I noted earlier), our ability to sustain our current publishing bonanza depends on factors over which we have little control. Obviously, we need an ample supply of worthy submissions, and we also continue to rely on the energy and good will of those who spare their time to write book reviews for our sizeable and wide-ranging book review section. I doubt seriously that our book reviewers are motivated solely by the inducement of receiving a free review copy; it still takes time and energy to write a helpful and thoughtful review. The SSE is very fortunate to have such a conscientious and dedicated pool of reviewers, not to mention our remarkable Book Reviews Editor David Moncrief .

One problem with receiving many good submissions is that this often results in longer delays than we'd like getting an accepted paper out of the publishing queue and into print. It's great that we can now offer larger issues than before, but I don't want to increase issue size indefinitely. Submissions to the *JSE* come in waves, and I'm enough of a worrier to want to ensure, when we decide the table of contents for the next issue, that we always have sufficient material—or nearly enough—to fill the issue after that. Perhaps I worry too much about this. But our recent increases in journal size have undoubtedly changed subscribers' expectations, and I prefer to play it safe.

But *JSE* authors needn't despair over possible delays in seeing their work made public. A recent decision by the SSE Executive Council addresses this concern. The Council resolved to publish accepted research articles *online* as soon as possible after their acceptance—within a month. Now although that will suffice to get the research out into the world, it won't be possible to cite the papers fully until later. The actual page numbers of the articles can't be settled until the next table of contents is settled and my editorial gets written, and those matters will inevitably be later than the acceptance of the paper. So although we should be able to post a preliminary version of the formatted articles online, they will have to be cited still as “forthcoming” or “published ahead of print issue.”

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One final matter. I'm pleased to welcome a new addition, James Spottiswoode, to my team of Associate Editors. I imagine James is already well-known to many long-time readers of this *Journal*. He's used his background in mathematics, and considerable knowledge of the physical sciences, to invent or develop numerous ingenious applications, and he also has an impressive history of innovative parapsychological research. His many areas of expertise will be put to very good use as Associate Editor.

STEPHEN E. BRAUDE