

Editorial Valentines for Freelances, Others

Welcome to the third year in which the Council's periodical appears in magazine or journal format and bears the name *Science Editor*. I am pleased to include at least two valentines in this January-February issue.

The first valentine is a piece I saw cited some time ago and have been wanting to share. Titled "The Structured Sonnet" and appearing in the Lighter View department, it consists of a well-known love sonnet in both original format and transformed into a structured abstract. Editors in medical fields, in which abstracts containing specified headings increasingly accompany journal articles, may find this piece especially amusing. I hope other readers will enjoy it as well. My thanks to author (or should I say abstracter?) Walter O Spitzer and publisher Elsevier Science for permission to reprint this piece.

The second valentine is a new department: Freelance Editor. Many CSE members work exclusively or in part as freelances or are thinking of doing so, and the Editorial Board has discussed ways to serve these readers more fully. On receiving "Success as a Freelance: More Than Just Landing Assignments", in which Elaine A Richman offers guidance on avoiding professional and social isolation as a freelance, I decided the time had come for a department on freelance editing. Like Guest Editor, this department will appear occasionally and will feature pieces contributed by readers.

If you have freelance experi-



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ence, do consider preparing a piece for potential inclusion in this department. Among possible topics are getting started as a freelance science editor, resources for freelance science editors, financial aspects of freelance science editing, interactions between freelance science editors and clients, combining freelance science editing and a "day job", nontraditional niches in freelance science editing, rewards and frustrations of freelance science editing, and even the humorous aspects of such work. Typically, pieces for the department should run about 600 to 750 words. However, longer—or shorter—pieces also will be considered. Of course, pieces should focus on freelance science editing rather than dealing more generically with freelancing.

I hope that other items in this issue will seem like valentines for some readers. Offerings

include a Dialogue piece on presenting Chinese authors' names in English, a feature article on options for dissociating online access to journal content from print subscriptions, a preview of the material about gene and chromosome nomenclature that will appear in the new edition of *Scientific Style and Format*, the remaining reports from the annual meeting, and an especially rich array of department pieces.

I also hope that you will enjoy the cover art. If you have images to suggest for future covers, please do let us know.

As *Science Editor* enters its third year, I look forward to your contributions to these pages. To an editor, excellent items to publish are among the most welcome valentines.

Barbara Gastel

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