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THE SQUASH BLOSSOM

The squash blossom: the epitome of life, a symbol of rejuvenation, a mini-sun, radiating the same warmth that called it into existence back into the world. One could hardly think of a better choice for the cover of an issue that marks perhaps the most significant moment in the evolution of our journal: the threshold of international recognition. Countless hours of our work of love, hundreds of telephone conversations, skype connections, e-mail exchanges, visits to the offices of the ever-helpful typesetters, managers and production editors at the University of Silesia Press in Katowice, nights after nights spent online with IT specialists (who would never refuse to put in plenty of extra time to make sure that we implement the new Open Journal System in time for the ministerial assessments of *RIAS* in Italy and Poland)—all that (and much much more) allowed the *Review of International American Studies* to flourish like it never has before.

Thanks to the unswerving dedication of a small, but enthusiastic group of people, today the *Review of International American Studies* is indexed in the prestigious Elsevier Scopus database and features in the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH+); it has its own profile in the Index Copernicus Journal Master List with the Index Copernicus Value (ICV) for 2017 of 77.29 (out of 100!). But there is more: recently the *RIAS* received an “A” class category in the parametric evaluation of the Italian Ministry of Science and was granted as many as 20 parametric points in the most recent evaluation of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Our distribution is flourishing as well: electronic copies of our journal (both full issues and individual articles) are now available to the readers in hundreds of libraries world-wide via the Central

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and Eastern European Online Library, an important German content and metadata aggregator run by Wolfgang and Bea Klotz and operating from Frankfurt am Main. Likewise, owing to the steadfast loyalty of Beata Klyta, the indefatigable director of the University of Silesia Press and a major champion of our cause, *RIAS* is now available in such renowned repositories as CEJSH, BAZHUM or POLINDEX, which institutions render our texts visible to the reading public world-wide.

That, of course, is not all. Our OJS has been thoroughly upgraded—it connects our citations to a number of systems, whose algorithms translate them into parameters impacting the standing of our journal and the visibility of our contributions. Our new user interface is now visually pleasing and easy to operate, and our pdf files now include active hyperlinks to quoted online material, ORCID identifiers and DOI servers. See for yourselves: [click here!](#)

The organizational and technological improvements, the increase of our visibility and the institutional recognition of the *Review of International American Studies* go hand in hand with the expansion of our Editorial Team: we are delighted to welcome on board Manlio Della Marca (Amerika-Institut, LMU München), the new Book Review Editor, as well as Mark Olival-Bartley (Amerika-Institut, LMU München) and Emily Metzner (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), our new Senior Copyeditors. And, naturally, we shall be delighted if other Colleagues should wish to join us: we constantly need specialists in fundraising, in PR, in international promotion, we could certainly use the skills of experienced copyeditors, or the acute insight of book reviewers. We will always need peer-referees, graphic designers and website administrators... there is enough of (disarmingly unpaid) work for ten more people at *RIAS*. Game?

On behalf of the whole *RIAS* Editorial Team, I wish to express our most sincere thanks to a legion of people who remain invisible, but without whom of journal would never soar as high as it does today: our editors, our typesetters, our IT specialists, the whole wonderful team of the University of Silesia Press, the *IASA* management and the *IASA* Executive Board. Thanks to you, as a source of knowledge and as an agora of cutting-edge intellectual exchange, *RIAS* serves the purpose of making the world a better place.

Paweł Jędrzejko
RIAS Managing Editor