



The Rand Centenary Issues

I join my colleagues in celebrating the Ayn Rand Centenary. Many people, organizations, and periodicals are marking this important event in distinct ways. As a founding co-editor of *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies*, I am happy to report that we are publishing not one, but *two* special Centenary symposia.

As I write in my introduction to the first of the two issues: "Rand lived an extraordinary life, while leaving an indelible mark on intellectual history. That this journal was founded—and that it's now, in its sixth year of publication, indexed by over a dozen scholarly abstracting services—is just one small indication of the extent of her influence."

The first symposium collection is entitled "Ayn Rand: Literary and Cultural Impact." The issue begins with my own survey of the growth in Rand citations throughout the scholarly literature. My essay, "The Illustrated Rand," also focuses special attention on the increase in Rand references in popular literature, television, cartoons, and illustrated media, including comics. Erika Holzer's essay, "Passing the Torch,"



follows, wherein the novelist revisits her personal and professional relationship with Rand, who was her literary mentor. Stephen Cox's essay, "Completing Rand's Literary Theory," extends and develops Rand's original insights in literary theory and practice. Jeff Riggensbach's essay, "Ayn Rand's Influence on American Popular Fiction," is a monumental survey of Rand's impact on a diverse group of American writers, from Holzer and Kay Nolte Smith to Gene Roddenberry, Ira Levin, and Terry Goodkind. Matthew Stoloff's essay, "Integrating Mind and Body," examines Rand's impact on the bodybuilding literature, especially the work of Mike Mentzer. Kirsti Minsaas's essay, "The Poetics of Admiration: Ayn Rand and the Art of Heroic Fiction," explores the role that admiration plays in Rand's literary theory. Two other authors, Cathy Young ("The Russian Cultural Connection: Alexander Etkind on Ayn Rand") and historian Bernice Rosenthal ("The Russian Subtext of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*") concentrate on the interface between Rand and Russian culture. And novelist and essayist Alexandra York concludes the volume with a call for a new American Renaissance.

The second symposium issue promises to be just as provocative. Entitled "Ayn Rand Among the Austrians" (with a tip of the hat to Roderick Long who suggested the title), the issue focuses on the important relationship between Ayn Rand and the Austrian school, as epitomized in the work of such theorists as Carl Menger, Ludwig von Mises, F. A. Hayek, and Murray Rothbard. Walter Block offers an Austrian

analysis of Rand's economic writings. Peter J. Boettke provides a pedagogical lesson on how to teach Austrian economics through the work of Ayn Rand. Steven Horwitz presents a Hayek-Rand comparative analysis of the "family." Candice Jackson examines the U.S. Constitution through Randian and Rothbardian lenses. Richard Johnsson analyzes the different implications for value theory in the Austrian and Objectivist literature. Roderick Long argues that Rand's epistemology virtually demands the development of a version of praxeology, the "science of human action," as Mises called it. George Reisman views the work of Mises and Rand as complementary and mutually reinforcing. Larry Sechrest assesses the impact of Federal Reserve Chair and former Rand associate Alan Greenspan, through an Austrian perspective. Ed Younkens seeks an Austrian-Objectivist synthesis. And Leland Yeager responds to Will Thomas's review of his book, *Ethics as Social Science*.

All in all, it should be a wonderful year for the journal and for Rand studies. Subscription forms are available here: <http://www.aynrandstudies.com/jars/subscribForm.asp>

