

HISTORY OF *genesis*

When we became editors, we entered the den of *genesis* – a small, windowless room on the 3rd floor of Cavanaugh Hall, with boxes of old issues stacked precariously along the walls. The room was a bit stuffy, very much cramped, but undoubtedly filled with history. Atop the bookshelf was the whiteboard calendar, unwiped since 2017. Underneath, the half-empty drawer with a masking tape label reading “Party Supplies.” And most importantly of all, the archives: a filing cabinet full to the brim with every issue published since the magazine printed its first issue in 1973. *genesis* was started in 1972 by the English Club - Sigma Tau Delta, and the Philosophy Club - Phi Sigma Tau. Its first editors were M. Anne Wilcox and Dinah Rockwell. For decades, the magazine has been publishing what students were interested in, starting with writing and then branching out into art. Early issues held book reviews and philosophical essays alongside memoirs and several of the genres we still publish today.

Before I (Abby) started as a managing editor, I was particularly interested in the history and began scouring the archives. As we prepared for the 50th anniversary, it became something I was excited to share with others. There was no documentation in the office of how *genesis* began and how it changed through the years, but a history was compiled through the written records of the magazine itself, left behind by the editors before us. On the yellowed pages, there were dedications to impactful professors, solicitations for paper submissions of artwork and writing, changes in logo from time to time, and information hidden in the different letters from the editors.

Each issue, new editors reconstructed the magazine. In the Fall 1976 issue, faculty, as well as students, were invited to submit. The first open call for art was in the spring of 1977 – the previous issue had included a single illustrator, with their drawings spread throughout the magazine. Starting in the 1980s, the magazine was published simply by the “*genesis* Editorial Team” instead of by editors from the two clubs. At some point, *genesis* switched from being capitalized to being all lowercase, a change that the current staff are very fond of. In 2004, there was an entirely new staff, who recruited a former contributor to help redesign the look of the magazine. They altered the shape of the books, the layout and fonts, and new submission guide-

lines. Through all the issues, the most consistent element of *genesis* is change.

Even in our time as editors, aspects of *genesis* shifted. In 2020, we learned to host editorial meetings online, trying to keep the lively discussions going while using the raise-hand function. Our staff produced an issue without fail every semester, seeking to publish the art reflecting times of great change, but also just wanting to make the next issue of *genesis* our own, as editors had done in the past. We argued over zoom about margin widths, the pros and cons of Baskerville and Marion, and built friendships over late night debates on art and author purpose and the place of literature in our lives.

We look into the archives and see the years of labour that go into making this a magazine. We see the ink on paper as a translation of the story occurring around it, the change in the larger culture and the personal taste that shapes each issue. In a few years, *this* issue of *genesis* will be a moment in time - history in someone else's eyes.

Cheers,
Managing Editors