

## Editor's Introduction

**Thomas R. Smith**

A new venture in 2005, *Lifewriting Annual* aspires to become a place to investigate the large, complex, and growing bodies of writing about persons and their lives that are ostensibly unprotected by the veils of fiction. If it encourages students of autobiography to appreciate good biographies and the scholarship on them, and if it interests biographers and scholars of biography in the satisfactions of autobiography rather than its departures from documentable fact, it will achieve its goal.

Each volume opens with essays and closes with reviews of works of lifewriting. Reviews of academic studies of lifewriting, now well covered in scholarly journals in the field, will not appear in the series. In between the essays and the reviews is a section of varying length, titled "Crossings," devoted to experiments in blending one or more lifewriting genres with each other or with other literary genres. The theoretical questioning that lifewriting, not to mention literature in general, has undergone in the last thirty years has spurred creative writers to move beyond the borders of established genres in their work. To the degree that such creative nonfiction engages lifewriting in interesting ways, *Lifewriting Annual* welcomes it.

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