

From The Editor's Desk

In the last few months the question of double submissions has arisen several times. I would like to take this opportunity to review the policy of the *French Review* and make my regular plea to those who want to submit manuscripts to our journal to read the "Guide for Authors" before they send us their work.

The Second Edition of the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (1998) by Joseph Gibaldi states that

Journal editors do not have a common policy concerning the submission of manuscripts to more than one periodical at a time. Publications that have each manuscript evaluated by a number of specialist readers often will not consider a submission that is under review elsewhere. If you decide to submit a manuscript to more than one journal simultaneously, you must inform each editor involved. (8)

The *French Review* is indeed a journal that has "each manuscript evaluated by a number of specialist readers" and we will not consider a submission that is under review elsewhere. Numbers 10 and 11 in our "Guide for Authors" set forth our policy very clearly:

10. Authors should never practice multiple submissions, that is, sending the same article to more than one journal at the same time. The *French Review* has an enviable record of furnishing a prompt answer on submissions. If, after devoting considerable time to a manuscript, the *French Review's* editors and consultants learn that it has been accepted elsewhere (or, for that matter, that the author is guilty of plagiarism), we will not entertain a submission from that person again.

11. We publish, with extremely rare and noteworthy exception, only material that has not appeared elsewhere (either in the original or in translation). As an extension of this rule, we do not publish book reviews of translated works.

Although the demands for tenure and promotion seem to increase every year and may not always seem reasonable, this is no excuse for violating a journal's printed rules. Nor can one pretend to ignore them, in part or whole. To do so wastes the time of the readers, staff members, and editor, and may cause scheduling and other problems besides being unfair to those who do follow the rules. As Herbert Lindenberger states in his Foreword to the *MLA Style Manual*, "...observing the codes that have been agreed on in our disciplinary community signals your membership in the community" (xvi).

On a happier note I want to share with you the results of a questionnaire that the AATF sent to all members in 2001. One of the questions asked was how often members read the *French Review*. Of the 4,670 respondents 8.9% said that they read it cover to cover, to which I say "bravo!" I have always been under the impression that it was only the Editor, the Managing Editor, and our typesetter who read the journal from cover to cover. I now know that there are at least 412.63 others among you who do so. Thirty-four percent said that they read the *Review* very often; 35.6% that they read it sometimes; 14.7% rarely read the journal, and 2.8% never read it. What all this means is that a large number of you are engaged by the *French Review* and find it useful. While we hope that more members will become active readers, we salute you for your intellectual curiosity, commitment, and dedication to our journal and profession.

Christopher P. Pinet