TEN YEARS OF LIBERTARIAN SCHOLARSHIP

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IN 1977, the preeminent libertarian scholar Murray Rothbard founded the *Journal of Libertarian Studies*. It was later to be published by the Mises Institute, which was itself co-founded by Rothbard in 1982. Upon Rothbard's death in 1995, the *JLS* was edited for a decade by his colleague and protégé Hans-Hermann Hoppe. I was personally a devoted reader of the journal for many years and later, during Hoppe's tenure as Editor, I served as book review editor. For several decades the journal was the key outlet for important interdisciplinary scholarship in the radical libertarian tradition. But by the late 2000s, the Internet was in full flower and the *JLS* was in decline.

One night in early January 2009, while texting about these matters with Jeff Tucker, then at the Mises Institute, I had the idea to form a new journal for libertarian scholarship, which would help fill the gap left by the declining *JLS*, and also take advantage of new publishing possibilities: entirely online and free, and with no artificial space constraints, but still of high-quality and peer-reviewed. Tucker was enthusiastic and brainstormed about the project with me. Within just a few days, we had established the website and the basic design, assembled an impressive editorial board, and collected and edited an initial set of articles, which were published later that month, starting on January 18, 2009. That year *Libertarian Papers* published 44 peer-reviewed articles, from new work by libertarian luminaries such as Robert Higgs, Jan Narveson, Pascal Salin, and Frank van Dun, to previously-unpublished pieces

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by Murray Rothbard and Ludwig von Mises and translations or previously-obscure articles by Adolf Reinach and Bruno Leoni.

In the first few years I was doing most of the work myself, as a labor of love, with the assistance of a variety of volunteers. I was then was fortunate enough to recruit Matt McCaffrey as Editor. A brilliant young Austrian economist and learned scholar in the Rothbardian libertarian tradition, Matt stepped into the mostly thankless role of editor and spent countless hours fielding submissions, having them peer reviewed and edited, expanding the editorial board, and improving the website.

Matt and I shared the same vision for *Libertarian Papers*. One of my goals was to publish the journal for at least ten years, i.e., through 2018. We achieved that goal last year, to our relief, and then learned, fortuitously, earlier this year, that the *JLS* is going to be revived in 2019. Since *LP* has met its goal of publishing for a decade, and since one of its original motivations was to fill the *JLS* lacuna, we have decided to cease publication of *Libertarian Papers*, and are excited about the revival of the *JLS*. The *LP* archives will remain online indefinitely.

I would like to express my gratitude to innumerable supporters—to the contributors, the Editorial Board, to many volunteer peer-reviewers and referees, to the volunteers who contributed audio recordings for some of the early articles, to various donors and other supporters over the years, and also to PJ Doland, of dancingmammoth.com, for web hosting services. I would also like to personally thank Matt McCaffrey for his many hours of work and collaboration on this project over the past seven years. It is now his project as much as mine, and would not have been possible without his efforts, integrity, and impressive scholarly and intellectual skills. Neither of us did any of this for pecuniary reward; we both did this out of devotion to the ideas of liberty.

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