2014

Adrianne Wadewitz, 1977-2014

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The editors dedicate this issue to the memory of Adrianne Wadewitz (1977-2014).

Dear readers,

When I learned of Adrianne's death earlier this month, my breath caught. For a moment, it stopped. It is always tragic when someone as young as Adrianne dies, but I felt as though her passing literally must have caused a temporary vacuum as the universe absorbed her energy and left a blank on the earth.

Adrianne worked as the web team leader for ABO from 2011-2012 when the journal made the transition to a more sustainable, more digitally humanistic blog site. Under her direction, we learned what it would take to design, code, and archive an online journal. Not without struggle did she communicate to us the implications of the design choices, the standards in the field, the possibilities for future iterations of the journal. Her effort along with her knowledge seemed indefatigable.

Going through my records, it surprises me now that this intense, innovative, brilliant scholar responded to our call for volunteers with a humble statement: "Dear Professor Runge," she wrote: "I am interested in the positions you are advertising for Aphra BehnOnline. I have some basic web design experience -- I know some basic HTML and CSS and would be willing to learn more for this project."

By the time we launched our redesigned journal in 2012, my respect for Adrianne had grown immensely. Not only aware of the mechanics, she brought our attention to the epistemological changes shaped by the interactive spaces of the web and the importance of access. She personally inspired me to learn more and get involved in the digital humanities, particularly as relates to eighteenth-century studies.

She resigned from her position at ABO when she accepted increasing work commitments in her new role as a Mellon Digital Fellow at Occidental College, a position she held until her untimely death. Even though her time was brief, she made a tremendous impact on the journal, on the editors, and on the future of ABO. I expect quite a few people are having similar revelations about this remarkable woman as we take stock of all she did. I encourage you to read the NYT obit on Adrianne that focuses on her work as a Wikipedia editor. On behalf of all the editors, I dedicate this issue to her memory.

Sincerely,

Laura Runge