

GRATEFUL DEAD STUDIES ASSOCIATION



publications

Grateful Dead Studies Association

Publications Plan

Commissioned by the Executive Council: July 28, 2020

Draft submitted by Nicholas Meriwether: October 2020

Approved by the Executive Council: November 19, 2020

Summary

This report details the editorial plan for the Association's publications. Commissioned by the Executive Council, the report provides an overview of the framework for the Association's publications and a rationale for the scope and content of each title.

As part of the Grateful Dead Studies Association's mission, the Association sponsors four primary publications: *Grateful Dead Studies*, the Association journal; *The Proceedings of the Grateful Dead studies Association*; the Working Papers series; and the Association newsletter.

Together, these four publications provide a survey of the academic work of the Association and the discourse of Grateful Dead studies. In keeping with the Association's ideals, these works are made available online at no cost, with print copies provided to members and made available for purchase by the public.

This report does not include all Association publications. The Association website and the journal website are publications as well as portals, and the Association also publishes a brief program for each conference meeting. The business of the Association also produces reports that are published, including meeting minutes, committee reports, and financial reports. Many of those are made available online and preserved in the Association's records, but they are documents produced in the course of business, not as part of its primary mission.

1. Grateful Dead Studies

Overview The flagship publication of the Association, *Grateful Dead Studies* is an academic journal that publishes peer-reviewed scholarship and critical reviews along with relevant primary materials and features intended to appeal to a general readership. The journal is the principal showcase for the Association's work.

Frequency Biennial (once every two years) initially, with the goal of increasing to annual publication.

Board Established by constitution/bylaws, the Board currently comprises five members and can be expanded as needed. Appointed by the Executive Council, Board members are senior scholars and academic professionals who serve three-year terms, renewable.

Contents

Editor's Column A critical introduction to the issue that frames the content in terms of the discourse, usually with a theme or narrative argument that provides a way of looking at the entire issue, holistically.

Essays: Scholarly essays that have undergone double-blind peer review, usually with one Board member and one outside reader; usually 5K-7K words. Each volume has at least four or more essays.

Features: Primary works or special sections devoted to a single topic, e.g. the band's first recording session, etc. Prefaced by a brief editorial introduction.

Reviews: Commissioned and contributed scholarly reviews of recordings, books, conferences, websites, exhibitions, or other historic or scholarly works. Popular publications may be reviewed if merited.

Last Words: A poem or other artistic tribute to the Dead phenomenon by well-known or high-level writers.

2. The Proceedings of the Grateful Dead Studies Association

Overview The *Proceedings* documents the annual conference: schedule, abstracts, presenters, along with the President's keynote, selected papers, and a section of brief notes and texts. Published after the conference, the *Proceedings* serves as the record of the meeting, with selected papers given at the meeting, chosen by the Executive Council. a few notes and texts, recently surfaced or newly available primary documents with brief introductions. Each volume provides a detailed survey of the conference along with a sample of noteworthy papers given at the conference chosen by the Executive Council. The notes and texts section provides scholars and general readers with useful and interesting primary materials that add to our understanding of the Grateful Dead phenomenon and the academic discourse on it.

Frequency Annual.

Board The Executive Council will vet and approve papers; since these are previously presented conference papers, any sort of blind review is not possible, so readers and writers know who they are, although comments from the Board will be aggregated and anonymized to provide a modified form of single-blind review.

Contents

Editor's Introduction A brief introduction to the volume's contents and overview of the conference meeting.

Presidential Address The president's keynote address given at the conference.

Conference The schedule, session and presentation abstracts, and presenter bios.

Papers Selected papers from the conference not otherwise intended for publication or that when expanded for publication will be substantially transformed.

Notes and Texts Recently surfaced primary works with brief introductions. These are useful documents that contribute to or change understanding of aspects of the Grateful Dead phenomenon, such as publications, interviews, or recordings.

3. Working Papers

Overview This series is intended to preserve and publish presentations and conference papers not given at the Association that merit attention and would not otherwise be accessible. This series allows scholars who present good work in forums other than the Association conference meeting to publish papers that they do not wish to expand or revise for publication in the journal, or that warrant attention but are too preliminary or brief to merit double-blind peer review. Working Papers are, in effect, the equivalent of the papers published in the *Proceedings*, but cannot appear there since they were not presented at an Association meeting. Working Papers tend to be conference papers and therefore relatively brief, but there is no set length.

Frequency As needed. No set publication schedule.

Board The Executive Council serves as the vetting committee; the Association Editor assumes primary responsibility for ensuring the rigor of the scholarship.

4. Newsletter

Overview The newsletter presents Association news for members and donors. It is light in tone and designed to be an accessible and brief overview of the Association's work and selected highlights in the discourse of Grateful Dead studies. It is primarily intended to announce the annual conference as well as highlight an Association project for potential donors and give a journalistic snapshot of major developments in the field.

Frequency Annual; published in early fall, in time to announce the conference.

Contents Four pages, each devoted to a single topic:

President's Welcome A brief reflection by the President of the Association about the year and upcoming events, including a survey of the contents of the newsletter.

Conference Announcement A brief announcement of the annual conference, discussing any theme as well as the site and its relevance for the discourse or the phenomenon.

Project Spotlight A one-page journalistic overview of an Association project or initiative.

New and Noteworthy Highlights in the academic study and documentation of the Dead phenomenon; a brief, greatest-hits-style, "year in Dead studies" column.