

Introduction

As you can see on the cover, this year the *English Teaching Forum* celebrates its fortieth anniversary. During 2002, each issue of the magazine will include a retrospective section called “A View of the Past” that features commentary on trends and excerpts from articles of a given decade of publication. Those of you who counted carefully have already noticed that our anniversary logo says 1962–2002, which is actually a forty-one year period. Perhaps you’re wondering, “Did they forget to celebrate last year?”

Let me briefly explain some of our history. The first issue of the *English Teaching Forum* was published in March 1963, so the magazine really is 40 years old this year. In 1962, the U.S. Information Agency published a precursor English teaching newsletter. As stated in the *Forum* editorial of March 1963, “The tremendous response to the three experimental issues of the newsletter from teachers all over the world clearly indicates that there is a continuing need for a publication of this nature.” We chose to include the newsletter in the period of our anniversary, even though it makes our math look questionable.

Longtime readers of the *Forum* have seen the evolution of the magazine over the years. For example, major changes in format and layout occurred in 1968, 1976, 1987, and 2000. In 1994, the electronic version of the magazine was created. In 2000, the first English Teaching Forum electronic journal was completed, *Language and Civil Society*. (Later this year, a second electronic journal will be published, *Language and Life Sciences*.)

It is important to point out that some things haven’t changed at the *Forum*. Its purpose is still to provide a forum for a worldwide exchange of ideas on the theory and practice of English language teaching. We hope you enjoy this view of our past and stay with us for the future! —WPA