



A Postcard from the Editor

It's January, a new year—and it brings me an exciting new challenge as I take over as editor of *English Teaching Forum*. This position gives me a much-welcomed opportunity to explore my love of the English language and my interest in other cultures.

My first exposure to the *Forum* was more than a decade ago when I was teaching English as a foreign language as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa. Teaching materials were scarce, and I was happy to have the *Forum* as a source of ideas I could adapt for my classroom.

Shortly after I became editor, I went through the archives and found those same issues of the *Forum* I had received as an English teacher in Africa. I paged through them, experiencing a pleasant sense of recognition, like the feeling you get looking through a long-forgotten photo album.

But now I am looking ahead to the new volume at hand. In each issue of Volume 42, we will present an authentic essay by a well-known American writer taken from a publication called *Writers on America*. Each essay will be accompanied by a lesson plan with various activities you can explore with your students. The essay in this issue—"A Postcard from America"—tells, among other things, about how Robert Olen Butler wrote a short story from the inspiration of an antique postcard picturing a biplane (similar to the one on the cover). We hope you will enjoy this special feature, which we think is a nice complement to the academic articles.

And now, as I embark on this new endeavor, I'd like to thank Bill Ancker, Paulette Estep, and David Hamill for helping to ensure a smooth take-off. —MK

Above: An old postcard of St. Paul, Minnesota, the editor's hometown, shows the Minnesota State Capitol, designed by Cass Gilbert. *Courtesy of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives*

Front Cover: Orville Wright is at the controls of the "Wright Flyer" as his brother Wilbur Wright looks on during the plane's first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, December 17, 1903. Made of wood, wire, and cloth by two bicycle mechanics, the plane stayed aloft for 12 seconds and traveled a distance of 120 feet. ©AP/WideWorld Photos/John T. Daniels.