

## INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHIVES OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE

JOHN BELLAMY FOSTER

University of Oregon

JOHN M. JERMIER

University of South Florida

With this issue, we are introducing a new feature section of *O&E* entitled Archives of Organizational and Environmental Literature. Consciousness of environmental degradation stretches back over millennia; concern about ecological imperialism associated with the growth of the capitalist world economy dates back five centuries; and alarm arising from the environmental effects of machine capitalism can be traced back to the industrial revolution in England two centuries ago. Over the course of history, many important insights into organization and environment, often of a theoretical nature, have emerged—only to be forgotten later on. Once forgotten, these important contributions have also become in many cases inaccessible—so that it is difficult to rediscover what has been lost.

In this section, we intend to publish noteworthy early contributions to the organizational and environmental discussion written for the most part prior to 1920. As Donald Worster (1977) has indicated, 1920 marks a break in the environmental literature, between the largely conservationist concerns of early environmentalists and the subsequent growth of (a) a formal ecological science (the so-called new ecology), which drew heavily on concepts derived from economics, such as producer and consumer; and (b) modern environmental ethics as represented by such figures as Aldo Leopold, who helped lay the foundations for the contemporary preservationist perspective (p. 256). Further, the rise of contemporary environmental economics—as a distinctive field—can be traced to the publication of A. C. Pigou's (1920) *The Economics of Welfare*, which was the first work to formalize “the impact of pollution on the working of the economy” (Turner, Pearce, & Bateman, 1993, p. 4). In confining the archives largely to the period prior to 1920, we seek therefore not so much to throw light on late twentieth century traditions of organization and environment as to rediscover important precursors or alternative visions (some forgotten or neglected) to present-day ecosocial thought.

It is our hope that in the process we can provide a window into the vast diversity of ecological thought over time; resurrect for renewed consideration some of the early dissenting views by ecologically minded thinkers, the full significance of whose work was frequently not recognized in their own time; and provide new foundations for reorganizing social and environmental relations to cope with the growing ecological crisis.

Each entry in the archives section will be introduced either by the journal editors or by someone with special knowledge in this area. Readers are encouraged to make suggestions for the section. On occasion, we may also publish important anti-ecological statements in these archives when this helps us to understand more fully the forces behind environmental degradation.

#### REFERENCES

- Pigou, A. C. (1920). *The economics of welfare*. London: Macmillan.
- Turner, R. K., Pearce, D., & Bateman, I. (1993). *Environmental economics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.
- Worster, D. (1977). *Nature's economy*. New York: Cambridge University.