The Rand Centenary Issues

I join my colleagues in celebrating the Ayn Rand Centenary. Many people, organizations, and periodicals are marking this important event in distinct ways. As a founding co-editor of The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies, I am happy to report that we are publishing not one, but two special Centenary symposia.

As I write in my introduction to the first of the two issues: “Rand lived an extraordinary life, while leaving an indelible mark on intellectual history. That this journal was founded—and that it’s now, in its sixth year of publication, indexed by over a dozen scholarly abstracting services—is just one small indication of the extent of her influence.”


The second symposium issue promises to be just as provocative. Entitled “Ayn Rand Among the Austrians” (with a tip of the hat to Roderick Long who suggested the title), the issue focuses on the important relationship between Ayn Rand and the Austrian school, as epitomized in the work of such theorists as Carl Menger, Ludwig von Mises, F. A. Hayek, and Murray Rothbard. Walter Block offers an Austrian analysis of Rand’s economic writings. Peter J. Boettke provides a pedagogical lesson on how to teach Austrian economics through the work of Ayn Rand. Steven Horwitz presents a Hayek-Rand comparative analysis of the “family.” Candice Jackson examines the U.S. Constitution through Randian and Rothbardian lenses. Richard Johnsson analyzes the different implications for value theory in the Austrian and Objectivist literature. Roderick Long argues that Rand’s epistemology virtually demands the development of a version of praxeology, the “science of human action,” as Mises called it. George Reisman views the work of Mises and Rand as complementary and mutually reinforcing. Larry Sechrest assesses the impact of Federal Reserve Chair and former Rand associate Alan Greenspan, through an Austrian perspective. Ed Younkins seeks an Austrian-Objectivist synthesis. And Leland Yeager responds to Will Thomas’s review of his book, Ethics as Social Science.

All in all, it should be a wonderful year for the journal and for Rand studies. Subscription forms are available here: http://www.aynrandstudies.com/jars/subscribForm.asp