

## *In fond remembrance*

SUZANNE KATZ HYMAN (1937–2020)

Suzanne Hyman, *Raritan*'s first managing editor (1981–1999), used to say: “Dick [Poirier] gave me a stack of manuscripts, and I gave him a magazine.” Such audacity characterized Suzanne’s style, and her claim was not overstated. She captured a fundamental responsibility of a managing editor, which is to oversee myriad bureaucratic and editorial matters, with the goal of realizing the vision of the editor in chief. But Suzanne was more than this. As longtime *Raritan* contributor David Bromwich puts it, Suzanne was a “working editor, in the best sense, with the practical wisdom that comes from possessing a good deal of the relevant knowledge, and an ear for the chaff in the prose she had to read.” She was also, he remembers, “a close observer of personality (the way people put themselves across) and of character (what they are).” These are essential skills in an editor.

When I was a young editorial assistant in the mid-1990s, I recall copyediting upstairs while peals of laughter rose from the first-floor offices of Suzanne and Donna Green, the office manager. Suzanne had a sharp, sometimes biting, sense of humor, and “an affectionate mastery of gossip about people she cared for,” as Bromwich puts it. Walking into her office to retrieve materials, one was apt to see her with her feet up on the desk and the phone to her ear, chatting animatedly with one contributor or another. This may have been her favorite part of the job. When James Barszcz was an editorial assistant in the early 1980s, much of the manuscript development was done over the phone, and he remembers listening outside her office as she “casually conversed with—name the luminary: Frank Kermode, Stanley Cavell, Harold Bloom—or coldly reminded them of dates when revisions were due.” But, he says, she also “talked easily to me, treating my opinions with respect,” and this gift of engagement enhanced the quality of the magazine.

Suzanne passed away on 20 February, but her role in shepherding *Raritan* into existence will not be forgotten.

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*Managing Editor*