People Profile: Mark Kendall
the publishers who pay the copyeditors. The errors of this kind I caught in the two articles in political philosophy remain in the versions of record.

Whether the same would be true of the copyediting done on monographs I am less sure because my own experience suggests that more, and more thorough, editing is done on this type of work than on a journal article. And I wouldn’t be surprised if articles in the humanities and social sciences receive slightly more extensive editing than that done for the typical STM journal, as described by Joe Fineman. Scrutiny of some of the articles in our little survey suggests as much. But I will admit that the differences between the DASH versions and the versions of record are not so great as I had anticipated they would be, and I fear the ill effects of an extended Green OA period less than I did before I conducted this analysis. The worst faults in the system, it seems, remain the shortcomings of scholars themselves that only copyeditors who go the extra mile are likely to be able to help them identify and correct.

Stevan Harnad suggests that in an online world it may make sense to offer copyediting as “an optional extra service” that an author can ask a publisher to provide for a fee, as he envisages that the demand for it will continue to decline, especially if — as Joe Fineman argues — “the idea of a house style ought to be abandoned.” The question then becomes, what will authors be willing to pay for? Peer review is so essential to the system that it will continue to be required. What benefits of copyediting are most worth preserving? Most authors probably care little, or not at all, about such niceties as using “that” instead of “which,” where a restrictive pronoun is the form that most style guides still prefer, or “few” instead of “less” when a number, not quantity, of items is discussed (a nicety that Mr. Fineman himself thinks “not worth saving”). Authors should be concerned that their meaning is clear, that their references to sources are consistent, that they are spelling words and names correctly. Even more important for the integrity of their scholarship, I would argue, is accuracy in page citation (or whatever begins to take its place in born-digital documents) and in quoting from sources. This type of editing is not done today in STM publishing, as Fineman and Harnad both observe, and it is rarely done in any journal editing, it appears. That it was not done when publishing was in print form only is understandable, since the extra hours involved in checking such details could easily double the time spent and thus the cost (as free-lance editing is generally charged at a per-hour rate). But as mass digitization advances and the ease of checking original sources increases along with it (in the way Mr. Fineman indicates), this may well be a role copyediting should begin to play more, as it will help ensure that the integrity of scholarship is maintained at a high level in versions of record.