

EDITOR'S PREFACE

It is a pleasure, on behalf of Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/ Revue Canadienne de Litterature Comparee, to thank Professor Marisa Bortolussi, who suggested this special issue on magical realism, to the journal, and all those who contributed to the creation, editing and production of this issue. She and her fellow collaborators had to convince anonymous assessors and a wider scholarly community that there needed to be a new study of this topic. This was no small feat and involved addressing concerns and reshaping and revising the manuscript. The results are interesting indeed and should make an important contribution in a crowded field. This special issue more than meets the challenge.

More specifically, the articles re-evaluate formal theories of magic realism, seeking to point out flaws in those theories and to work out a new framework for magic realism. The contributions propose concrete solutions to theoretical problems. Whereas some of the articles discuss Latin American magic realism, others explore the genre in works in English. A comparative focus allows for a suggestive perspective that would not otherwise be available. This is one of the valuable contributions this volume makes.

This issue is part of the journal's move, despite delays owing to antiquated equipment and some resulting technical problems, to the creation of volumes in paper with accomplished works of art on the cover as well as an electronic archive (beginning with new volumes) in a searchable form. We are still working out details and the research framework for the larger archive for the journal, but we are making progress and have access to new computers and fine colleagues in Humanities Computing. Our apologies to our readers, subscribers and distributors and to librarians. In the next few months we should not only catch up, but be ahead of schedule, if all our technical hurdles are overcome. We have a large number of general and special issues ready to go to join this provocative and challenging issue. My thanks to the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada, to the University of Alberta, Dr. Irene Sywenky and our research assistant, Richard Hayman, and those who support the journal for making this and other issues possible.

Jonathan Hart