

JONATHAN HART

Editor's Note

By taking up this genre of note, I hope to call the attention of our readers to certain changes in the journal, to aspects of this issue and to future issues and plans. While building on the strengths of this review's past, I wish to have a conversation with contributors and readers that will respond to their ideas. Without this forum, without this feedback and advice, a journal can slide or die. While continuity allows for wisdom, change is necessary for life.

It is my pleasure to announce new members of the Advisory Board/ Conseil de patronage: Jean Bessière (Paris) and Michael Worton (London). They bring with them a wide range of experience and accomplishments in literary studies generally and Comparative Literature specifically as well as a spirit of innovation. As I mentioned in my last note, as part of the renewal of the journal, new members will join that board from time to time. Since 1987, when I joined the journal as one of its editors, I have valued the advice and help of many people on our various committees and boards and will continue to do so whether these scholars have been affiliated with the journal for a long time or have joined us recently.

Here I wish to apologize to the following scholars, who, through an error in the preparation of the last issue for the printer, were left off the masthead: *Editorial Committee/Comité de rédaction*: M. Angenot (McGill), D. Chamberlain (Queen's), P. Chavy (Dalhousie), E. Copley (Victoria), L. Doležel (Toronto), M. Doleželová-Velingerová (Toronto), M. Goetz-Stankiewicz (British Columbia), L. Hutcheon (Toronto), E.-M. Kröller (British Columbia), W. Krynski (Montréal), E. Kushner (Toronto), P. Merivale (British Columbia), C. Moisan (Laval), W. Moser (Montréal), E. Mozejko (Alberta), R. Sutherland (Sherbrooke), D. Suvin (McGill), M.J. Valdés (Toronto), R.R. Wilson (Alberta). A whole committee – one that has been supportive of the journal for many years – disappeared into the electronic void. They have been restored to their rightful place. Our continued thanks to them.

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Two of our ongoing initiatives have been to redesign the journal, a process that is not entirely complete but that began with a new cover, and a reaching out to our readers and subscribers. The redesign has held us up somewhat and for the patience of readers, subscribers and librarians we express our thanks. This issue initiates a new section called "Forum," which invites responses from readers, some of which would be published in the next issue. In this issue, Christopher Norris on Paul de Man, reading and philosophy has provided a provocative essay that is appropriate for this new initiative. We are also developing a data bank of assessors for articles and review articles and have sent out a call for those interested in assessing for us. I reiterate a general invitation here. We have been touched by the positive response of those who would assess for us.

This general double issue continues the tradition at the journal of publishing in different languages, especially in French and English, a multiplicity of topics. This issue contains various articles. Klaus Martens discusses the modern German writer and translator Felix Paul Greve, who was also known as Frederick Philip Grove, the Canadian novelist, and his relation to André Gide and Greve/Grove's rival for Gide's literary favours, Franz Blei. Next, David Caron traces a poetics of opacity in Ahmadou Kouroum and Edouard Glissant. Then Carol R. Motta's examines *fin de siècle* Rio de Janeiro by analyzing *Dom Casmurro*, Machado de Assis's Brazilian novel of 1900, which represents the theory that life is a grand opera. Monika Boehring then explores truth and autobiography in *L'Amant* of Marguerite Duras and of Jean-Jacques Annaud. The last article is by Frédérique Arroyas, who seeks to bring a new theoretical perspective to the relations between music and literature.

In "Forum" Christopher Norris engages with Rodolphe Gasché in his assessment of Paul de Man. In Gasché's recent book Norris finds a determined effort to consider de Man's as a thinker whose work can neither be classified conventionally as philosophy nor as literary theory. As I have said, this statement should generate a debate in the coming issues.

Review articles and reviews have always been important part of our journal. Just when some journals have retreated from reviewing, we have intensified our efforts to enhance this aspect of our journal. Robert Rawdon Wilson has been instrumental in building on this strength. The review article is, in my view, one of the most important kinds of scholarly writing. For instance, in this double issue we have review articles, notes and other documents from authors from Australia, Asia, Europe and North America writing on a variety of literary and cultural questions: Talis; literary play; the university; ecocriticism; translation; Bob Dylan, writers and critics; Swift, Nietzsche and genealogy; honour and shame; madness and art. As usual, our book reviews cover a wide range of topics

and books. As someone who has written many reviews and review articles, I wish to reaffirm the significance of this activity and to thank our reviewers for their incisive work.

A number of general and special issues are set to appear in the coming months. Our backlog is almost unjammed. There will be exciting special or topical issues, such as "The Future of Literary Scholarship," edited by Sepp Gumbrecht and Walter Moser, and "Narrative Chunnels", edited by Burton Pike, which will appear in a revived "Review of Scholarship." As we move forward, we invite our readers and colleagues who are familiar with us or have not yet discovered us to become involved and to send us your comments and your ideas for articles, review articles and reviews and to be moved to submit to us.

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