

Report from the Editor of *PMLA* for 2010–11
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The primary responsibility of the *PMLA* Editorial Board is to make final decisions on the acceptance of articles for *PMLA*. It also requests contributions for the journal's special features, defines special topics and selects special-topic coordinators, makes recommendations to the Executive Council on policies, and works to maintain the intellectual quality of material published in the journal.

The last four *PMLA* issues show a wide range of exciting work and owe their scholarly rigor to the meticulous efforts of the Editorial Board members—who read essays, worked one-on-one with authors, and provided detailed suggestions for revision—and to exceptional authors, whose essays make powerful interventions in a range of fields.

The October 2010 issue is dedicated to the special topic Literary Criticism for the Twenty-First Century, coordinated by Cathy Caruth and Jonathan Culler. Framed by an introduction by Culler and an afterword by Caruth, the issue comprises three member submissions, three papers from the associated convention session, two member contributions to Criticism in Translation (an essay by Ottmar Ette and an excerpt from Abdelkébir Khatibi's *La langue de l'autre*), an interview under Theories and Methodologies, and seven dispatches for Correspondents at Large.

The January 2011 issue begins with an Editor's Column in which sixteen contributors examine the Library Walk—illustrated bronze plaques, embedded in sidewalks outside the New York Public Library, that bear literary quotations. The issue contains six unsolicited essays. Under Theories and Methodologies, eight commissioned texts focus on children's literature and two others on the “vanishing Spanish Golden Age”; a piece for The Changing Profession surveys zines. The January issue concludes with a member submission to Little-Known Documents.

The March issue includes five unsolicited essays on a variety of topics. In the Editor's Column, “Literature in the Ages of Wood, Tallow, Coal, Whale Oil, Gasoline, Atomic Power, and Other Energy Sources,” five authors join me in connecting dominant types of energy to literary works they influenced. Theories and Methodologies contains eight solicited contributions, seven of them on “the clash of religions.” Under the rubric The Changing Profession appears a text on the literature of love. A member submission to Criticism in Translation features an essay on Henri Bergson by Georges Poulet.

The May issue is almost all Asian: Rey Chow's guest column, four regular essays, and nine Theories and Methodologies contributions explore Asian literatures and cultures. Two of the five entries in The Changing Profession also deal with Asian literature. Included as well are three contributions to Little-Known Documents, one contribution on a non-Asian topic under Theories and Methodologies, the MLA Presidential Address from the January 2011 convention, and the executive director's report.

The Forum section remained a site of lively exchanges in 2010–11, with twelve letters from readers and five replies.

The number of submissions to *PMLA* in 2010 (236) was equal to the number in 2009. As of 31 August 2011, we have received 170 submissions, slightly up from 162 submissions for the same period in 2010. During 2010–11, the *PMLA* Editorial Board considered 52 essays recommended by consultant readers. It accepted 11 (8 of them conditionally), rejected 37, and invited 4 authors to revise and resubmit (2 of whom decided to withdraw their essays). The overall acceptance rate for submissions continues to be around 10%.

The October 2011 issue of *PMLA* features the special topic Celebrity, Fame, Notoriety, coordinated by Joseph Boone and Nancy Vickers. Special topics planned for the future are Work, coordinated by Vicky Unruh (Oct. 2012), and Tragedy, coordinated by Jean Howard and Helene Foley (Oct. 2014). In other upcoming issues, sets of commissioned essays will explore problems in periodization; sustainability; economics, finance, capital, and literature; and more.

This is my last year as editor of *PMLA*. I've had a ball working with *PMLA*'s incomparable staff, including Eric Wirth, Julia Gold, and Annabel Schneider. Working with Judy Goulding has also been an amazing experience. Her advice about how to respond to a thousand sticky situations has rescued me from a thousand quagmires and steadied my composure. Her unerring intelligence and wit have made all the difference, and I want to take this occasion to express my gratitude for her guidance.

I'm also pleased with the shape that *PMLA* has taken in this last year. The January and March editorials brought many new voices into dialogue and made each editorial more inclusive. Numerous readers have delighted in the intertwining of visuals and mini essays in January's Library Walk editorial; the meditations on literature and energy in the March issue have introduced exciting new ways to think about literary periods. Finally, I'm grateful to Rosemary G. Feal for her exemplary support and her suggestion during my first editorial board meeting five years ago that *PMLA* needed a more inclusive response to Asian literatures. This insight resulted in the wide-ranging almost-all-Asia May issue. I've learned so much editing this and other issues; I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the Executive Council for their encouragement and to express my delight that Simon Gikandi has become the next editor. He'll do a marvelous job.