

Report from the Editor of *PMLA* for 2011–12
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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 various fields.

The October 2011 issue of *PMLA* features the special topic Celebrity, Fame, Notoriety, coordinated by Joseph Boone and Nancy Vickers. This issue brings together scholars working on questions of celebrity and performance across periods and is impressive because of the diversity of topics adopted and methods used. There are eight regular articles in the issue, with topics encompassing celebrity in the tracts of the English Revolution in the seventeenth century, adaptations and performances of Shakespeare's plays, Walt Whitman's journalism, and race and glamour. The Theories and Methodologies section contains ten commissioned essays from some of the leading scholars in performance, exploring the history and theory of celebrity. Some of the papers are drawn from a successful panel at the 2011 MLA convention.

The January 2012 issue, the first one under my editorship, begins with an editor's column reflecting on how I came into literature and what a literary education means in an age of transition in technologies of literary production and cultures of reading. The issue as a whole reflects the basic identity of *PMLA* as a members' journal, one addressing literature across fields and traditions. Topics covered in the issue include debates on Milton and the iconoclastic, Beckett and Wittgenstein, the problem of perception in the images generated by 9/11, and morals and metafiction in Jonathan Littell's *Les Bienveillantes*. The Theories and Methodologies section brings together a distinguished group of scholars to reflect on the nature and meaning of economics, finance, and capital in the shaping of the literary imagination.

The March issue opens with an editor's column where I explore the work of the book in an age of electronic reproduction, but the centerpiece of the issue is four regular essays on twentieth-century poetry in the United States. As Deborah Nelson notes in her introduction to the cluster, these essays constitute an assemblage of interests rather than a repertoire of solicited scholarship. They were already accepted regular essays that the Editorial Board considered close enough in their goals—to highlight the central role played by American poets in twentieth-century poetry and poetics. An important addendum to the American poetry cluster is a conversation between Maxine Kumin and Diane Middlebrook on the career of Anne Sexton. The

issue also contains eight Theories and Methodologies articles on problems in periodization and six on the practices of the ethnic archive.

For the May issue, I invited Vinay Dharwadker to comment in a guest column on the furor generated in India by the censoring of A. K. Ramanujan's essay "Three Hundred *Rāmāyanas*." The column is a detailed examination of the changing institutional and global nature of censorship and the persistence of an ancient literary text in the politics of the present. The issue also contains Russell Berman's presidential address, which outlines the challenges facing the teaching of literature in a time of diminishing resources. Other notable features of this issue are two regular articles applying ecocriticism to medieval and eighteenth-century literature and seven solicited articles discussing the theoretical and methodological issues raised by the crisis of sustainability. The issue also contains an interview with Cheryll Glotfelty, considered to be one of the founders of ecocriticism in the United States. There are regular essays on feminism and queer theory in early modern texts, blindness and the question of perception in Victorian literature, consumerism in American culture, and the stimulation of literature and cinema by the codes of censorship.

In addition to regular articles and commissioned features for the increasingly popular Theories and Methodologies section, *PMLA* continues to present works of criticism in translation and little-known documents. In 2011–12 Criticism in Translation introduced readers to the work of Karl Philipp Moritz, while the texts published under Little-Known Documents include a missing story by Rudolph Fisher and letters tracing Lola Ridge's editorial work at *Broom* magazine. The Forum section remained a site of lively exchanges.

The October 2012 issue of *PMLA* will feature the special topic Work, coordinated by Vicky Unruh. Future special topics include an issue on Tragedy, coordinated by Jean Howard and Helene Foley (Oct. 2014), and another on Emotions, coordinated by Katharine Jensen and Miriam Wallace (Oct. 2015). In other upcoming issues, sets of commissioned essays will explore problems in cross-cultural translation, the meaning of comparativism, and the African American canon.

The number of submissions to *PMLA* in the calendar year 2011 (245) was slightly higher than the number in 2010. As of 31 August 2012, we have received 162 submissions in 2012, 8 fewer than we received in the same period in 2011. During the Editorial Board's 2011–12 term, the board considered 50 essays recommended by consultant readers. It accepted 19 (7 of them conditionally), rejected 29, and invited 10 authors to revise and resubmit (of whom 1 withdrew her essay and 1 never resubmitted). The overall acceptance rate for submissions continues to be around 8%.

My first year as editor of *PMLA* has been a pleasurable experience. I've learned much from the members of the Editorial Board and of *PMLA*'s amazing staff, including Eric Wirth, Julia Gold, and Annabel Schneider. As managing editor, Judy Goulding has helped me negotiate the landscape of the journal, providing incomparable advice and professional support.