Report from the Editor of PMLA for 2018–19

Submitted by Wai Chee Dimock, Yale University

The primary responsibility of the PMLA Editorial Board is to make final decisions on articles submitted to the journal. It also explores ideas for the journal’s special features, reviews proposals for special topics and selects special-topic coordinators, makes recommendations to the Executive Council on policies, and works to maintain the quality and variety of the published material at the highest level.

The 2018–19 PMLA issues owe their interest and scholarly rigor to the scrupulous attention of the Editorial Board members and the anonymous peer reviewers—who read submissions and provided detailed suggestions for revision—and to the dedication and talents of the authors.

The October 2018 and January 2019 issues are dedicated to the special topic Cultures of Reading and were coordinated by Evelyne Ender and Deidre Shauna Lynch. The issues include sixteen full-length essays, three short essays reworked from presentations at the 2017 MLA convention, and a cluster of essays in a Theories and Methodologies section entitled “New Geographies of Reading.” The March 2019 and May 2019 issues included eleven full-length essays, contributions to the special features Little-Known Documents and Criticism in Translation, and Theories and Methodologies features on Jennifer Egan’s Manhattan Beach and Hillary Chute’s Why Comics?, both commissioned by the editor.

The number of submissions to *PMLA* in the calendar year 2018 (233) was 8.3% lower than in 2017 (254). As of 31 August 2019, we have received 148 submissions, 22 fewer than we received in the same period in 2018. During the Editorial Board’s 2018–19 term, the board considered 77 essays recommended by consultant readers. The board accepted 17 (10 of them conditionally), rejected 47, and invited 13 authors to revise and resubmit (among these, 9 articles were accepted, 3 were rejected, and 1 was withdrawn by the author). The overall acceptance rate for submissions is 8.1%, up from 6.3% in 2018.