

Foreword

This 41st annual edition of *American Literary Scholarship* may be the longest to be published in the series. Despite the prognostications of doom and the demonstrable crisis in academic book publishing, American literary study is alive and well, though it may occasionally live incognito in a philosophy department or creative writing program. The sheer volume of scholarship on American literature, to judge from the *MLA Bibliography*, seems to have leveled off at about 7,500 scholarly notes, articles, book chapters, books, and dissertations per year. By design and of necessity *AmLS* is a selective review of this scholarship.

As I have often indicated in the past, moreover, the quality of this annual is always a measure of the caliber of its contributors. The authors new to *AmLS 2003* are Carol Singley, Rutgers University, Camden, and Janis Stout, Texas A & M University, who succeed Elsa Nettels as the contributors of chapter 7, on Wharton and Cather, respectively; Robert W. Trogdon, Kent State University, who joins Hilary Justice as the contributor of the Hemingway half of chapter 10; Janet Gabler-Hover, Georgia State University, who joins Robert Sattelmeyer as an author of chapter 12; Michael Kiskis, Elmira College, who returns to chapter 13 after a brief hiatus; and Gregg Camfield, University of the Pacific, who succeeds Ed Walkiewicz as the author of “Poetry: 1900 to the 1940s.” Meanwhile, Frank Kearful, Bonn University, moves from the “German Contributions” section of chapter 21 to “Poetry: The 1940s to the Present.” Michael Porsche, Paderborn University, succeeds Kearful as the author of “German Contributions.” Four other scholars depart from our roster of contributors with their chapters in this volume. After his one-year interregnum, Kiskis will be succeeded by Nicolas Witschi, Western Michigan University, as the author of chapter 13. Gary Lee Stonum, who has collaborated with Theodore O. Mason Jr. on the “Themes, Topics,

Criticism” chapter the past several years, is retiring from the annual and Mason will assume sole authorship of the chapter. John Samson, who has contributed “Melville” since 1995, and Benjamin Lockerd, who has collaborated with Alec Marsh on “Pound and Eliot” since 1998, are also retiring. In addition, the next volume of *AmLS* will include sections on American scholarship in Japan by Keiko Beppu, Matsuyama Shinonome College, and on American scholarship in central Europe and the Baltics by Zoltán Abádi-Nagy, University of Nebrecen, and Elżbieta Oleksy, University of Łódź. Profound thanks to all the scholars who have joined, are continuing, or have departed this project over the years. They have proven their professionalism year-in and year-out for a stipend less than most undergraduates spend on textbooks in a semester.

Authors and publishers can assist us in assuring that *AmLS* continues to cover all relevant scholarship by forwarding offprints and review copies to David J. Nordloh, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47505.

The editors are grateful for the moral and financial support they receive from administrators and colleagues at the University of New Mexico and Indiana University in the preparation of these volumes and the continuing administration of the series. I am also grateful to David Bagnall and the staff of the MLA Bibliographic Information Services for supplying a preprint of the 2003 *MLA Bibliography* for our use. And I am indebted to Melinda Conner and, as ever, to Pam Morrison of Duke University Press for their stewardship of the series and for saving me from a plenitude of mistakes.

Gary Scharnhorst
University of New Mexico