

Foreword

The 37th annual edition of *American Literary Scholarship*, like each of its predecessors, proves that the discipline of American literary study remains a vital part of the intellectual life of the university and the nation. Despite the rumored “death of the novel” and the proclaimed “death of the author” and the long-prophesied decline of the English department, the 1999 *MLA Bibliography* lists some 7,750 entries devoted to American literature, an increase of nearly 20 percent over the past two years and an increase of over 40 percent over the past four years. Of necessity, *AmLS* selectively reviews this scholarship.

The quality of the annual has always been a measure of the caliber of its contributors, and this year is no exception. Contributors new to *AmLS 1999* are Thomas Wortham, UCLA, who takes over “Early-19th-Century Literature” from Kevin J. Hayes, University of Central Oklahoma; and Suzanne Clark, University of Oregon, who takes over “Poetry: 1900 to the Present” from Timothy Materer, University of Missouri. Returning to *AmLS* after a hiatus of four years is Gary Lee Stonum, Case Western University, who resumes the task of writing “Themes, Topics, Criticism” from Joycelyn Moody and Caroline Chung Simpson, University of Washington. Six other scholars depart from our roster of contributors with their contributions to this volume. Philip Cohen, University of Texas at Arlington, who has collaborated with Joseph R. Urgo on “Faulkner” the past few years, is retiring and Urgo will assume sole authorship of the chapter. Daneen Wardrop, Western Michigan State University, who has contributed the Dickinson section of chapter 4 in recent years, is also retiring and M. Jimmie Killingsworth will take sole responsibility for “Whitman and Dickinson.” Daniel Royot, Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, who has collaborated recently with Françoise Clary on the “French Contributions” section of chapter 21, is also retiring with our

profound thanks. In addition, Wortham; Anita Plath Helle, Oregon State University (“Poetry: The 1940s to the Present”); and Axel Nissen, Oslo University (one of the contributors to the “Scandinavian Contributions” section of chapter 21), are also departing.

The routine changes in the roster of contributors will continue next year. Donna Campbell, Gonzaga University, will succeed Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio, as the author of “Fiction: 1900 to the 1930s.” J. Gerald Kennedy, Louisiana State University, will take over “Early-19th-Century Literature” from Wortham. Theodore Mason Jr., Kenyon College, will join Gary Lee Stonum, Case Western Reserve University, in covering “Themes, Topics, Criticism.” In addition, “Scholarship in Languages Other Than English” in *AmLS 2000* will include a section on Americanist scholarship in Japan contributed by Keiko Beppu, Matsuyama Shinonome College; and scholarship in Central Europe and the Baltics will be covered by Zoltán Abádi-Nagy, University of Nebrecen, and Elżbieta Oleksy, University of Łódź. Thanks to all—those who are departing, continuing, or joining the annual project. The scholars who devote their summers to writing these chapters are rewarded with little more than our collective good will and a stipend sufficient to enjoy a decent meal at a three-star restaurant.

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

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