



In Memoriam: Nina Baym

THE *New England Quarterly* lost a good friend this past June. Nina Baym, emerita professor of English at the University of Illinois, died after a distinguished career as a feminist scholar of American literature and culture. While her early work in the 70s engaged traditional canonical subjects like Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Emerson, she soon turned to path-breaking projects that drew attention to forgotten women authors and questioned the very standards by which scholars had previously judged literary merit. She could not, as she once wrote, “avoid the belief that ‘purely’ literary criteria, as they have been employed to identify the best American works, have inevitably had a bias in favor of things male—in favor, say, of whaling ships rather than the sewing circle as a symbol of the human community; in favor of satires on domineering mothers, shrewish wives, or betraying mistresses rather than tyrannical fathers, abusive husbands, or philandering suitors.” We are grateful for her contributions as a longtime member of our Board of Editors and will miss her critical eye, depth of learning, and razor-sharp intellect.