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The Birmingham Journal of Literature and Language wishes to acknowledge the helpful assistance of several members of university staff who went beyond the call of duty to assist with this publication. Michelle Cullen was a guiding force in getting the journal off the ground and without her assistance this journal could not have been realised in its current state. Scott Anderson was instrumental in setting up the online reading applet of the website and Sarah Macmillan kindly donated her time to the organisation of the official launch event. Juliet Creese, Katherine Lockhart, Rebecca White and David Gould at the Shakespeare Institute assisted with advertising the journal. Will Cooper and Hilary Gunton of Central Print, the principal stationers of the University of Birmingham, took special care to answer questions, seemingly simple to them but concerning areas that were generally bewildering to us. Erika Hawkes from the Guild of Students promoted the journal as did the staff of the Shakespeare Institute Library and the Main Library at the University of Birmingham. Karin Brown, John Settle and Kate Welch were particularly generous with their time. Tamasine Leighton-Crawford and Danny Pardoe also contributed to the journal's success through offering their support at various stages. Lastly, the editors wish to acknowledge with particular gratitude the excellent financial assistance of the Roberts Skills Training fund and the professionalism of Janet Newsome of the Graduate School, who, at an early stage in this publication, recognised the merits of promoting a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary journal.

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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the second issue of the *Birmingham Journal of Literature and Language*. The journal was set up, with financial support from the University Graduate School, to provide a channel for postgraduate students working in all fields of literature, languages, and their cognate areas to disseminate their work and gain invaluable experience in writing articles and reviews for publication. To follow the energy and quality of the inaugural edition was always going to be a challenge, but it is one that the current issue's contributors have met with confidence and erudition. The five essays display an extraordinary range of research expertise, from Nathan Waddell's incisive and persuasive reading of paranoia and pathology in John Buchan's spy thriller *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, to Ian Hughes' compelling essay on the purposes and effects of graphic stage violence in Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, Jo Collins' postcolonial analysis of the 'ethnic shadow' of Africa in Jung's dreams and dream theory, Emma Moreton's case study in the problems and possibilities of corpus linguistic analysis for recovering female slave narratives, and Dong-Ha Seo's fascinating material history of Elizabethan war ballads and pamphlets. The review section covers books on subjects as diverse as the contemporary debate over the potentially damaging effects or creative and enlivening role of text messaging and *textese* on twenty-first century language and literacy, and the elaborate, involved, subjective prose of the art critic and aesthete Adrian Stokes. In the notes, Sarah Parker offers a lively account of one of the highlights of the Autumn term, the University Graduate School's first annual guest lecture by Dr Jung Chang, author of the international bestseller *Wild Swans* (1992).

Since the launch of the *BJLL* in the summer, the start of the academic year 08/09 has ushered in the new University structure, and the formation of an exciting interdisciplinary research community under the College of Arts and Law. I would like to take this opportunity to echo the editors' warm invitation to potential contributors of essays, reviews, notes and artwork to the journal from across the College and beyond.

Deborah Parsons
Deputy Director, College of Arts & Law Graduate School
University of Birmingham

GENERAL EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

As outlined in the first issue of *The Birmingham Journal of Literature and Language*, the *BJLL* is dedicated to uniting scholars from a wide variety of departments through the production of a collection of articles, notes, reviews, and art pieces, published both electronically and in print. We believe that the first issue lived up to these ambitious goals, and we hope that this second issue – which approaches the same concerns but in a different light – also succeeds in opening the minds of our readers through emphasising the importance of multidisciplinary work.

Mirroring the five colleges of the University of Birmingham, this issue is designed around a series of quintuplets that incorporate material that appeals to diverse perceptions of the mind. Nathan Waddell's exploration of the modernist pathology in literature yields to Ian Hughes's historicist analysis of the effects of violence both on and off the stage; Jo Collins's interrogation of the writings of the twentieth-century's most fundamental psychoanalysts moves in the direction of Emma Moreton's treatment of varying linguistic representations of the post-colonial 'other'; and Dong-ha Seo's meticulously-researched study of Elizabethan pamphlet culture subjects to critical scrutiny the commercial and political effects of the military-informed mindset of Early Modern ideological communities and circles. These articles are followed by five reviews, five notes, and five pieces of art, that reflect diversity whilst celebrating the five-part structure of the University's new college system.

Along with the five original reviews in this second issue, highlights from the notes include entries on some of the Graduate School's recent projects, such as the *Universitas 21* Conference on Water and the Dr Jung Chang Lecture. These event-centred entries are positioned beside remarks on performance-related themes that can also be linked with the innovative work undertaken by current students of the University of Birmingham. Victoria Grainger's note on the Edinburgh Fringe festival makes mention of this University's contribution; and Deborah Kerr's review of Michael Boyd's history cycle at the RSC pays homage to Boyd whilst alluding to this University's satellite site in Stratford-upon-Avon. To such diverse contents we add a Foreword by an alumnus of the University, Deborah Parsons, who, in addition to playing a prominent role in the teaching of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, now also holds the position of the new Deputy Director of the College of Arts & Law Graduate School.

Laura Hilton and Joshua McEville