

Studies in English, New Series

Volume 1

Article 2

1980

Editorial

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Recommended Citation

Fisher, Benjamin Franklin IV (1980) "Editorial," *Studies in English, New Series*: Vol. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/studies_eng_new/vol1/iss1/2

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EDITORIAL

With *UMSE* launching a new series, changes in form and content are inevitable. We have moved from a house publication to a nationally refereed journal that welcomes submissions, articles or notes, on any aspect of literary study treating British or American writing. We will regularly run reviews. Manuscripts ranging over the spans of British and American (excepting Colonial) fields have come in, although the majority have dealt with Romantic, Victorian, and American (especially southern) topics. Such initial concentration is by no means restrictive, so far as editorial outlook sees. We desire the best articles to be had, concerning any period, topic, or figure. This is not a journal devoted to Faulkner, despite certain misconceptions, nor have any submissions on Faulknerian topics been accepted to date, although papers about him have come in quantity.

Between mid-November 1979 and mid-November 1980 eighty-odd manuscripts have arrived. Each has gone to at least two readers, and most evaluations have come back within two weeks. There have been over thirty unanimous rejections, and a fair amount of material is still circulating. Besides the nine articles and three notes appearing in this issue, a backlog exists for Number Two. In topical coverage, twentieth-century American literature leads the race (chiefly in fiction, with numerous southern topics), Victorian runs next (with much more on poetry than other forms), and Medieval third (concentrations on Chaucer topics — no acceptances as yet — and William Dunbar: is there a revival?).

Contributors to the first volume include some of the outstanding names in our profession. As a special feature, we hope to publish in each issue a screed about a great scholar or teacher. Appropriately — with the University of Mississippi's ties to one of America's foremost novelists and to southern literature of wider ranges — the first sketch is devoted to the late Jay Broadus Hubbell (1885-1979), Founding Editor of *American Literature*, lifelong promoter of southern letters, and *doyen* to all students of American literature. These accolades come, fittingly, from a long-time admirer and colleague, Clarence Gohdes, himself the editorial successor to Professor Hubbell, as well as a mighty figure and force in his own right among Americanists.

Invitations for advisory board members emphasized the maintenance of high standards for the contents of *UMSE*. That excellence

they have supported, and to them all I bear far greater gratitude than so brief a line of print can convey. Several additional hands have lent notable services to *UMSE*, for which particular notice is meet and right. First thanks go to the journal's planning committee: John Crews, Jeffrey T. Gross, and T. J. Ray, our Business Manager. Special gratitude goes to Ronald A. Schroeder for his foresight about the proportions of an editor's function. Other members of the Department of English at Ole Miss have been encouraging and helpful. Valuable advice, as well as labors beyond the call of duty, have come from persons in and out of our department: Jack Barbera, Stephen Booth, Michael H. Bright, Michael L. Burduck, Craig Gibson, Vance Justice, Missy Kubitschek, Maureen Cobb Mabbott, B. H. Stewart, E. Kate Stewart, Thomas H. Stewart, Craig Werner, and Calvin D. Yost, Jr. From their sagacity seasoned through long years upon editorial seas, several renowned editors have provided insights to better this journal: Kenneth W. Cameron, Clarence Gohdes, Clyde K. Hyder, William E. Miller, and the late Arlin Turner. To all mentioned above *UMSE* owes much. These persons have kept the lower lights burning, as it were, to bring a vessel, with a helm guided by an oft uncertain hand, safely toward port.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMSE for 1982 will be devoted to Edgar Allan Poe; that for 1984 will feature essays on American regional literature. We look forward to outstanding submissions.

Another journal, *Milton and the Romantics*, becomes with its next issue *Romanticism Past and Present*. It will henceforth treat "the Romantic view of the past in its various and periodic manifestations." Submissions should run 2500-5000 words, prepared MLA style. Direct correspondence to the Editors (Stuart Peterfreund and Arthur J. Weitzman), Department of English, 133 Holmes Hall, Northeastern University, Boston MA 02115.