

From the Editor . . .

*F*or the past eleven years *Nineteenth-Century Prose* has appeared with the name of a Turkish university on the masthead as sponsoring institution – from 2005 to 2010 the name of Doğuş University held the post, and from 2010 through the double Spring/Fall 2016 edition, the name of Fatih University appeared on the masthead. In late May 2016, the governing board of higher education in Turkey informed Fatih University that they would no longer be permitted to employ foreign faculty. Normally, Turkish universities are allowed to hire up to 3% foreign faculty, a policy determined in the wake of the 1980 military coup although the policy was generally not enforced. Now, however, Fatih University would be unable to hire *any* foreign faculty. A total of 54 of my colleagues and myself became unemployed as of 30 June. The following day I secured promise of a job at another university, but as soon as the rector found out I was a foreigner, the offer was rescinded. A short while after that I had an offer at another Turkish university, but the offer was rescinded in the wake of the attempted coup of 15 July. Currently, I am waiting to find out if I will be allowed to work again in Turkey. Too bad. Fatih was the Gülen flagship university. Our readers may have heard of Fetullah Gülen from time to time in the news. His exposure of corruption at the highest levels of the Turkish state has apparently earned him the title of leader of the “Fetullah Gülen Terror Organization” (FETO). Never mind that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gave the commencement address at the Fatih University graduation ceremony four years ago!

Many of our students were stars from Gülen schools all around the world. We had students from the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, the Far East, South and Southeast Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and of course students from Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and other Near Eastern countries. I was the chair of the English Language and Literature Department, which granted undergraduate and master’s degrees, but we also had an American Literature and Culture

Department, as well as the only PhD program in Comparative Literature in Turkey. I especially enjoyed directing comparative MA and PhD theses and dissertations in which students compared works from their own literatures in relation to English and American works, and especially in relation to the great works of Western world literature. It gave me a privileged introduction to African works based on oral traditions, Kurdish novels, Chinese philosophy, Somali literature, Albanian literature, Persian literature, and much much more. The interactions between students from so many different cultures were even more impressive. Surely it must be the devils who call themselves our leaders who are responsible for the violence and hate in the world. The main effect of the current political chaos on me – aside from existential indigestion – is more time to devote to *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, and a life in straitened circumstances.

Looking over the current issue, perhaps the most apparent fact that leaps out at me when perusing the Contents pages is that four of the five essays that lead off the issue are in the cultural studies domain rather than the more strictly literary domain. Only the final essay, on G.K. Chesterton, is strictly speaking an example of literary criticism in the usual sense. It was a toss-up whether to lead off with the Thiele article on Geraldine Jewsbury in relation to “knowledge diffusion,” or the Tippin article on Chesterton; either one would have been a first for the journal, but the fact that we have had so few women authors grace the covers of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* finally decided the matter, although there are far more portraits of Chesterton to choose from than portraits of Jewsbury – a result of advances in photographic technology rather than misogyny, for once. Another observation: four of the five essays are on British subjects, and the only American subject is decidedly idiosyncratic – on Lysander Spooner’s argument that the U.S. Constitution is itself unconstitutional!

But the reviews make up for the lack of essays on American topics: in addition to a review essay on Thoreau (Hoag on Otterberg), John Michael’s review of Russell B. Goodman’s *American Philosophy before Pragmatism* is followed by two fine reviews on the prolific David LaRocca’s latest Emerson collection (yes, we’ve had multiple reviews on

a single book before, both in the same issue and in different issues) and followed by Prentiss Clark's review of yet another Emerson collection, this time by Jean McClure Mudge, and then three more reviews on books about Thoreau. Surely the abundance of reviews on canonical Emerson and Thoreau make up for the American deficit in the article section. Moreover, the Fall 2017 number will be a special issue on the bicentenary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, which will be guest-edited by Richard J. Schneider.

Finally, a few comments on the Review Essays. Sara Atwood's essay on John Ruskin's personal and artistic relations with France is a fine example of intercultural dialogue, while Lucas E. Morel's review of George Kateb's book on Abraham Lincoln's rhetoric provides us with a nice companion piece to Bryce Hal Taylor's article on Lysander Spooner's struggles with the U.S. Constitution. And another cross-reference is provided by Iain Crawford's essay on Dickens and the mid-nineteenth-century periodical press, which for Dickens fans can be linked with Patrick J. McCarthy's review of Joel J. Brattin and Diana C. Archibald's collection on *Dickens and Massachusetts*. And last, my own review essay on Giacomo Leopardi's *Zibaldone di Pensieri*, which is an indulgence on my part. This is the second time in 25 years that I have stepped outside my editorial role to contribute directly to the contents of *Nineteenth-Century Prose*. (The first time I contributed an introductory essay to the 2003 double issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* in celebration of the bicentenary of Emerson's birth; the entire issue was republished, with a Foreword by Lawrence Buell, by the German academic publisher, Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, or WVT, in 2006). Also, I have started using my middle name, Charles, simply because that is how the Turkish state officially refers to me. I suppose this means that I will leave Turkey for good in the near future.

Barry Charles Tharaud
Koşuyolu Mahallesi, Kadıköy-İstanbul

