

From the Editor . . .

‘Twofers’

The current volume of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* should have been a double issue, except that it fell in the wrong season: if it had arrived in the spring, it would have been a combined spring/fall issue. However, I deemed it inappropriate to straddle two subscription years, and I deemed it even more inappropriate to delay time-sensitive reviews and review essays. Hence unfortunate timing for the publisher translates into fortunate timing for subscribers, who in effect receive two issues for the price of one – or ‘twofers.’ If we could just cut a deal with Walmart to carry *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, we’d be in good shape.

Nineteenth-Century Prose has previously published two pieces that involved Margaret Fuller: Phyllis Cole’s “Fuller’s Transatlantic Life,” a review essay on Charles Capper’s two-volume biography, *Margaret Fuller: An American Romantic Life*; and Mike Branch’s “Transcendentalisms,” a review essay on three volumes about transcendentalism by Susan Cheever, Barbara Packer, and Philip Gura. Both review essays appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, but this is the first time that we have devoted a special issue to Fuller. It’s overdue but well worth the wait – as the lineup of established scholars suggests – from Capper and Chevigny to von Frank and Zwarg. And guest editor Brigitte Bailey has done an admirable job of enlisting, organizing, and introducing the nine essays on Margaret Fuller assembled here.

In addition to a full issue on Fuller, there is also the equivalent of a full issue of five review essays and twenty-three reviews. The return of former editor-in-chief Larry Mazzeno to *Nineteenth-Century Prose* – this time as review editor, is reflected in the many excellent reviews, which are generally arranged according to scope (broad to narrow) and chronology (early to late). Hence Peter Betjemann’s essay on transnationalism and ‘the new American Literary History,’ and Dan Bivona’s essay on exploration, tourism, and disease in nineteenth-century travel, precede more narrowly focused essays on

John Stuart Mill and George Eliot, which are arranged chronologically. The general logic of organization is sometimes inadequate, however: Kimberly DeFazio's review essay – one of my overall favorite pieces in an issue of exceptional quality – after an excursus on reading and theory, launches into a sweeping cultural critique of the Victorian bourgeoisie in terms of class relations, as well as in terms of language, literary structure, genre, and mode – especially 'realism.' Ironically, Victorian bourgeois relations in some ways look forward to the 'late capitalism' of our own times, yet the problem today has little to do with what's left of the bourgeoisie. In any case, the sweep and inclusiveness of DeFazio's essay justifies its placement as a kind of 'round up' or conclusion to the entire Review Essay section.

The same logic of scope and chronology applies to the reviews as well, but again with occasional exceptions due to the large number of reviews and diverse subjects. The section starts out with six works of broad scope: on the Victorian novel, on Victorian time and technology, Victorian science, Victorian women and religion and literature, ecumenism throughout most of the Victorian period, and finally on economic and psychic 'economies.' Then there follows a string of reviews on American subjects – on Thoreau, on female transcendentalists, on Margaret Fuller, on William James in his 'transatlantic' relations – yet still interlaced with topics of British romanticism, a broad review on Victorian women travelers and translators in the context of colonialism, and a more narrowly focused piece on an Irish woman writer. Then a string of reviews on works concerned with the press and journalism in Britain, a publishing history of Dickens' last complete novel, a stray, late American piece on Hamlin Garland that is as much a tribute to long-time scholar Donald Pizer as it is about Hamlin Garland, and concluding with two unusual pieces, on the interplay between poetry and music in Europe, and on Victorian gardening as a cultural industry – two fascinating topics that give us a more rounded picture of Victorian culture. In sum, there's something for everyone in this collection.

Barry Tharaud
Fatih University, İstanbul

