

From the Editor . . .

The current guest-edited issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* has been a long time coming. Nearly four-and-a-half years ago I contacted Kimberly DeFazio after I finished editing and proofing the Fall 2015 issue. I was impressed by her magisterial review essay of Franco Moretti's *The Bourgeois: Between History and Literature* ("The Critic as Accountant," *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, Vol. 42, No. 2, 323-44), and consequently I thought she would be the person to guest edit a special issue on economic thought in the nineteenth century or perhaps a special issue on Marx. I had long thought that *Nineteenth-Century Prose* was remiss in ignoring one of the greatest and most influential thinkers of the nineteenth century, Karl Marx – just as previously I had thought that we had been remiss in not producing a special issue on Nietzsche, which we finally rectified. Originally, a variety of possible focuses were discussed for the present issue, including the relation of "The Communist Manifesto" to other nineteenth-century revolutionary writings, the rhetoric of Marx in the context of nineteenth-century Victorian prose, and an analysis of the ways Marxist discourse has been addressed in more recent leftist discourse. In the more than four years since the inception of the current project, the focus has developed into the present special issue, which explores some theoretical approaches to several of Marx's works, which are provided in four appendices. My favorite among the essays in this issue is Bret Benjamin's reflections on Marx's "Speech on the Question of Free Trade," which provides concrete historical perspectives on free trade in relation to the repeal of the Corn Laws and the revolutions of 1848 – events that most Victorianists have some familiarity with. But how many Victorianists are aware of the connections between Marx's "Speech," contemporary free trade, and "The Communist Manifesto"? Benjamin's essay provides perspective on mid-century Victorian economic issues that are reflected in the novels and the periodicals of the era, and his essay also reflects forward to what appears to be a crisis of global capitalism in our own time. Clearly, there remains much work to be done – to which end we look forward to another special issue on Marx in the near future, to be edited by Douglass Madison Furrh.

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