

From the Editor . . .

The current Spring/Fall 2023 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* is a special issue on Friedrich Nietzsche, with two additional essays on nineteenth-century travel literature and Matthew Arnold, as well as the usual review essays and reviews. Guest editor Benedetta Zavatta has gathered together an especially fine Nietzsche collection, and I am equally pleased with her work elsewhere on the Emerson-Nietzsche connection, which is addressed in Eric Ritter's review essay, below, of her *Individuality and Beyond: Nietzsche Reads Emerson* (Oxford University Press, 2019). When I emerged from graduate school nearly fifty years ago, I was an Emerson specialist, but fate led me into teaching comparative literature on a broad range of works that included nearly everything under the sun except Emerson. It was only my recent books on Paul Bowles and Yaşar Kemal that led me back to Emerson. I first became aware of the connection between Emerson and Nietzsche through the writings of the late George Stack, who did frequent reviews of books on Nietzsche for *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, and who became a personal friend. His *Nietzsche and Emerson: An Elective Affinity* (Ohio University Press, 1992) led me to read Nietzsche with an Emersonian cast. (Could Nietzsche's infamous statement that "God is dead" have been influenced by Emerson's comment in the Divinity School "Address" that "men think that revelation happened long ago once and for all, as if God were dead..."? Apparently not, unless someone can come up with evidence that Nietzsche had access to early Emerson.) In any case, Nietzsche's philosophical dramatizations of Emerson's ideas in works such as *Thus Spake Zarathustra* brings to mind another—but home-grown—philosophical fiction that conveys Emerson's ideas: Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Friedrich Nietzsche as honorary American writer?

The next issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* will be guest edited by our own Review Editor, Margaret Sönmez, on Language Collectors of the Long Nineteenth Century.

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