

From the Editor . . .

The Spring 2020 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* is already well beyond our usual 250-page norm, so I'll be brief. Guest Editor Sven Ove Hansson has assembled a fine roster of John Stuart Mill specialists, with contributors from the United States, England, and the Continent—a geographical mix of contributors, with a nice mix of topics as well, ranging from the personal, to the geographical, textual, feminist, political, and history of ideas.

The three Review Essays that follow the Mill collection are representative of the journal's focus. First, there is Editorial Board member Dick Schneider's essay on two books about Thoreau—Richard Judd uses reception theory to track American cultural attitudes, while John Kucich literally tracks Thoreau's trips in *The Maine Woods*. Next, Sarah Winter examines attitudes about the Victorian educational reform efforts of Matthew Arnold and John Ruskin, both of whom were influenced by European models. And finally, Nicole Lobdell traces recent developments in attitudes toward material culture in Victorian studies. The review essays are followed by a handful of reviews of books about Emerson, Mill, Lincoln's letters (!), and Ruskin, followed by reviews of books on broad cultural studies topics, including the Female Reform Society, English household domesticity in nineteenth-century fiction, and drugs and addiction in nineteenth-century fiction. All in all, both traditional literary topics along with interesting cultural studies perspectives.

Finally, a couple of comments on my own reading, which I intended to mention two or three issues ago, which reflect my desire to broaden the scope of *Nineteenth-Century Prose*. First, at the risk of exposing my own ignorance, Edward E. Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* contains the best explanation of international finance during the era of American slavery that I have seen. And Second, Jürgen Osterhammel's *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*, whose title says it all.

Look forward to the Fall 2020 special issue on Harriet Martineau!

Barry Charles Tharaud