

## *Introductory Note*

In this issue, *Interlitteraria* continues with the proceedings of the conference *The Changing Baltics: Cultures within a Culture* held in Riga in September 2014 and organized by the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia in cooperation with the Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. *The Changing Baltics* section in this issue contains seven articles from different generations: young researchers and PhD candidates are represented along with experienced scholars, a sign of both variety and continuity in the comparative literary studies concerning the Baltic region.

The conference papers (Zane Šiliņa, Viktorija Slūka, Jūlija Dibovska, Eugenijus Žmuida, Jana Dreimane, Inese Vičaka) also represent a very interdisciplinary approach to literature, exploring its relations with other arts and the wider social and historical context, and moving from the regional focus to a broader view of cultural relations. The concluding article of the *Changing Baltics* section (John K. Cox) and the opening of the *Miscellanea* section (Yordan Ljuckanov) show how literature can create contacts between seemingly distant cultures and enhance our understanding of the diversity within a single one.

The themes and approaches represented in the conference papers echo through the *Miscellanea* section. Four studies of poetry, prose and film from different traditions and times (Maja Lavrač, Axel Englund, Carmen Popescu, Beata Waligorska-Olejniczak) analyze the relations between self and the other, the word and the image, focusing on the poetics of dealing with contact and distance, similarity and difference. The three papers concluding this issue (Simonetta Falchi, Katja Mihurko Poniž and Viola Parente-Čapková, Mirjam Hinrikus) move towards social aspects of literary representations and imagery, studying various representations of women in the late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century literature.

*Interlitteraria* ends its 20<sup>th</sup> year with an issue benefiting from the best of its oldest and newest traditions, hoping to preserve and develop them in the future – to remain a forum equally open to experienced authors and young scholars and diverse approaches to literature, to contribute to a better visibility and mutual knowledge of small, or peripheral, literatures. We also look forward to more joint projects with guest editors, which have greatly enriched the journal over the past years, and to continuing collegial effort and cooperation from authors.

In addition to the regular issues *Interlitteraria* published its first supplement in 2015: *Taming World Literature*, a volume dedicated to Comparative Literature, as it reaches its 35-year mark as an independent discipline at the University of Tartu, and to the *Interlitteraria*'s founder and editor-in-chief Jüri Talvet. The supplement brings together many longstanding friends and authors of the journal and offers a rich and varied look into the discipline of Comparative Literature today.

Katre Talviste