

Editor's Preface

The 2021 winter issue of *Interlitteraria* opens with a thematic section dedicated to travel literature, “Texts and Theories of Travel”, guest edited by Wu Shang and Jonathan Locke Hart. In her introduction to this series of papers, Wu Shang shows how rich the topic is in possibilities for crossing perspectives from different fields of literary scholarship. This diversity is exemplified well by the articles in the section written by Jean Bessière, Duncan Poupard, Huang Xiuguo, Wu Shang, Wang Quan and Jonathan Locke Hart. It has also been exemplified by numerous other, individual papers about travel literature that have been published in *Interlitteraria*. This thematic section now rightfully brings the topic of travel into focus after years of its presence as a curiously discreet leitmotiv.

Comparative literary studies really are a discipline founded on a traveller's perspective. Comparative criticism requires a capacity to juxtapose different viewpoints and to change one's own. *Interlitteraria* has always viewed it as its mission to provide a meeting ground for such travelling perspectives. This mission has been considerably supported by the contribution of guest-edited volumes, now a well-established practice for the journal, with new instalments planned for the near future and further initiatives possible. Guest editors always bring the advantage of a thematic focus, a conceptual frame for the meeting of viewpoints that brings added value to the exchange of ideas.

On the other hand, chance meetings are an essential part of the travel experience. Keeping the journal, and preferably each volume, open to papers on miscellaneous topics is as conceptual an approach as composing thematic issues. The “Miscellanea” section of this volume brings out the diverse nature of comparative literature studies, as it moves between geographically and culturally distant fields, different methodological approaches and working languages in papers by Merlin Kirikal, Anneli Niinre, Merilin Kotta and finally Iryna Kaizer, Olha Nastencko, Tetiana Nykyforuk, Marta Maksymiuk & Volodymyr Antofiychuk, an example of remarkably collective research, which has been relatively rarely represented in our journal.

The volume ends with a review, introducing a recent book on Paul Celan. Reviews, while also relatively rare in our practice, have become more frequent over the past few years and will hopefully continue to be proposed. In this, as in all other editorial practices, *Interlitteraria* intends to remain as open to authors' initiative as possible, and make sure that if the journal has its own particular voice, it's the polyphony of its contributors.

Katre Talviste