

## *Editor's Preface*

The 2022 summer issue of *Interlitteraria* is a fully guest-edited volume dedicated to the topic of pandemics, initiated by Nikoleta Zampaki and Peggy Karpouzou from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in spring 2020. The preparation of *Pandemics in European Literature* progressed in parallel to global efforts to beat the real-world COVID-19 pandemic, and we can only hope that the successful completion of the one will coincide with a comparably successful outcome in the other.

Guest-edited volumes first became the journal's practice in 2013, at the suggestion of our first guest editors Liina Lukas and Silke Pasewalck, who put together the thematic section *SCHRIFTsteller und DIKTATuren: Writers and Dictatorship*, based on seminars on poetics of remembrance and on literature's role in totalitarian regimes held in Riga and Tartu in 2011 and 2012.

Since then, *Interlitteraria* has hosted six guest-edited thematic sections. The *Changing Baltics*, split between volumes 20/1 and 20/2 in 2015, was edited by Pauls Daija, Eva Eglāja-Kristšone and Benedikts Kalnačs. It issued from a 2014 conference in Riga, jointly organised by the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia, the Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. It was followed in 2017, in volume 22/1, by *Political Repression and Censorship*, edited by Carlos Garrido Castellano, Santiago Pérez Isasi from the University of Lisbon, yet another fruit of live discussions at a colloquium held in Lisbon two years previously.

In 2019, there was a guest-edited section in both issues: *Theory and Practice*, edited by Jonathan Locke Hart and Wu Shang in the summer issue (24/1), and *Global Contexts, National Literatures*, edited by Aušra Jurgutienė, in winter (24/2). The latter collection of papers consisted of the proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> conference of Baltic Literary Scholars held in Vilnius in 2017, another edition of a series of conferences of Baltic literary scholars first launched in 1995.

Jonathan Locke Hart and Wu Shang also prepared the most recent guest-edited section, *Texts and Theories of Travel*, published in volume 26/2 in 2021 and preceded by Marko Pajević's contribution *Literature and the Political: Multilingualism and Exophony in Contemporary Baltic and German-Language Culture* in volume 26/1, also in 2021. Like several others, this thematic set was also largely based on a conference, *Mehrsprachigkeit und Politik in zeitgenössischer deutschsprachiger und baltischer Kultur* (Tartu, 2019).

After ten years of rewarding cooperation with guest editors both from the University of Tartu and other institutions, it is high time for a public

expression of gratitude to all our guest editors, who have greatly contributed to thematic coherence to many volumes and have inspired us to aim for a live dialogue between authors as a standard practice in all volumes. *Interlitteraria* has been an increasingly collaborative journal, relying on cross-reviewing and collegial communication, trying to bring some of the conference experience to the publishing process and to help conference discussions reach publication. The editors' preface to the first guest-edited issue ended with the hope that *Interlitteraria* might welcome many other thematic sections and chances for cooperation. This hope has been richly fulfilled over the past decade and we now hope to continue and develop this tradition.

*Katre Talviste*