Editors' Introduction

RACHEL ABLOW AND DANIEL HACK

THIS special issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture*, in combination with the preceding, "Keywords" issue (46.3/4), marks the debut of the journal's new editorial team. In this issue we introduce a number of features we plan to continue in the future:

- **Essay Clusters**: Our first group of related contributions, guest-edited by Talia Schaffer, consists of three essays that together consider the past, present, and future of feminist Victorian criticism. These essays are full-length versions of conference papers originally delivered at the 2017 City University of New York Victorian Conference, titled "The Woman Card." Our second cluster takes the form of a series of short pieces celebrating and engaging with Catherine Gallagher's new book, *Telling It Like It Wasn't*; versions of these papers were delivered at the 2018 Society for the Study of the Novel conference at Cornell University. While these two clusters are based on conference events, this will not always be the case, and we are open to a variety of configurations.
- **Looking Backward**: Here, prominent scholars illuminate the history of Victorian studies by considering how the field has changed over the course of their careers. This issue features contributions by Nancy Armstrong, U. C. Knoepflmacher, and Martha Vicinus.
- **Defamiliarizations**: These essays seek to redirect or enrich Victorianist scholarship in one of several ways: by advocating attention to a person (theorist, scholar, novelist, etc.), text, school of thought, or concept that has not yet had a major impact on the field; by renewing attention to a once-influential figure, text, or theory now out of favor; or by reconsidering a neglected or misunderstood aspect of an influential figure's work. In this issue, Cannon Schmitt rethinks the work of Viktor Shklovsky, and Alicia Christoff explores the ideas of W. R. Bion.
- **Reviews**: *VLC* has a distinguished history of providing omnibus book reviews. Building on this tradition, we offer reviews that tackle a group of texts—at times articles as well as books—as an opportunity to consider a particular topic of interest. In this issue, William Cohen discusses a number of recent books

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concerned with translation, Carolyn Lesjak considers the political stakes of Victorianist criticism, and George Levine examines recent work by naturalist Richard Prum and others in light of their engagement with the work of Charles Darwin.

- **Provocations**: One of the features we are most excited about does not appear in this journal at all. Instead, it can be found online on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/VLCjournal/. These conversations are begun by guest editors and continued (we hope) by you. They are intended to open up questions that we confront not just as Victorianists, but as scholars, members of academic communities, and political agents. Caroline Levine is our first provocateur. Ryan Fong and Grace Lavery will appear on the site shortly. Please be in touch with Rachel Ablow or Daniel Hack if you have an idea for a Provocation: in addition to Caroline's, Ryan's, and Grace's posts, we will also occasionally post pieces from the *VLC* community.

VLC is of course still committed to publishing traditional, stand-alone scholarly articles and will resume doing so in the next issue, 47.2.

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