# A Statement of Editorial Policy

*PMLA* welcomes essays of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature. As the publication of a large and heterogeneous association, the journal is receptive to a variety of topics, whether general or specific, and to all scholarly methods and theoretical perspectives. The ideal *PMLA* essay exemplifies the best of its kind, whatever the kind; addresses a significant problem; draws out clearly the implications of its findings; and engages the attention of its audience through a concise, readable presentation. Manuscripts in languages other than English are accepted for review but must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English (generally of 1,000–1,500 words) and must be translated into English if they are recommended to the Editorial Board. Articles of fewer than 2,500 words or more than 9,000 words are not considered for publication. The word count includes notes but excludes works-cited lists and translations, which should accompany foreign language quotations. The MLA urges its contributors to be sensitive to the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.

Only members of the association may submit articles to *PMLA*. For a collaboratively written essay to be eligible for submission, all coauthors must be members of the MLA. *PMLA* does not publish book reviews or new works of fiction, nor does it accept articles that were previously published in any language. An article is considered previously published if it appears in print or in an online outlet with the traits of publication, such as editorial selection of content, a formal presentation, and ongoing availability. Online contexts that typically lack these traits include personal Web pages, discussion groups, and repositories. Each article submitted is sent to two reviewers, usually one consultant reader and one member of the Advisory Committee. Articles recommended by these readers are then sent to the members of the Editorial Board, who meet periodically with the editor to make final decisions. Until a final decision is reached, the author's name is not made known to consultant readers, to members of the Advisory Committee and the Editorial Board, or to the editor. Because the submission of an article simultaneously to more than one refereed journal can result in duplication of the demanding task of reviewing the manuscript, it is *PMLA*'s policy not to review articles that are under consideration by other journals. An article found to have been simultaneously submitted elsewhere will not be published in *PMLA* even if it has already been accepted for publication by the Editorial Board.

Submissions, prepared according to the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, should be sent electronically or, in duplicate, as hard copy to the Managing Editor, *PMLA*, Modern Language Association, 85 Broad Street, suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434 (pmlasubmissions@mla.org). With each print submission please include a self-addressed envelope and enough postage for one copy to be returned. Authors' names should not appear on manuscripts; instead, a cover sheet, with the author's name and address and the title of the article, should accompany each manuscript. Authors should not refer to themselves in the first person in the submitted

Cover: Part of a plate in Johann Kaspar Lavater's *Essays on Physiognomy* (trans. Henry Hunter; vol. 2; London, 1789–98; following 72). Courtesy of the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University. See pages 1250–51 in this issue for the full plate and a key to the illustrations.



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## Forthcoming in *PMLA*

### In the January issue

"Editor's Column—Looking Back on the Black Aesthetic"

Emily Hyde. "Flat Style: *Things Fall Apart* and Its Illustrations"

Marit J. MacArthur. "Monotony, the Churches of Poetry Reading, and Sound Studies"

Nicole Gray. "Aurality in Print: Revisiting Roger Williams's *A Key into the Language of America*"

Justine Pizzo. "Atmospheric Exceptionalism in *Jane Eyre*: Charlotte Brontë's Weather Wisdom"

Deanna K. Kreisel. "The Madwoman on the Third Story: Jane Eyre in Space"

*Theories and Methodologies*

*Reflections on Assia Djebar:* introduction by Anjuli I. Gunaratne and Jill M. Jarvis; essays by Nick Nesbitt, Madeleine Dobie, Mildred Mortimer, Odile Cazenave, and Anne Donadey

*The Changing Profession*

*Manifestos on Southern United States Studies:* introduction by Michael P. Bibler; essays by Jay Watson, Katharine A. Burnett, Sharon P. Holland, R. Scott Heath, Keith Cartwright, Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder, Pippa Holloway, Erich Nunn, LaRose Davis; afterword by Gina Caison and Amy Clukey

*Little-Known Documents*

Antonio de Nebrija. "On Language and Empire: The Prologue to *Grammar of the Castilian Language* (1492)." Introduction and translation by Magalí Armillas-Tiseyra

text or notes if such references would identify them; any necessary references to the author's previous work, for example, should be in the third person. If the contribution includes any materials (e.g., quotations that exceed fair use, illustrations, charts, other graphics) that have been taken from another source, the author must obtain written permission to reproduce them in print and electronic formats.

# Features in *PMLA*

Manuscripts and correspondence related to the features described below should be sent to the Managing Editor, *PMLA*, Modern Language Association, 85 Broad Street, suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434 (pmlasubmissions@mla.org).

## Special Topic

Articles on the general topic are invited; the subtopics listed are provided by way of example and suggestion only. Submissions to *PMLA* must meet the requirements given in the statement of editorial policy.

### *Cultures of Reading*

*Deadline for submissions: 7 November 2016*

Coordinators: Evelyne Ender (Hunter Coll., City Univ. of New York) and Deidre Lynch (Harvard Univ.)

What diverse practices, desires, and norms are concealed by the too familiar gerund in this title? What culturally specific and historically contingent institutions and techniques shape individuals' encounters with their reading matter? Do those encounters serve ends beyond the decoding of meanings or the closing of a hermeneutic circle? Questions like these energize an emergent field of inquiry that involves, among others, literary critics, book historians, anthropologists, and scholars of religion.

The discipline of literary studies has a long-standing commitment to ideals of close and critical reading. As the scope of our discipline has broadened, however, so has our conception of what reading entails, inviting a new attentiveness to practices involving sociable groups as well as solitary individuals and to skimming and skipping as well as word-by-word analyses. These developments raise in turn historical or comparative questions. Consider, for example, the different assumptions about the relationship between verbal structures and mental states that inform the reading of scriptures, a novel, postings on *Facebook*, and an article in *PMLA*. A new readiness to explore



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