

EDITORIAL

The present volume of *Op.Cit.* is the second of a Second Series, which marked the new stage in the life of the Journal as an electronic publication. As I have said in the first editorial, we regard this format as the most advantageous in the present circumstances for its broader and freer access for the academic community, and far-reaching impact. The next stage is crucial, the admission of *Op. Cit.* to indexes and rankings that will assure its international credibility as well as a constant quality control.

For this volume we attempted to organize a specialized section on Transnationalism along with the usual, though smaller, miscellaneous section. However, the call did not garner the expected response. I apologize to the few contributors who may feel defrauded, but the volume turned out to be actually another miscellanea. We shall use a stronger strategy in the future to explore the line of special issues, for example, by inviting specialists to be guest-editors.

The present volume, dated 2013, covers a broad spectrum of topics. The first three articles may be considered position papers: on new directions in American studies and the questioning of a homogeneous *wholeness* of the American nation, on Schoolhouse Gothic as a current trend in Gothic studies, and on politics as theater in the US, or its divorce from fact and truth. The remaining articles range from literary to cultural issues, artistic performance, and linguistics.

The general tendency of the language chosen by national contributors continues to be English in a so far steady logic of internationalization.

Apart from the essays (eleven in all), this volume also includes the usual sections, one devoted to Reviews and the other to Abstracts of Dissertations and Theses produced in Portuguese universities. This time we only have three reviews and a long list of abstracts, the latter attesting to the lively activity of our universities. I reinforce my appeal to our colleagues at home and abroad to help us expand the number of reviews, a very important section in a journal like this. It is also a very useful exercise for our post-graduate students for whom your encouragement is fundamental.

From a total number of twenty one proposals, the final selection shows a balance between contributions from home and abroad (seven to four), and *Op. Cit.* continues to

attract foreign submissions – eleven proposals for this volume. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only our foreign colleagues for once more demonstrating their trust in *Op. Cit.* and its panel of experts, but also our Portuguese colleagues for continuing to support this project by sending us their contributions and encouraging their postgraduate students to do the same. I wish to express my special gratitude to the contributors of the present issue for their excellent papers.

I wish to express my gratitude to the prompt and competent collaboration of the Editorial Board – I leave here a word of welcome to the new member, Ana Luís, from the University of Coimbra, who replaced Isabel Ermida when the latter came into office as President of APEAA. A special word of thanks is due to all the members of our panel of experts who, as in the past, have been extremely helpful and efficient in reviewing the blind proofs that were submitted for their evaluation. Without their scholarly expertise and reasoned judgments, my mission would have been much harder.

Finally, I would also like to thank the President of APEAA, Isabel Ermida, for her continuing support and trust.

Coimbra, 6 September 2013

Isabel Caldeira, University of Coimbra
Editor-in-chief