October 2024 Volume 139 Number 5



New Titles in Literature

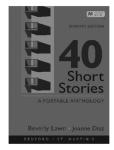
With Achieve



Literature: A Portable AnthologySixth Edition
Gardner et al.



Reading and Writing about Literature Sixth Edition Gardner, Diaz



40 Short Stories: A Portable AnthologySeventh Edition
Lawn, Diaz

With Achieve



The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature Thirteenth Edition Meyer, Miller

With Achieve



Arguing about Literature Fourth Edition Schilb, Clifford



Literature to Go Fifth Edition Meyer, Miller



A Brief Guide to Arguing about Literature Fourth Edition Schilb, Clifford



The Story and Its Writer Tenth Edition Charters

The content you trust *plus* the writing tools you need.

Selected Bedford/St. Martin's titles are available in Macmillan Learning's acclaimed online teaching and learning platform, Achieve.

To review Achieve, contact your local Bedford/St. Martin's representative or visit go.macmillanlearning.com/pmlaoct2024

October 2024 Volume 139 Number 5



Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

Published five times a year by the Modern Language Association of America and Cambridge University Press

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Organized 1883, Incorporated 1900

Officers

FOR THE TERM ENDING 12 JANUARY 2025

President

DANA A. WILLIAMS Howard University

First Vice President TINA LU Yale University

Second Vice President HERMAN BEAVERS University of Pennsylvania

Executive Director PAULA M. KREBS

Executive Council

FOR THE TERM ENDING 12 JANUARY 2025

ESTHER ALLEN
Baruch College,
City University of New York
REBECCA COLESWORTHY
State University of New York Press
ERIN D. GRAFF ZIVIN
University of Southern California

FOR THE TERM ENDING 11 JANUARY 2026 AMA BEMMA ADWETEWA-BADU

Washington University in St. Louis
Brenda Breuggemann

University of Connecticut, Storrs

LEAH S. MARCUS Vanderbilt University

IFEOMA C. KIDDOE NWANKWO San Francisco State University

FOR THE TERM ENDING 10 JANUARY 2027 DAVID DAMROSCH

Harvard University
STACEY LEE DONOHUE
Central Oregon Community College
VIRGINIA RAMOS

University of San Francisco

FOR THE TERM ENDING 9 JANUARY 2028
RITA BERNICE DANDRIDGE

Virginia State University

MARISA GALVEZ Stanford University

DEBORA MALDONADO-DEOLIVEIRA Meredith College

> LUANA MOREIRA REIS Princeton University

Trustees of Invested Funds

Dana A. Williams Ifeoma C. Kiddoe Nwankwo

WILLIAM H. JANEWAY (Managing Trustee) New York, New York DOMNA C. STANTON New York, New York CATHARINE R. STIMPSON New York, New York PMLA

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Published five times a year

Available online at JSTOR and Cambridge Core; indexed in the MLA International Bibliography.

Editor
BRENT HAYES EDWARDS
Columbia University

Senior Director of Operational Strategy
ANGELA GIBSON

Assistant Editor
ANNE FREELAND

Associate Director of Periodical Publications
SARA PASTEL

Senior Advertising Manager and Submissions Associate Annabel Schneider

Associate Editors
JOHN D. GOLBACH
JOSEPH WALLACE

Editorial Assistant EMILY KAUFMAN

PMLA (ISSN 0030-8129) is published five times a year, in January, March, May, September, and October, by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, and the Modern Language Association of America. Membership in the association is open to persons who are professionally interested in the modern languages and literatures. Information about annual dues, which include subscription to PMLA, is available at www.mla.org/Membership/About-Membership. Membership applications are available on request and at www.mla.org/Membership/Join-the-MLA.

For libraries and other institutions, a subscription in 2024 to the print or electronic format of *PMLA* can be purchased through a Cambridge University Press library sales representative. Subscriptions include online access to the 2002–23 volumes. Single copies of issues for the current year and the previous one are also available for purchase. Claims for undelivered issues will be honored if they are received within six months of the publication date; thereafter the single-issue price will be charged. In the Americas, write to subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org. In all other parts of the world, write to journals@cambridge.org.

The MLA publication and editorial offices are located at 85 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004 (646 576-5000; pmlasubmissions@mla.org).

All communications concerning membership should be sent to Member and Administrative Services, MLA, 85 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004 (646 576-5151; membership@mla.org).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.

© 2024 Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Modern Language Association of America. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. MLA and the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION are trademarks owned by the Modern Language Association of America. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 12-32040.

United States Postal Service Number 449-660.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *PMLA*, Member and Administrative Services, MLA, 85 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004.

772

Contents

OCTOBER 2024

- 775 Submitting Manuscripts to PMLA
- 775 Forthcoming in *PMLA*
- 776 Features in PMLA
- 779 Guest Column—The Name of Metacommentary: Fredric Jameson Andrew Cole
- 791 Becoming Undisciplined: On Pathways to Environmental and Racial Justice in Early Modern Studies

HILLARY EKLUND, JENNIFER PARK, DEBAPRIYA SARKAR, AND AYANNA THOMPSON

The Animal That Remembers: History, Hauntology, and Animality in Elizabeth Gaskell's Sylvia's Lovers and Ian McGuire's The North Water

GRAHAM HUGGAN AND SOPHIA NICOLOV

- 821 J. G. Farrell's Lost Polio Novel
 CLAIRE SEILER
- 837 Richard Wright and the Literary Popular Front: Progressive Interwar Writers, Antiracist Nationalism, and the Cold War Birth of World Literature

ERIC STRAND

856 The Weather in Stein

RYAN TRACY

LITTLE-KNOWN DOCUMENTS

872 Three Documents from the Archive of Roma Enslavement

Introduction by Adrian-Nicolae Furtună, Anca Parvulescu, and Manuela Boatcă

THEORIES AND METHODOLOGIES

Mariama Bâ's "Festac . . . Memories of Lagos"

- 877 Mariama Bâ's Souvenirs of Lagos: An Introduction Tobias Warner
- 882 A Feast for the Eyes: Mariama Bâ's Pan-African Vision
 TSITSI JAJI
- 890 "Festac . . . Souvenirs de Lagos" and the Temporality of Black Expression

ANNETTE K. JOSEPH-GABRIEL

897 Punctuating Place, Time, and Pan-Africanism in Bâ's "Festac . . . Souvenirs de Lagos . . . "

Stéphane Robolin

Editorial Board

HOLLY CROCKER, 2026 University of South Carolina, Columbia

> Annabel L. Kim, 2026 Harvard University

CHARLES W. MAHONEY, 2025 University of Connecticut, Storrs

WILLIAM J. MAXWELL, 2026 Washington University in St. Louis

JUAN G. RAMOS, 2025 College of the Holy Cross

JONATHAN STONE, 2025 Franklin and Marshall College

Advisory Committee

REMY ATTIG, 2026 Bowling Green State University

> Geoffrey Baker, 2027 Yale-NUS College

SARAH BALKIN, 2027 University of Melbourne

BARBARA BLACK, 2025 Skidmore College

KAREN BRITLAND, 2027 University of Wisconsin, Madison

MARK STEPHEN BYRON, 2025
University of Sydney

CHRISTOPHER CANNON, 2027 Johns Hopkins University, MD

LOGAN CONNORS, 2026 University of Miami

CAROLYN DEVER, 2027

Dartmouth College

CHRISTOPHER DUNN, 2025
Tulane University

YASSER ELHARIRY, 2027 Dartmouth College

JACOB EMERY, 2025
Indiana University, Bloomington

Brigitte Fielder, 2027 University of Wisconsin, Madison

Hannah Freed-Thall, 2027 New York University

VERONIKA FUECHTNER, 2025

Dartmouth College

Nouri Gana, 2027 University of California, Los Angeles

VERÓNICA GARIBOTTO, 2026 University of Kansas

LEIGH GILMORE, 2026 Ohio State University, Columbus

JENNIFER CAROLINA GÓMEZ MENJÍVAR, 2026 University of North Texas

Marissa Greenberg, 2027 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

JULIAN DANIEL GUTIERREZ-ALBILLA, 2026 University of Southern California

(continued)

Advisory Committee (continued)

STEFAN HELGESSON, 2027 Stockholm University

Deborah H. Holdstein, 2026 Columbia College

SERENELLA IOVINO, 2025 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill JAVIER IRIGOYEN-GARCIA, 2026 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

PRITI JOSHI, 2026 University of Puget Sound

ERIC KEENAGHAN, 2027 University at Albany, State University of New York

Stephen Knadler, 2027 Spelman College

Benjamin Kohlmann, 2027 University of Regensburg

PETER LEMAN, 2027 Brigham Young University, UT

LAURA LOMAS, 2027 Rutgers University, Newark

DANA LUCIANO, 2025
Rutgers University, New Brunswick

AYMAN MOHAMED, 2026 Michigan State University

BARBARA NAGEL, 2025 Princeton University

JOHN F. O'BRIEN, 2025 University of Virginia

Young Kyun Oh, 2027 Arizona State University, Tempe

SERPIL OPPERMANN, 2027 Cappadocia University

LEAH ORR, 2027

University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Andrew C. Parker, 2026 Rutgers University, New Brunswick

> VINCENT PECORA, 2025 University of Utah

SARAH RIVETT, 2025
Princeton University

RICHARD T. RODRÍGUEZ, 2025 University of California, Riverside

> MICHAEL SAWYER, 2026 University of Pittsburgh

AKSHYA SAXENA, 2026 Vanderbilt University

CATHY SCHLUND-VIALS, 2025 University of Texas, Austin

YASMIN SOLOMONESCU, 2027 University of Notre Dame

Anna R. Ziajka Stanton, 2027 Penn State University, University Park

> RICHARD A. STRIER, 2026 University of Chicago

M. Remi Yergeau, 2026 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

OCTOBER 2024

- 902 Bracketing the Possible: Mariama Bâ's FESTAC Memories Grace A. Musila
- 908 Mariama Bâ, Younousse Seye, and the Ambivalence of Canonization Merve Feizula
- 915 Mediated Ancestrality: Mariama Bâ, *Instagram*, and the Poetics of Fragmentation

AINEHI EDORO-GLINES

- 921 Festac . . . Memories of an Oil Boom Akua Banful
- 926 "These Pages Remain Open for the Future to Write": Mariama Bâ's Forgotten Writings in *L'Ouest Africain*TOBIAS WARNER
- 933 "This Intimate Burden": An Interview with Mame Coumba Ndiaye Mame Coumba Ndiaye and Tobias Warner
- 938 In Memoriam

Index of Advertisers

Submitting Manuscripts to PMLA

Editorial Policy for Essays

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.

Eligibility

To be eligible for review, manuscripts must meet the following requirements:

MLA membership. Authors must be members of the MLA. (For a collaboratively written essay to be eligible for review, all coauthors must be members of the MLA.) Following the guidelines established by the journal's publishing partner, Cambridge University Press, AI tools cannot be considered authors of works submitted to the journal.

Author anonymity. Authors should not refer to themselves in the first person in the submitted 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.

Word length. Articles must be between 6,000 and 9,000 words. The word count includes discursive notes but excludes works-cited lists and translations.

Originality. Articles cannot have been previously published in any language. (Uploading the submitted version of the article to an institutional repository does not count as previous publication.) Authors must fully cite in the manuscript, at submission, their use of all content (whether text, images, data, or other) created by an AI tool.

Simultaneous submission. Articles cannot be under consideration by other journals or publishers. 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. The MLA reserves the right not to consider submissions from authors who already have a submission under review with the journal, as well as the right to desk-reject submissions sent by the same author within a year of a previous submission to the journal.

Language. Manuscripts in languages other than English must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English (generally of 1,000 to 1,500 words) and must be translated into English if they are recommended to the editorial board. Translations should accompany all quotations in languages other than English.

Scope. PMLA does not publish book reviews or new works of fiction. Submissions should be broadly of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature.

Quality. PMLA publishes the best of its kind. Works that demonstrate egregious signs of poor quality (e.g., lack of scholarly apparatus when relevant, evidence of extreme carelessness in preparation) cannot be sent for review.

Forthcoming in PMLA

In the January Issue

MIKKO TUHKANEN. "Dreaming of Some Vanished Relationship': James Baldwin on Aesthetics and the Sacred"

GREGORY MACHACEK. "Prosodic Unrest in Shakespeare's Sonnets" NANDITA MAHAJAN. "From Elegy to Climate Bildungsroman: Jenni Fagan's The Sunlight Pilgrims"

SAMUEL DIENER. "Narration in the Key of *We*: The Voyage and the Grammar of Identity"

MAEVE McCusker. "Headless Horror: Writing Decapitation in the French Caribbean Plantationocene"

Little-Known Documents

"An Alternate Ending of C. L. R. James's *Minty Alley*." Introduction by Kaneesha Parsard

Theories and Methodologies Public Humanities

Coordinated by Roopika Risam, Araceli Hernández-Laroche, and Brian Yothers. Essays by Herman Beavers, Allen Brizee, Elizabeth Coggeshall, Devoney Looser, Américo Mendoza-Mori, and Eric Touya de Marenne. Roundtables with Lamia Benyouseff, Awa Diagno Lo, Maria Francisco-Montesó, Stacy Mosher, and N. Imani Robinson; Ashley Beard-Fosnow, Maryse Jayasuriya, Brandon Johnson, Eric Lupfer, and Phoebe Stein; Tieanna Graphenreed, Laurel Grimes, Taylor Seaver, and Cassandra Tanks

Forthcoming in PMLA

In Other Issues

- ROBYN BARTLETT AND HOLLY CROCKER. "Dorigen's Boundless Subjectivity in Chaucer's Franklin's Tale"
- CHRIS CAÑETE RODRIGUEZ KELLY. "Life with a Cut: Historical Time and the Mediation of Coloniality in Francisco Balagtas's Florante at Laura and Lope K. Santos's Banaag at Sikat"
- LYDIA COOPER. "The Body in Ruins: Queering Cli-Fi and the Trauma Novel in Omar El Akkad's *American War*"
- JONATHAN DAVIS-SECORD. "Trans Saints in Old English"
- Allison Deutermann. "The Persons of the Play: Falstaff and the Thickening of Dramatic Character"
- RACHAEL DEWITT. "Thoreau, Gender, and the Ecology of Housework"
- James Draney. "The Creep's Dilemma: Novel Privacy in the Age of Surveillance Capitalism"
- RAYE HENDRIX. "Deaf Spectacle: Rupture and Resistance in Ilya Kaminsky's Deaf Republic"
- LAUREN HORST. "Fantasies of Limitless Growth: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and the Magical Thinking of Sustainable Development"
- Patrick Kindig. "Cruising as Contact (at a Distance)"
- LITAL LEVY. "Diasporic World Literature: *The Vale of Cedars* in the Global Haskalah"
- WEI LIU. "'Revision-ing' the Caribbean Mother: Kamau Brathwaite, Lorna Goodison, and Pathways toward a Located Literariness"
- Carla Neuss. "Black Skin, White Eyes: Spiritual Efficacy and Racial Animatedness in *Yiimimangaliso*: The Mysteries"
- KATARINA O'BRIAIN. "Phillis Wheatley's Georgics of Repair"
- JUSTIN PARKS. "At the Expense of Energy: John Ashbery's 'The Skaters' and the Postwar Poetics of Entropy"
- ETHAN PLAUE. "The Patent Form: Norbert Rillieux, Solomon Northup, and the Production of Means in the Atlantic World"
- MATTHEW SMITH. "Breath Piece: On Paul Celan and John Coltrane"

(continued)

Submission Procedures

MLA style. Manuscripts should follow MLA style as set out in the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook*. The MLA urges its contributors to be sensitive to the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.

Cover sheet. 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.

Permissions. 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.

Please submit manuscripts (as *Word* files) through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla).

Review Process

Each article submitted and eligible for peer review is sent to at least two reviewers. 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 readers, to members of the editorial board, or to the editor. For detailed information on the review process for submitted essays, please send an inquiry to pmlasubmissions@mla.org.

Features in PMLA

Criticism in Translation

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals for translations. Articles, as well as chapters or sections of books that can function as independent units, will be considered. The originals may be in any language. Two types of proposals are welcome: (1) significant scholarship from earlier periods that has not lost its forcefulness and whose retrieval in English in *PMLA* would be a noteworthy event for a broad body of readers and (2) contemporary work of sufficient weight and potential influence to merit the attention of the field as a whole.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should first ascertain that no previous English translation exists. The proposer should then submit the following materials through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the original essay, (2) an extended summary of the entire essay in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be published with the essay if the essay is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the translation is accepted for publication, the proposer

will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted (as a *Word* file). The proposer may either serve as translator of the essay or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member).

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations.

Little-Known Documents

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals regarding little-known documentary material that merits the attention of a broad range of readers. Consideration will be given to archival data from any period and in any language that do not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should send submit the following material through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the document, (2) an extended summary of the document in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be published with the document if it is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the document is accepted for publication, the proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, if the document is not in English, the proposal should include a 1,000-word sample of the translation. The proposer may either serve as translator of the document or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member). The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations, if applicable.

Special Topics

Environmental Humanities in Practice

Deadline for submissions: 31 March 2025

Coordinators: Christina Gerhardt (Clark Univ.) and Cajetan Iheka (Yale Univ.)

In tandem with the growing climate crisis, the environmental humanities has expanded to engage an increasing array of languages and literatures, as well as theories and methodologies in literary criticism. Graduate and undergraduate programs focusing on the environmental humanities have also been established at universities across the world to underscore the importance of humanistic values and interdisciplinary scholarship in tackling the planetary crisis. The exponential growth of the environmental humanities has transformed disciplinary practices, recalibrating the category of the human amid the unequal distribution of climatic privileges and risks and foregrounding relational processes across species and on

Forthcoming in *PMLA* (continued)

- LLOYD KEVIN SY. "Nedawi Learns to Play: Ludic Indigeneity and the Plum-Stone Game"
- Grant Wiedenfeld. "The Paragraph in Literary Aesthetics: Examples from Flaubert's *Bouvard and Pécuchet*"
- ZHIYI YANG. "The Chairman's Voice: Revolutionary Classicism and Lyric Ventriloquism in Maoist China"
- ESTHER YU. "First-Person Prose Narration and William Baldwin's Beware the Cat"

Little-Known Documents

- Liberty Hyde Bailey. "Outlook: The Corrected Text." Introduction by John Linstrom
- "Six Poems by Margaret Hutchinson, Wordsworth's Radical Niece." Introduction by Nicholas Mason
- "Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's 'The Greek-Egyptian Poet Cavafy' and Atanasio Catraro's 'Meeting with Marinetti.'" Introduction and translations by Nicoletta Asciuto and Stephen Minta

Criticism in Translation

Namık Kemal. "On the Literature of the Ottoman Language." Introduction and translation by Özen Nergis Dolcerocca and Mehtap Özdemir Abū al-Qāsim al-Shābbī. "Poetic

Imagination among the Arabs."

Introduction and translation by
Dima Nasser

spatial and temporal scales. Taken together, the fields represented by the environmental humanities are best understood in practice. In practice, the literary field is a prominent space of intellection in the environmental humanities for its formal flexibility, imaginative possibilities, and representational capacities, especially as it concerns understudied voices and perspectives. Consequently, this special issue of *PMLA* asks, What is the affordance of literature for the environmental humanities as practiced in various cultural contexts? What constellations of practices in the environmental humanities emerge from its incubation as a scholarly, theoretical, and critical paradigm, specifically through the politics of literary representation and literature's salience for both pedagogical and activist projects? What literary modes, including experimental ones such as speculative climate fiction, have provided key points of intervention for the practice of the environmental humanities?

This special topic welcomes essays that address any language area or literary period and that assess the past, present, and future directions of the environmental humanities in practice. We seek essays from a wide range of vantage points and methodologies that articulate understandings of the environmental humanities that are accessible and of interest to the broad PMLA readership. Analyses of specific literary texts should emphasize the implications for the environmental humanities. We are particularly interested in submissions considering the environmental humanities as practiced beyond North America and Europe and in submissions on issues and conceptual frameworks arising from the Global South, especially those that examine the relationship between the environmental humanities and the imperative of decolonization across a variety of contexts. We also welcome submissions on the environmental humanities in relation to the following topics, among others: animal studies, Black ecologies, climate fiction, digital humanities, disability studies, ecopoetry, environmental justice, horror, Indigenous studies, petrocultures and petrofiction, plant studies, postcolonial studies, queer studies, speculative climate fiction, and trans studies. This list is intended as a suggestion not a restriction. The eras, languages, literatures, methodologies, and topics are open.

Special Features

Each fall, the *PMLA* Editorial Board welcomes proposals for clusters of essays on a topic of wide interest, to appear in the following special features: Theories and Methodologies, which addresses a timely issue or recent work of scholarship, and The Changing Profession, which takes up new and emerging fields in the humanities. Please visit the MLA website for more details about proposing special features for the journal (www.mla.org/PMLA-Submissions).