# January 2012 Volume 127 Number 1

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

January 2012 Volume 127 Number 1

# PMLA

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

Published five times a year by the association

## THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Organized 1883, Incorporated 1900

# *Officers for the Term Ending* 6 January 2013

President: MICHAEL BÉRUBÉ Pennsylvania State University, University Park First Vice President: MARIANNE HIRSCH Columbia University Second Vice President: MARGARET W. FERGUSON University of California, Davis Executive Director: ROSEMARY G. FEAL

# **Executive Council**

FOR THE TERM ENDING 6 JANUARY 2013

JENNIFER CREWE Columbia University Press KARIN C. RYDING Georgetown University KATHLEEN WOODWARD University of Washington, Seattle

### FOR THE TERM ENDING 12 JANUARY 2014

JONATHAN ARAC University of Pittsburgh LAWRENCE I. BUELL Harvard University DOROTHEA HEITSCH University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill RICHARD M. OHMANN Wesleyan University

### FOR THE TERM ENDING 11 JANUARY 2015

BARBARA K. ALTMANN University of Oregon DEBRA ANN CASTILLO Cornell University MARÍA HERRERA-SOBEK University of California, Santa Barbara

FOR THE TERM ENDING 10 JANUARY 2016

LANISA KITCHINER Howard University LUTZ KOEPNICK Washington University in St. Louis MECCA JAMILAH SULLIVAN University of Pennsylvania

# Trustees of Invested Funds

HERBERT LINDENBERGER San Francisco, California MALCOLM B. SMITH (Managing Trustee) New York, New York CATHARINE R. STIMPSON New York, New York *PMLA* (ISSN 0030-8129) is published five times a year, in January, March, May, October, and November, by the Modern Language Association of America. Membership in the association is open to persons who are professionally interested in the modern languages and literatures. Annual (calendaryear) dues, which include subscription to *PMLA*, are \$20 for graduate student members (up to a maximum of seven years) and are based on income for regular members: income under \$15,000, \$25; income \$15,000-\$20,000, \$40; income \$20,000-\$30,000, \$50; income \$30,000-\$40,000, \$70; income \$70,000-\$80,000-\$50,000-\$50,000, \$10; income \$60,000-\$70,000, \$115; income \$70,000-\$140,000, \$185; income \$120,000-\$160,000, \$205; income \$180,000-\$100,000, \$255; income \$180,000-\$180,000, \$255; income \$200,000, \$200; income \$61,000-\$180,000, \$255; income \$10,000-\$100,000, \$250; income \$100,000-\$100,000, \$250; income \$100,000-\$100,000, \$250; income \$100,000-\$100,000, \$200; in such as a stable to two individuals sharing the same household. The dues for a joint membership are \$40 above the dues that would be paid by the higher-income member alone. Foreign members apt the same as regular members (use the American-dollar equivalent to ascertain the dues category). Membership applications are available on request and at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org).

For libraries and other institutions, a subscription in 2012 to the electronic format of *PMLA* alone is \$180 and to the print and electronic formats is \$200 (domestic and Canadian) or \$225 (foreign). Subscriptions include the annual volume of *Profession*, the MLA's journal of opinion about the modern language profession, in the same medium or media as *PMLA*. They also include online access to the 2002–11 volumes of both journals. For an additional \$170, institutional subscribers receive a clothbound edition of the 2012 volume of *PMLA*. Agents deduct four percent as their fee. 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. To order an institutional subscription, call or write the Member and Customer Services Office of the association (646 576-5166; subscrip@mla.org).

Single copies of the January, March, May, and October issues can be purchased for \$12 each; the November (Program) issue is \$35. Issues for the current year and the previous one are available at the MLA Bookstore (www.mla.org/store/CID70) and from the Member and Customer Services Office of the association (646 576-5161; bookorders@mla.org).

An online archive of *PMLA* issues from 1884 to 2006 is available through *JSTOR* (www.jstor.org).

Volumes up to 2000 can be obtained on microfilm from NA Publishing, Inc., 4750 Venture Drive, Suite 400, PO Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998 (800 420-6272; www.napubco.com/umi.html).

The office of publication and editorial offices are located at 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (646 576-5000; pmlasubmissions@mla.org). All communications concerning membership, including change-of-address notifications, should be

sent to the Member and Customer Services Office, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (646 576-5151; membership@mla.org). If a change of address also involves a change of institutional affiliation or a new e-mail address, that office should be informed of this fact at the same time. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.

© 2012 by The 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 Customer Services Office, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789.

# Contents

# JANUARY 2012

- 5 A Statement of Editorial Policy
- 6 Forthcoming in PMLA
- 6 Features in PMLA
- 9 Editor's Column—This Thing Called Literature . . . What Work Does It Do?
- 22 Why Milton Is Not an Iconoclast Daniel Shore
- 38 Beckett after Wittgenstein: The Literature of Exhausted Justification ANDRE FURLANI
- 58 Holding On to 9/11: The Shifting Grounds of Materiality LAURA E. TANNER
- 77 Myth, Morals, and Metafiction in Jonathan Littell's *Les Bienveillantes* JONAS GRETHLEIN

# criticism in translation

94 An Attempt to Unify All the Fine Arts and Sciences under the Concept of *That Which Is Complete in Itself* KARL PHILIPP MORITZ INTRODUCTION AND TRANSLATION BY ELLIOTT SCHREIBER

# theories and methodologies

# Economics, Finance, Capital, and Literature

- 101 Value | *Theory* | *Crisis* Christopher Nealon
- 107 Value | Theory | Crisis Joshua Clover
- 115 Humanities of Scale: Marxism, Surface Reading—and Milton CRYSTAL BARTOLOVICH
- 122 Accounting for Pleasure: Sigmund Freud, Carl Menger, and the Economically Minded Human Being RICHARD T. GRAY

# PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Published five times a year

VOLUMES ONLINE VOLS. 1–121 (1884–2006), JSTOR VOLS. 117–27 (2002–12), MLAJournals.org

> ONLINE INDEX Vols. 1–127 (1884–2012) MLA International Bibliography

Print Indexes Vols. 1–50, 1935; 51–60, 1945; 51–79, 1964

# Editor

SIMON GIKANDI Princeton University Managing Editor JUDY GOULDING Associate Managing Editor ERIC WIRTH Assistant Editors CHRISTIANE ANGELI, JOHN D. GOLBACH, BARNEY LATIMER Advertising Manager and Submissions Associate ANNABEL SCHNEIDER Administrative Assistant JULIA GOLD

# **Editorial Board**

NANCY BENTLEY, 2012 University of Pennsylvania RICHARD T. GRAY, 2013 University of Washington, Seattle JEAN E. HOWARD, 2012 Columbia University KATHARINE ANN JENSEN, 2012 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge JOHN KUCICH, 2013 Rutgers University, New Brunswick LOIS PARKINSON ZAMORA, 2013 University of Houston

# Advisory Committee

SUSAN Z. ANDRADE, 2014 University of Pittsburgh ARTURO ARIAS, 2014 University of Texas, Austin RITA BARNARD, 2012 University of Pennsylvania JAMES P. BEDNARZ, 2012 Long Island University, C. W. Post Campus JANET BEIZER, 2012 Harvard University Emilie L. Bergmann, 2014 University of California, Berkeley PATRICIA LYNN BIZZELL, 2014 College of the Holy Cross César Braga-Pinto, 2013 Northwestern University STEPHEN BURT, 2012 Harvard University GLENDA R. CARPIO, 2012 Harvard University (continued)

# JANUARY 2012

JANE CHANCE, 2012 Rice University Myriam J. A. Chancy, 2012 University of Cincinnati CATHERINE CIEPIELA, 2013 Amherst College STUART DAY, 2012 University of Kansas ELIZABETH MADDOCK DILLON, 2013 Northeastern University JOSEPH ENTIN, 2013 Brooklyn College MATT ERLIN, 2013 Washington University JOSEPH FRANCESE, 2013 Michigan State University CARLA A. FRECCERO, 2014 University of California, Santa Cruz LAUREN M. E. GOODLAD, 2014 University of Illinois, Urbana DAVID J. GORMAN, 2012 Northern Illinois University Maryemma Graham, 2014 University of Kansas Edward M. Gunn, 2012 Cornell University PAUL HOPPER, 2013 Carnegie Mellon University CHRISTOPH IRMSCHER, 2013 Indiana University, Bloomington Rosanne M. Kennedy, 2014 Australian National University JACQUELINE LABBE, 2012 University of Warwick **Devoney Looser**, 2013 University of Missouri, Columbia Deborah Lea Madsen, 2013 University of Geneva LEEROM MEDOVOI, 2014 Portland State University KRISTINE MILLER, 2012 Utah State University JEFFREY T. NEALON, 2013 Pennsylvania State University, University Park ANURADHA DINGWANEY NEEDHAM, 2014 Oberlin College DAVID PAN, 2013 University of California, Irvine MARTA C. PEIXOTO, 2014 New York University Gema Pilar Pérez-Sánchez, 2014 University of Miami PAULA RABINOWITZ, 2013 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities MASOOD A. RAJA, 2012 University of North Texas Mihoko Suzuki, 2014 University of Miami CYNTHIA WALL, 2012 University of Virginia RICHARD H. WATTS, 2014 University of Washington, Seattle CAROLYN S. WILLIAMS, 2013 Rutgers University, New Brunswick STEVEN ZWICKER, 2014 Washington University Lynda Zwinger, 2012 University of Arizona, Tucson

Advisory Committee (continued)

- 131 Capitalism, Fiction, and the Inevitable, (Im)Possible, Maddening Importance of the Gift HILDEGARD HOELLER
- 137 Finance and Literature in Nineteenth-Century Spanish America RICHARD ROSA
- 145 An Oil Well Named Macondo: Latin American Literature in the Time of Global Capital ERICKA BECKMAN
- 152 Forum Julian Grajewski
- 154 Minutes of the MLA Executive Council
- 160 In Memoriam
- 162 Index of Advertisers
- 191 Abstracts