

Notes on Contributors

Françoise Besson is an Emeritus Professor of literatures in English at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès. Her research focuses on ecology and literature, travel writing and on the relationship between landscape and writing in English, Native American and Canadian literatures. She published and edited several books and many articles on mountains (especially the Pyrenees) and literature, on the memory of nature, and on animal studies. Her most recent publications include *Ecology and Literatures in English. Writing to Save the Planet* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019 and 2020) and as a co-editor with Zelia Bora, Marianne Marroum and Scott Slovic, *Reading Cats and Dogs. Companion Animals in World Literature* (Lexington, 2021). She was the editor of *Caliban. French Journal of English Studies* from 2011 to 2019 and President of the SELVA (Society of Studies in Travel Writing in English) from 2015 to 2019. She is member of the Academy of Sciences, Inscriptions and Letters in Toulouse. She published several collections of poems, tales and short stories and, with Madeleine Besson, her mother, several books on regional culture.

Michael Hollington is a retired Professor of English, currently living and working in Scotland, having held chairs in Australia, France and elsewhere. He is the author of several books, including *Dickens and the Grotesque* as well as studies of *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations* and *A Tale of Two Cities* and over 50 articles on Dickens, and editor of *Charles Dickens: Critical Assessments* in 4 volumes and *The Reception of Charles Dickens* in 2 volumes. But he considers his specialty not to be just Dickens but literature in general, and has also written books on Gunter Grass, Walt Whitman, Katherine Mansfield and George Eliot, and edited John Milton.

Irina Kantarbaeva-Bill is a member of research centres CAS (Cultures Anglo-Saxonnes) and LLA (Lettres, Langues et Arts) at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès. Her work focuses on the history of travel literature in Central Asia and Imperial Russia during the nineteenth century as well as the human and geopolitical geography of knowledge. Author of two books: *British and American Political Institutions: A Comparative Study* (Ankara: Tiydem, 2014), and *Entre imaginaire et réel: les voyageurs britanniques en Asie centrale au XIXe siècle* (Geneva: Olizane, 2019), she edited two issues of academic journals: *Figures russes de l'exil, Slavica Occitania*, no. 37, Toulouse, 2014 with Danièle Beaune-Gray, and *Anglophone Travel and Exploration Writing: Meetings Between the Human and Nonhuman, Caliban*, no. 59, Toulouse: PUM, 2018. She published an introduction to the new edition of Henry Lansdell's *Chinese Central Asia* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2020).

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Francesca Orestano is a lecturer in American Studies at Palermo University, was Professor of English Literature at the State University of Milan. Author of monographs on John Neal and the American Renaissance; on Reverend William Gilpin and the picturesque; on visual culture and narration in the nineteenth century; on D.H. Lawrence and Italy. Edited books: *Strange Sisters. Literature and Aesthetics; Dickens and Italy; New Bearings in Dickens Criticism; History and Narration; Le guide del mattino; Tempi moderni nella children's literature; Not Just Porridge: English Literati at Table; Romanticism and Cultural Memory; Some Keywords in Dickens*. Author of more than 150 essays on landscape gardening; *Frankenstein*; Hogarth and Dickens; John Ruskin; avant-garde arts; Thomson and Dante; Virginia Woolf; chemistry, taste and the grid; the Chinese community in nineteenth-century London; Dada in England; the Etruscans and the European avant-garde; Joyce and D'Annunzio; Tomasi di Lampedusa, a Sicilian anglophile; *Dungeons and Dragons and the progress of reading*. In 2021 she has authored *Le giardiniere. Semi, radici, propaggini dall'Inghilterra al mondo*.

Dorota Osieńska is a Ph.D. candidate at the Doctoral School of Humanities, University of Warsaw. Her main research interest centres on British poetry of the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, with a focus on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, British Aestheticism, the relationship

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Magdalena Ozarska, Ph.D. habil. is Associate Professor at Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland. She is the author of *Meanderings of the English Enlightenment: The Literary Oeuvre of Christopher Smart* (2008), *Lacework or Mirror? Diary Poetics of Frances Burney, Dorothy Wordsworth and Mary Shelley* (2013), and *Two Women Writers and their Italian Tours: Mary Shelley's "Rambles in Germany and Italy in 1840, 1842 and 1843" and Lucja Rautenstrauchowa's "In and Beyond the Alps"* (2014). Her research interests include eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English and Polish women's self-writing, transnational reception studies of European women's writing, human-animal studies and critical plant studies, and most recently-contemporary spiritual autobiography.

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Julia Helena Wilde is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw. In her master thesis, she examined the role of animals in early medieval lives of the British saints. Currently, her main academic interest focuses on the nineteenth-century reworkings of the early medieval Irish saints, medieval hagiographies in cultural context, children's literature, and animal studies. In her Ph.D. dissertation, she analyses the reception and reinterpretation of St. Brendan the Navigator's figure in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.