Editorial

Dear Friends and Readers,

We would like to welcome you to the first issue of our journal in 2016 – the second year of our activities. It is the first of two issues we plan for this year, although our long-distance plan is to become a quarterly. For this issue we have prepared a selection of five scholarly articles, most of them dealing with cultural and literary topics. We also begin a completely new section in our journal – we start very modestly but hope that this section will soon grow and many of you will use it to promote your work.

We open this issue with Jacek Olesiejko's paper on *The Problem of Cross-dressing in Ælfric's 'Life of St Eugenia'*, which takes us back to the early Medieval period and discusses a most extraordinary case of "a holy cross-dresser" from Alexandria. Olesiejko presents both the life of the saint as well as its later representations in theological works, most notably the work of Ælfric of Eynsham, 10th century Anglo-Saxon monk.

In his paper entitled *E. M. Forster and the English Ways of Ex(Sup)pressing Emotions*, Krzysztof Fordoński attempts a reconstruction of Forster's attitude towards emotion through an analysis of the writer's essays and selected works of fiction. The article departs from a close reading of the essay "Notes on the English Character", establishing Forster's vision of the issue, which is further confirmed by examples taken from his novels.

Mira Czarnecka in her paper *Doris Lessing's Narrative Technique as a Means of Artistic Creation of the World of Conflict and Reconciliation in 'The Memoirs of a Survivor'* takes us to the British literature of the 1970s. Czarnecka applies in her study the theory of narrative of Mieke Bal to propose a revealing analysis of the novel of the recent Nobel prize winner.

Marcin Sroczyński's paper *Written on the Male Body* deals with Alan Hollinghurst's literary debut *The Swimming Pool Library* published in 1988. Sroczyński seeks to demonstrate in his paper how "body" functions as a vehicle for multiple meanings in this "most carnal" of Hollinghurst's novels.

Katarzyna Fetlińska in her paper *Cognitive Sciences and Iain Bank's Novels* analyses two novels of the Scottish writer: *Wasp Factory* (1984) and *Use of Weapons* (1990). Fetlińska concentrates on the presentation of the workings of human mind in the two novels in the context of the recent developments of cognitive science.

We are happy to present our very first book review – Ewa Kębłowska-Ławniczak has reviewed for our journal an anthology of urban studies *Implosions/Explosions. Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization*, edited by Neil Brenner. The review section is quite small but we chose to start with a single review in order to attract many more for the coming issues, hoping that you will choose either to share with our readers your favourite books or to submit your own work for review.

We finish this issue with conferences. First, we return to the most recent 2016 PASE conference "Multilingualism, Multiculturalism and the Self" organized jointly in Szczyrk by the Institute of English and the Institute of English Cultures and Literatures of the University of Silesia. Then, as usual, we end the issue with calls for papers for scholarly conferences. We would like to use the opportunity to invite conference organisers to share with us their calls for papers and then to submit conference reports.

We begin the second year of our activities with an impressive and varied selection of papers but we believe this is still an early stage of our history and we plan to expand both in size and in variety. We are especially willing to hear from linguists; the literary bias of our first two issues reflects only the type of papers which have been submitted so far, it is by no means intended. However, we cannot expand without our authors and, as the second issue of 2016 is already largely completed, we would like to finish this very brief introduction by inviting all of you to submit your papers, reviews and calls for papers to our 2017 issue.

Jacek Fabiszak
Krzysztof Fordoński