

Editors' Preface

The present issue of the *Language and Literary Studies of Warsaw* closes the first decade of our activity. It has been a very productive decade, the first of many to come, as we all hope. We look back at ten volumes of one hundred and twenty-two greatly varied articles in linguistics as well as literary and cultural studies, by almost one hundred authors, somewhat surprised by the sheer size of our achievement. However, it is certainly not the end but only the beginning of a new and great adventure as we enter the 2020s.

We wanted to celebrate our anniversary with a special issue and discussed several options in the early winter of 2020. As two of the editors are active members of the International E.M. Forster Society, one of the options was to join the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the death of the novelist and, at the same time, mark the tenth anniversary of the Society. What we had in mind back then was a section dedicated to Forster, a selection of papers, which would act as an addition to the celebrations planned for June 2020 at Cambridge.

The pandemic changed these plans. Consequently, we decided to join forces with the IEMFS and dedicate the whole issue to Forster, giving an opportunity to all those who wanted to celebrate the anniversary with a publication. It was an experiment for us as we have never before published an issue dedicated to a single author. It was also a major effort to complete the edition on time but it felt good to invest our time and labour in such an undertaking, which will make us remember 2020 as a year of fruitful work rather than a year of uncertainty and fear.

The results of this experiment are now ready to be shared with readers. The volume includes both the works of seasoned and eminent scholars who have studied Forster and his oeuvre for many years, and young academics who have just started their careers. Altogether, there are over twenty authors from three continents featured here. We believe that this combination, as well as the variety of discussed topics and applied methodologies,

makes our issue a valuable work: a representative overview of Forster studies fifty years after his death.

The issue includes fifteen papers – divided into the four sections *Biography*, *The Novels*, *Short Stories*, and *Encounters with Forster* – two conference reports, and four reviews of publications celebrating the anniversary. One of the reports deserves a few more words of an introduction as it is something of a novelty: a report from a conference that did not take place. It is our attempt to commemorate the efforts of the organising committee of the “Re-Orientating E.M. Forster: Texts, Contexts, Receptions” conference. Perhaps one day it will be possible for the conference to happen, perhaps in a different shape and place, yet at the moment we can only invite you to read about that long-planned event, as well as to read those of the included articles which were originally to be presented at Cambridge.

This issue of our journal is complete but it is by no means the end of the work for the International E.M. Forster Society. We close this issue with the call for papers for the conference “E.M. Forster – Shaping the Space of Culture”, which will be held on June 7th, 2021, on the 51st anniversary of Forster’s death. As the conference will be held “through the Machine” you are all invited to participate, but please note that there is not much time to submit your proposals.

We would like to finish this introduction by expressing our gratitude to all the authors who trusted us with their work. We would also like to thank our still more numerous reviewers who took it upon themselves to help us choose only the best of the received submissions and did it with impressive efficiency during the summer and the early autumn. This volume is noticeably larger than its predecessors; we hope that the trend will continue and our journal will attract new authors to submit their work for the forthcoming issues. The editorial board invites papers on various linguistic, literary, and culture-related subjects for the 2021 issue, which certainly will differ greatly from this one. Last but not least, we would like to thank the authorities of the Warsaw School of Applied Linguistics whose unwavering support over the last decade has helped us prepare this issue and, as we all hope, many more issues to come.

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