

Editorial Statement

The editors would like to welcome our readers to the Spring issue of *49th Parallel*, and hope that you will enjoy the range of articles and reviews that form our 31st issue, and the first of 2013.

2013 continues to be a year of change and expansion for *49th Parallel*, and we would first like to announce that our current general editors, Katie Barnett and Rebecca Isaacs, will be stepping down after this issue after almost two years with the journal. Katie and Rebecca would like to thank their editorial team, past and present, for all of their hard work and dedication over the last eighteen months, and look forward to the continued success of *49th Parallel*. Taking over as general editors are Galateia Demetriou and Bart Verhoeven. We also say goodbye to articles editor Martin Walter, and thank him for his contribution to *49th Parallel*. The expansion of the editorial team continues with the appointment of Alex Bryne as a new reviews editor, Tom Bishop and Lorenzo Costaguta as new articles editors, and Michelle Green as our new community editor.

Our Spring issue presents three articles on a variety of topics, plus a research note. The first article, written by Michael Espinoza, debates the myth of the Reagan Presidency. The second, by Robert Tally, discusses *Call Me Ishmael*, Charles Olsen's 1947 study of *Moby Dick*. Our third article in this issue is written by Leslie Harper Worthington and explores the inter-textual links between Lee Smith's novels and the work of Mark Twain. Finally, a research note contributed by Nicholas Blaine and Rebecca Mancuso presents preliminary findings on the reasons for the enlistment of Canadian soldiers in the Union Army in the American Civil War.

As always, the editors owe many thanks to all the peer reviewers who have been involved in this issue, offering both their time and expertise. We would also like to thank all the scholars and authors who have contributed to the Spring issue, and look forward to working with them again in the future.

We are pleased to announce that planning is now underway for the 2nd annual *49th Parallel* Conference, to be held at the University of Nottingham, and a call for papers will be issued in the near future. The first *49th Parallel* Conference, held last year at the University of

Birmingham, was an enjoyable day filled with great research, company and food, and we look forward to the next one.

We look forward to your continued readership, and wish all our readers a productive and enjoyable summer.

Katie Barnett, Rebecca Isaacs, Galatea Demetriou, Bart Verhoeven, Tom Bishop, Alex Bryne, Tom Cobb, Lorenzo Costaguta, , Michelle Green, Chiara Morbi and Lou Stratton.