

Editorial

FROM TIME TO TIME WE PUBLISH issues focusing on particular topics or themes. In the fairly recent past, for example, subscribers have received an Africadian issue, guest edited by George Elliott Clarke (77.2), a Québec issue, guest edited by Nelson Michaud (78.1), and a privacy issue (78.3). Partly because of the favourable response to these previous initiatives, we are now planning a special issue on medieval culture. Authors of articles on medieval literature, philosophy, theology, history, science, politics, music, or visual art are invited to submit their work by 1 September 2001. A slightly more formal Call for Papers is printed on the last page of the current issue.

And speaking of the current issue, there is no single theme around which its contents can be arranged: it is a miscellany in the true sense of the word, and I think it offers some of the special joys of eclecticism. Take for example Eric Miller's article, "The Consolation of Botany, or the Significance of the Pause." This piece is not so much an argument as a meditation—a meditation occasioned by Miller's reading of what thinkers like Theophrastus, Rousseau, and Kant, or what artists like John Clare and Ernst Jünger, have to say about the practice of botany. It is also a meditation carried out in the shadow of Carolus Linnaeus, the eighteenth-century Swedish botanist who established, in Miller's words, "the etiquette for what we still recognize as 'scientific' naming."

I will resist commenting on each of the other articles, the short stories, the poems, and the reviews collected here. But I will say that there is a great deal to be learned in these pages about Nietzschean exuberance, about neorealism in Italian cinema, about Ovid as an inspiration for contemporary artists, or about the difficult moral choices occasioned by World War II and its aftermath. And I believe that readers who allow curiosity to guide them through these miscellaneous texts will find that their journey is not only a learning experience but also a pleasure.

R.H.