

Leah Tether, Samantha J. Rayner*

Editorial

<https://doi.org/10.1515/jias-2019-0001>

It is a particular pleasure to publish this year's issue of *JIAS*, since it represents a special issue dedicated to an important topic: the scholarship of women in the field of Arthurian Studies. As well as five substantive articles, an extensive celebration section has been gathered together to allow Arthurians the world over to express, from a personal perspective, how influential the work of female scholars has been, both on the discipline and on individual researchers. As these arrived into our inboxes, we were increasingly moved to learn of the sheer depth of appreciation, both personal and professional, that exists for the contributions of these important Arthurians. *JIAS 7* really has been a pleasure to oversee.

Four of the five the substantive contributions to this issue represent surveys of the impact of female scholars on Arthurian research in specific vernacular languages. Sofia Lodén's article opens proceedings, looking to the female scholars of Nordic Arthuriana for her study. Not content merely to consider scholars of more recent times, Lodén takes us right back to the original female patrons of Arthuriana in medieval Scandinavia, whose influence led to the importation of Arthurian romance from France and Germany. This leads neatly into the subject of German Arthurian literature and female scholarship, which forms the object for study at the heart of Evelyn Meyer and Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand's contribution. Meyer and Sterling-Hellenbrand liken female scholars of German Arthuriana to hopping hares, leaping with remarkable agility, albeit by necessity, across the various disciplinary boundaries that their subject requires them to transcend. Next, Usha Vishnuvajjala turns our attention to women's research into Middle English Arthuriana, arguing that it is often the new methods and approaches pioneered by these scholars in particular that can be identified as having helped to de-marginalise the discipline in recent years. Krista Kapphahn then moves the discussion to an area that finds itself increasingly under threat in modern higher educational contexts: Celtic Arthurian literature. Surveying the associated female scholarship from the nineteenth century up to the present day, Kapphahn makes an impassioned case for the particular promise of current early career scholars, who will hopefully be able to prompt just as lively a revival in

*Corresponding authors: Leah Tether, University of Bristol, E-Mail: leah.tether@bristol.ac.uk
Samantha J. Rayner, UCL, E-Mail: s.rayner@ucl.ac.uk

the popular imagination for Celtic Arthuriana as has been achieved in the case of Middle English. Last but not least, Rebecca E. Lyons takes a rather different approach to her celebration of the contributions of female Arthurian scholarship, by leading us into the world of publishing and its facilitation of literary research. Lyons reveals the often-hidden work of women that lies behind Penguin Classics' seminal translations of Arthurian works in the mid- to late-twentieth century.

We would like to express our thanks to Keith Busby on several counts. First and foremost, he made the initial suggestion for the subject matter of this special issue, and subsequently agreed to offer a summary of his impressions of the volume, which can be read in this issue's 'Afterword'. Additionally, he kindly agreed to serve as the judge for the 2019 *JIAS* essay prize. Having received some excellent contenders for our biennial competition, we are very pleased to announce that Sofia Lodén's article, 'Female Arthurians in Scandinavia: Eufemia, Christina and the Modern Female Scholar', published in this issue, is the very worthy winner of the award, which includes prize money of £150 (or equivalent in local currency) and one free year's membership of the Society.

2020 will be an exciting year in the Arthurian calendar because it will play host to our International Congress in Catania. Updated information on the congress is to be found in the notice at the back of this issue. We are also already hard at work on the 2020 issue of *JIAS*, which will have an open field, and it is wonderful to report that we have already had a number of excellent submissions that we will be excited to share with you. We look forward to seeing more of these arrive as the months go on, and warmly invite you to consider *JIAS* as a home for your latest research. Indeed, our eyes are even trained on *JIAS* issues beyond 2020, and we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to think about contributing to *JIAS* in ways other than submitting articles. For example, we would love to hear your ideas for special issues, especially if you would like to serve as guest editor for one, and for *état présent* topics, so we can ensure that *JIAS* continues to sit at the cutting edge of Arthurian research.

It remains only for us to thank all those who contributed time, tributes, articles and thoughts to this issue, including the editorial team at DeGruyter, which has once again provided high quality editorial and production support, and the editorial board and anonymous peer reviewers for their efficient and meticulous input. We should also make special mention of Claire Ormsby-Potter who has worked especially hard in the role of this year's copy-editor.