

Editor's Introduction

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“Why an albatross, and why does it look so angry?” Looking back at previous editions of the journal, several of these editors’ introductions begin by rationalizing why we are who we are. The usual response, that our choice of name alludes to Coleridge and maybe Baudelaire and McKay, has perhaps grown tired. One of my editors let me know earlier this year that an albatross shows up in Chapter 52 of *Moby Dick*, and being that Melville’s work lies in the public domain, we jokingly considered publishing that work in full if nobody submitted to us. Thankfully, our name and reputation survives amongst the crowd of other great Victoria journals, since we have happily returned again. *The Albatross* evolves year to year, but the name stays the same (is it a coincidence that we publish around the renewing month of April?).

The extreme diversity of submissions makes this volume unique. One essay discusses Chaucer, while others tackle classic science fiction and a recent award-winning play. An essay about Homer fits right alongside an essay about a film adaptation of Thomas Hardy starring Carrie Mulligan. Poetry and poetry criticism get a larger focus this year. Gertrude Stein features in both criticism and pastiche. Thing theory sees use in an essay

about a poem by Elizabeth Bishop. Creativity and hard work can be found on every page.

The privilege of working on this journal would not have been possible for me without the incredible people that make up the University of Victoria's English faculty. Thanks to every author that graces this volume. Special thanks to the members of the English Students' Association that help support us in applying for funds and organizing our launch. Additionally, the assembly of our editorial team would not have been possible without Dr. Mary Elizabeth Leighton and her important English 310 class that brought many of us together back in 2015. My *Albatross* team members make me smile every day with their perfect balance of intelligence and goofiness. No amount of compliments would do justice to their help and efforts. I wish them all the absolute best.

While many of this journal's authors and editors near their final year or graduation, others make their first leaps to take flight into the wide world of literature and criticism. We are all in these pages together: new friends and old. Finally, thank you for reading!