

## EDITORS' NOTE

We are pleased to present you with the fourth issue of *LEF-E*. We thank all our referees and contributors for their diligent work.

This time, as with the other issues, we have tried to keep an equilibrium between articles about French and Spanish literature, French and Francophone essays and reviews, and Peninsular and Latin American contributions. After much hesitation, we decided to arrange the table of contents chronologically from the Golden Age to the present day. Even though we have organized the articles in this order, the articles in this issue could also be read as revolving around two main topics: (1) strong women characters (the articles by Lamm, Rosales Figueroa, and Lino) and (2) the complexity/difficulty of writing (the articles by Nelson, Gaines, Eche, and Cacheiro).

In our first category, we have several strong women characters who try to create a space for themselves despite their different backgrounds and times. Some strive to establish or reestablish a balance in the man-woman relationship of the French eighteenth-century and early twentieth-century society (Lamm). Others struggle to exist as immigrants in the contemporary Spanish society (Lino). Still others want to find a personal escape from the Cuban dictatorship under the "Periodo Especial" (Rosales Figueroa).

In our second category, on the one hand we encounter articles that display the power of words. Words are used almost as a propaganda tool for the Occident, and they embody a power that comes with a price: missing the reality of the *Other* for the travel writers (Eche) or almost becoming ridiculous in the case of Boileau (Gaines). On the other hand, we experience the positive results of words in articles that generate critical thinking from the reader about suicide and love in the context of the Spanish Golden Age (Nelson) or in articles that reveal the true meaning of an event (Cacheiro).

We are also delighted to publish three book reviews about French and Francophone authors in this issue.

Happy reading!

Dr. Stéphane Natan, editor

Dr. María Cristina Campos Fuentes, co-editor