

Year Zero: A New Beginning

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It is our great pleasure to present the first issue of *Romance eReview*, a new online graduate journal of Romance Literatures edited and published by the Master's students of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Boston College. This issue is the result of a yearlong, relentless effort by a small group of graduate students and faculty advisers, who wrote, edited and reviewed the articles published herein. Despite its novel format, this online journal seeks to revive the legacy of *Romance Review*, the graduate journal edited by the doctoral students of our department between 1989 and 2007. Before it was discontinued, *Romance Review* hosted remarkable essays from several generations of graduate students, who are now prominent scholars in prestigious North American universities. With this project we wish to create a dialogue among the languages and national literary traditions within our department and display the intellectual liveliness of our graduate program. We also intend to give our students a unique opportunity to practice their writing and fine-tune their critical reading skills, while offering them a venue to showcase their best work.

We are grateful to the many people who made this first issue possible. First and foremost, we would like to thank O'Neill Library for hosting our journal on their Open Journal System, and especially Jane Morris and Emily Toner, for their support, assistance and patience in helping us with all technical matters. We would like to thank Prof. Laurie Shepard for her unquestioning support and encouragement of this project from its inception up to its completion; Prof. Larisa Smirnova-Elentuck, for her invaluable help with the essays of the French section; and Prof. Elizabeth Rhodes and Prof. Irene Mizrahi for their vital feedback on the Spanish section. We owe a huge debt to all the graduate students on the editorial team for their enthusiasm and work, and we look forward to welcoming all the new students and faculty members who will be assisting us in the future.

This issue features five articles, distributed in three sections. The first author is Amy Coulter, who received her Master of Arts in French Literature from Boston College in May 2014. Amy wrote an article, entitled "Couteau, ciseaux et rasoir: Objets tranchants et métamorphose dans *L'Immoraliste* d'André Gide," in which she examines the metamorphosis of the narrator in *The Immoralist* (1902) by André Gide, by focusing on how metal objects function as

catalyzers at pivotal stages of this process. The second article was written by Liv Westphal, a senior student at Boston College, who is majoring in Communication and minoring in Hispanic Studies. Her work is a close analysis of the sequence «Dans le jardin» in Chris Marker's short film *La Jetée* (1962). For the Italian section, Nicole Paronzini, a second year Master's student of Italian, wrote a brilliant article entitled "Michele e Raskol'nikov: Storia di un doppio mancato," in which she discusses the influence of the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) on the works of the Italian writer Alberto Moravia (1907-1990). Still focusing on Moravia, David Lara, a second year graduate student of Italian, wrote a compelling article on the psychoanalytical contours of the theme of ineptitude in Italian twentieth-century novels: his article is entitled "A Psychoanalysis of Ineptitude." Lastly, for the Hispanic literature section, Boston College alumnus Daniel Cuenca, currently a Ph.D. student in the department of Romance Studies at Boston University, wrote an article entitled "La picaresca del siglo de oro al cine: Una prueba del modelo modal-estructural de Ulrich Wicks." In this remarkable work, Daniel probes Ulrich Wicks' model of the picaresque narrative, by establishing a parallel between *Lazarillo de Tormes* (1554), the genre's founding novel, and the Argentine film *Nine Queens* (2003).

Romance eReview will be released on a yearly basis. We would like for this issue—that we have humbly entitled "Year Zero"—to be the first step towards a more ambitious project for the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Boston College, one that will stimulate an academic discussion among our students and contribute to their scholarly development. We will publish a call for papers in January, inviting graduate students from the Boston area to publish their work in our next issue. In the meantime, we will consider the essays of our best graduate and undergraduate students at Boston College and open our editorial team to new collaborators. In the future, we intend to include reviews and even translations, in order to expand upon the idea of a transnational and cross-disciplinary dialogue, both within our department and in the broader community of Romance studies in North America. In addition, we are planning to scan the back issues of *Romance Review* and make digital copies openly available through our website, in order to emphasize the continuity with the journal that preceded us. Our ultimate goal is to make *Romance eReview* a central component of our graduate program, with the hope that this Year Zero truly represents a new beginning.