

EDITORIAL

WITH THIS first issue of volume 6, we look backwards to our origins and forwards to a future of growth and new initiatives. In June 2023, the 8th International Literary Juvenilia Conference and AGM of the International Society for Literary Juvenilia (ISLJ) was held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in conjunction with the annual Jane Austen Summer Program, which chose Austen's juvenilia for its 2023 focus. This happy alignment of interests is reflected in the contents of this issue, where you will find two peer-reviewed articles on Jane Austen's youthful work. The historical significance of Austen to the emergence of the field of juvenilia studies is also reflected in the two Invited Contributions: revised versions of speeches given by Juliet McMaster and Christine Alexander on Wednesday, 14 June 2023, during a Special Session in honour of these two scholars, whose contributions to the founding of this scholarly field cannot be overstated. At this time the ISLJ executive also announced the creation of two new awards: the Juliet McMaster Award for Emerging Scholarship in Juvenilia Studies, shared this year by Anna Merz and Katherine Stein; and the Christine Alexander Award for Mentorship and Services to Juvenilia Studies, shared this year by Laurie Langbauer and Beverly Taylor.

Our next issue, *JJS* vol. 6, no. 2, will contain essays by Eliza Richards and Eric Bontempo, who won the inaugural ISLJ awards for the best conference paper overall and the best paper presented by an emerging scholar, respectively. Look for essays by Anna Merz and Katherine Stein in future issues of *JJS* as well. You will find essays by Laurie Langbauer and Beverly Taylor in past issues of *JJS*, and this issue features Part I of a two-part essay by Laurie Langbauer on the juvenile tradition and the American dime novel. We also offer one book review (of a never-before-published novella by the Victorian novelist Edmund Gosse) and one website review (another first for us).

Finally, we draw your attention to *JJS*'s new Spotlight section, created to feature short essays designed to introduce the work of a little-known young writer to a wider readership. We were fascinated to learn from Audrey J. Gibson about the writings of the African American youth John H. Crowder, a soldier during the American Civil War, and we encourage all our readers to consider contributing to the Spotlight section of future issues.

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