

EDITORIAL

This issue of the journal is linked to the previous issue in several ways. It includes poems by Vicki Viidikas, the collection of whose poems was reviewed in the previous issue. Poems by Stephen Oliver, who read poems with Vicki, are also published here. Stephen Oliver's most recent work will be reviewed in the next issue of the journal. An excerpt from a forthcoming documentary by Michael Wilding is included in the current issue. He was also mentioned in the review of Vicki's poems. A review of his forthcoming book from which the excerpt is taken will also be published in the next issue.

In this way, we hope to link the various numbers of the journal together in terms of the writers and themes discussed in each issue.

Another thread in this journal is that of China. There are two essays and a review dedicated to the work of Gao Xingjian as well as a piece on the way Chinese English language newspapers discuss aspects of education. In the next issue of the journal, the focus will be on freedom of speech and censorship, thus developing ideas discussed in this issue. This thread is adumbrated in another review in the current issue in terms of the taboos we face when talking about death in Asian and Western contexts.

Yet another theme we are following is the need to develop ways of writing literature and criticism other than those that dominate in literary discourse at present. We need real scholarship; not the assertion of opinions that rely on vague links to theories for validity. There must be more to serious writing than language games based on often misunderstood concepts that are yoked together in any old way at the whim of academics who have never actually experienced what they are writing about. The era of zombie ideologies followed by drones is surely coming to an end in literary and cultural studies. Hopefully, we can return to the *actual* study of texts and the language in them, which is where we were before the rise of postmodernism.

In a bridge to the next issue of the journal, we include a review of a book on death and dying. The next issue will look at taboos, censorship and freedom of thought.

We wish to thank Ingrid Lisners for permission to print poems by Vicki Viidikas, and Arcadia Press for permission to print an excerpt from Michael Wilding's forthcoming *Wild Bleak Bohemia*.

Stephen Conlon
Editor