



**Volume 33 (2018)**

Edited by Valerie Johnson & Renée Ward  
with Laura Harrison

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## Introduction

Valerie Johnson & Renée Ward

At last. Cue up the throaty Etta James classic: Issue 33 (2018) is finally done. Editorial transitions take time; peer review takes time. Editors are ultimately human, carrying substantial teaching, research, and personal obligations beyond their editorial tithes of (free) labor. Add to this mix the wave of a global pandemic, and we find ourselves living in these strange (but not entirely unprecedented) times...

We are grateful to all of the contributors—and to readers—for their patience as the new editorial team has found its feet and established its processes. Issue 34, upon which we are about to embark, will certainly be a smoother and faster ride.

We thank Richard Utz and Ed Ridsen, former editors of *YWIM*, for their trust in us and their support of our appointment as co-editors. We are grateful to all continuing members of the board, who likewise supported our appointment and have graciously agreed to continue in their posts for another three-year term. A warm welcome and profound “thank you” goes to our new Assistant Editor, Laura S. Harrison, for all of her behind-the-scenes hard work on the issue. We owe gratitude and thanks to both Karl Fugelso and MJ Toswell for their wisdom and advice during the transition period. A further huge “thank you” is needed for all of our authors and our peer-reviewers, for their patience and their diligence; their contributions have ensured that this issue is rigorous and engaging.

*Year's Work in Medievalism* is dedicated to access. We have changed our font from Garamond to Arial, a move that reflects our desire to render journal content more accessible to readers that have difficulty with serif fonts. Arial is one of the recommended accessible fonts and lends itself well to magnification. We have maintained the use of clear borders and white space in the journal, which increases accessibility, as does our slightly increased line spacing. We moderate peer reviewer comments, providing authors with editorial summaries to ensure that feedback is accessible and professional. We are planning for our future: longer term goals include moving to a new open-access home with accessible design to allow us to build a searchable archive of all previous issues; entrenching the journal's commitment to diversity, in both its content and representation (including authors and peer reviewers), while simultaneously representing the dynamic shape of our diverse and complex field; expanding our engagement with creative medievalisms; and, of course, maintaining our relationship with the International Society for the Study of Medievalism's (ISSM) regularly scheduled events.

The contents of Issue 33 reflect the many ways in which medievalism contributes to culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. We are thrilled to have a combination of pieces

arising from the 2018 ISSM annual meeting hosted by Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario (CAN), presented alongside individual submissions from authors. The selections reflect the breadth of critical work being undertaken right now by graduate students, independent scholars, and affiliated academics, and they engage with approaches ranging from the spatial turn and narrative theory to ludology.

Issue 33 of *The Year's Work in Medievalism* is a humble offering to all readers seeking intellectual and critical engagement with works of medievalism. We publish this issue focusing on medievalism in culture as the world grapples with complex public health conditions complicated by political agendas and haunting reminders of past pandemics – topics which have inspired the theme for our next issue: Intersections (please see our Call for Submissions).

Be well.

VBJ & RW