

Foreword

Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies is a multilingual, peer-reviewed journal published twice a year by the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The journal addresses the literatures and cultures of the diverse and vast communities of the Portuguese-speaking world, composed of approximately 200 million people in seven countries in three continents, and the many other Lusophone communities in the United States and throughout the world. The journal encourages a wide diversity of theoretical and critical approaches, not being limited to any school of thought or political orientation. Cultural studies, as suggested in the title, is intended to be understood in its widest sense as the study of a variety of cultural expressions from a broad range of perspectives.

Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies distinguishes itself from other journals in English-speaking countries in the field of Portuguese Studies by the frequency of its publication and a commitment to thematically oriented issues. The journal does, nonetheless, accept individually conceived articles for a section that will appear in forthcoming issues. The journal welcomes submissions from both established and upcoming scholars. *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies* proposes to take stock of the scholarly scene on the eve of the 21st century, at a moment when the language, literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world are experiencing an increase in visibility and interest, confirmed by the awarding of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature to the author José Saramago. Future volumes will reconsider established canons as well as strive to perceive or propose new trends. The objective is to have each volume become a point of reference in the area of research addressed therein.

This semiannual publication is designed as a forum for the serious and informed study of and commentary on the literary and cultural expressions

of the entire Portuguese-speaking world. To help achieve this goal, the director and editors welcome readers' comments on the articles and article-reviews published in each issue. The result, it is hoped, will be a fruitful dialogue among scholars and other informed readers, which may very well lead to the questioning of the assumptions and methods used in each item published in the journal.

To conclude, a warm welcome to the members of the Advisory Board and an expression of appreciation for their vote of confidence in this new venture.

Frank F. Sousa
Director