

EDITORS' NOTE

WITH THIS ISSUE OF *TEXTUAL CULTURES*, THE STS COMMUNITY commemorates the scholarly legacy of David C. Greetham, October 21, 1941–March 24, 2020. David's commitment to scholarly virtue — that is to say, scholarly excellence that engenders communal prospering — was perpetual and peerless. In his erudition, rigor, and generosity he embodied the spirit of this Society, of which he was a founding member. His many works, among them *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction* (1992); *Scholarly Editing: A Guide to Research* (1995); *The Margins of the Text: Editorial Theory and Literary Criticism* (1997); *Textual Transgressions: Essays Toward the Construction of a Bibliography* (1998); *Theories of the Text* (1999); and *The Pleasures of Contamination* (2010), together unfold a comprehensive account of the evolving practices of bibliography, textual studies, and scholarly editing in and for our times. Concepts such as *Textual forensics* (1996) would have soon proved seminal for the context of digital textuality. His far-sighted vision as an editor for *TEXT*, the earlier incarnation of this very journal, is, we hope, still manifest in these pages.

The contents of the current issue signal the range of David's foundational contributions to the field. Ralph Hanna's opening reflections on a life lived among books and manuscripts, "Adventures in Libraries: Thoughts on Epistemology" and Manuel Portela's closing call for our embrace of "An Evolutionary Textual Environment: The Unfinished Machine", serve as the clasp for an issue that assembles essays on archive studies, bibliography, and scholarly editing (Neville's "The Accidentals Tourist", Bryant's "Editing Versions", Cohen and Gray's "Designing a Variorum", Phillips's "New Approaches to Virginia Woolf's Late Archive"); on the hermeneutic dimension of textual criticism (Young's "Textual Continuity", Dionísio's "Metalepsis in a narrative piece by M. S. Lourenço", Grazioli's "Giacomo Casanova et Cecille von Roggendorff: lettres de sa dernière correspondante"); on early textual traditions in music (Broude's "Music's Textual

Dilemma: Mistrusting Musical Texts”, Pfeffer’s “Attributing Another Song to Maroie de Diergnau de Lille”), and on textual contamination (Tonello’s “Tipologie di contaminazione nella tradizione testuale della ‘Commedia’ dantesca”).

David’s early achievements included his substantial contribution to the 1975 edition of John Trevisa’s translation of Bartholomaeus Anglicus’s *De proprietatibus rerum* (1245), *On the Properties of Things*. Organized into nineteen books spanning a wild range of subjects — God and the celestial realm, the body and the senses, seasons, regions, stones, plants, animals, geometry, and music — Trevisa’s medieval compendium was also a vehicle for negotiating and destabilizing the world. To turn into David Greetham’s encyclopedic work in our field is to feel the influence of his first muse. His work, moreover, synthesizing and translating key concepts in textual criticism from the past and the present, often rendered the encyclopedic lyric. Thus while David left us no poem separate from his scholarship, Trevisa’s devotional verse at the opening of *On the Properties of Things* partly conveys the restlessness that distinguished David’s scholarly imagination as well as his joyful openness to the stakes of “this game”:

In nomine patris & filii & spiritus sancti, Amen. Assit principio sancta maria meo

+ Croys was maad al of reed [red]
 In the bigynnyng of my book,
 That is clepid, “god me spede,”
 In the firste lessoun that I took.
 Thanne I lerned a and Be,
 And othir lettres by here names,
 But alwey “god spede me,”
 That is me nedeful in alle games.
 If I pleyde in felde, othir in medes,
 Outhir stille, outhir with noyce,
 I prey[d]le help in alle wise
 Of hym that deyde vppon the croyce.
 Now diuers pleyes in his name
 I schal let passe forth, and fare
 And auenture to pleye oo longe game.
 Also, and I schal spare
 Woodes, medes, and felde,
 Place that I haue pleyed inne;

And, in his name that al thing weldes,
This game now I schal bigynne;
And praye help, counseile, and rede,
To me that he wole sende,
And this game reule and lede,
And bringe hit to a good ende.¹

David C. Greetham's scholarship "hit to a good ende". God spede, friend and dear colleague, god spede.

Marta Werner &
Michelangelo Zaccarello

1. From British Library, Additional MS 27944, f. 8a. (England, c. 1410).