

## Forward

Welcome to Issue 2 of *Links & Letters* devoted to Literature and Culture. If you have already read Issue 1 you will know that *Links & Letters* is determined to make all areas of English Studies accessible to everybody regardless of his/her particular speciality, linguistics or literature. In this issue we have dealt with different areas in the field of literature and culture. We start with three articles on literary topics in the strictest sense of the word. The first article shows how Shakespeare's plays can come alive in the classroom. The second one gives us a practical use of Reader Response Criticism in the literature classroom and the third article presents a feminist reading of one of Shakespeare's lesser known plays, *Henry VI*.

We then offer two more culturally oriented articles. First, an analysis of how Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* gave rise to two different understandings of feminism and second, a study of Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* as a text about national unity. This issue also includes an interview, *A Talk With David Dabydeen*, who is well known both as a literary critic and a writer. Dabydeen, a qualified spokesman on postcolonial literature, discusses the role of black writers as well as his two recently published novels, which describe the migrant experience in Britain and the changing concept of Britishness.

In the section *Notes and News* you will find information about the research being done on literature and culture in the English Department of the UAB, including publications, forthcoming events, and issues 3 and 4.

We hope that this issue fulfills our main objective: to link together everybody involved in English Studies, teachers and students, specialists in linguistics and specialists in literature, and to provide them with, above all, clear ideas about the topics presented.

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