

EDITORIAL

Dear readers, friends and colleagues,

I address you here, in the first 2009 issue of the journal of the Institute of World Literature, in order to inform you of the journal's current position and its goals for the future. From this year onwards, the journal will appear under a new name, *World Literature Studies*, as previously announced. Under this new name, the journal constitutes a continuation of *Slovak Review of World literature Research*, both in content and in goals. Moreover, it will also retain the same format and continue to devote itself to the literatures of the world, their histories, their specific qualities, their value, and their beauty, and to furthering knowledge of world literature in Slovakia.

The frequency with which the journal appears, however, will change. Rather than twice a year as before, the journal will now appear four times a year. This change is a response to a number of new circumstances: we have witnessed an unprecedented growth in the amount of material – essays and reviews – that we would wish to publish; it is our long term goal to raise the journal to the standard of academic periodicals in Europe more generally; there is an increasing sense that it is important to present the face of Slovak literary studies abroad. It is for this reason that we shall also be publishing texts in foreign languages. If we do not make our work accessible to the world, it is unlikely that others will take the trouble to seek out the results of our research from within its linguistic seclusion.

This current issue encapsulates an effort both to provide information on the state of our discipline in Slovakia, as well as to reflect on and evaluate foreign traditions. This issue is also devoted to the conference that the Institute of World Literature is organizing, in cooperation with the ICLA Research Committee on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in May 2009. Slovak literary studies have a rich tradition of thinking about comparative literature. We have attempted to make the most of this tradition and to present its fruits in this English-language issue.

I hope, dear readers, that you will help us in our endeavours and that you also will provide responses and articles by way of contribution.

Libuša Vajdová
Editor-in-Chief