

Editors' Preface

John A. Doody, Gregory Hoskins, John-Paul Spiro

With the publication of the previous volume we celebrated the successful transition of *Expositions: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities* to an on-line only publication. However, it is only with this new volume that we begin to exploit the opportunities that our new form provides us. For the first time in *Expositions's* history, several of our authors include live links to websites, blogs, and YouTube videos in their contributions – links simply impossible to incorporate into a print publication – that literally offer you, the reader, a chance to go beyond the text to explore the material in greater detail. (Although *Expositions* is not responsible for the content of the material linked to, we are pleased to make these links available to you.) As well as being excited about the technological features of this volume, we are also particularly proud of the genuinely interdisciplinary sweep and depth of the articles in this issue.

In our lead-off article, an interview, physicist Sean Carroll discusses topics concerning the reciprocal relation of the “arts” and the “sciences.” This is followed by Lee Trepanier’s article “The Problem of Stupidity in Chekhov’s *Three Sisters*,” in which he applies Robert Musil’s useful clarification of the nature of self-imposed human limitations to Chekhov’s seemingly paralyzed characters, giving us insight into the humanistic – not merely historical or dramaturgical – concerns of a frequently-performed but oft-misunderstood play. In our next section, we are honored to inaugurate a new regular feature of the journal, Teaching the Great Books, with the publication of “Why We Read the *Analects* of Confucius” by Wm. Theodore de Bary. Scholars and artists from the US, Canada and Germany take up the topic of our Academic Roundtable: the cultural contradictions of representations of the homeless and of homelessness concentrated in the highly problematic notion of “homeless chic.” Then, in his reflection “Visions of History: Simon Schama, Mark Noll, and Paul Ricoeur,” in Notes & Insights, Kenneth Sheppard examines the uses of history for a public education. Lastly, our Book Review is an extended discussion of the theological and philosophical features of a major new anthology of contemporary Dante scholarship.

Several individuals have worked with *Expositions* since its founding, but one of the most diligent and dedicated has been Dr. Bernard G. Prusak. As he moves on to other projects, we gratefully acknowledge his contribution to the success of the journal.