A Note from the Editors

WELCOME to the latest issue of the Eaton Journal of Archival Research in Science Fiction. This issue features articles that reflect on the politics of archival finds. Drawing on traditional archival scholarship, forging new frontiers in science fiction archiving, and reflecting back on the legacies to be found in the science fiction archive, these articles offer a glimpse into the future of archival research.

Jennifer Lieberman’s article performs an act of literary resurrection, recovering the literary legacy of early twentieth century Harvard physicist John Trowbridge. Drawing on extensive archival research, Lieberman makes the case for Trowbridge’s place in the history of science fiction. Though not previously considered an early science fiction author, Trowbridge’s stories for boys feature precise scientific experiments and explanations that serve both as instruction and encouragement for future scientists and engineers. Though not particularly speculative, these stories fit very neatly with Gernsback’s later claims for scientifiction’s political and pedagogical value. Lieberman makes good use of archival sources to situate Trowbridge’s fiction and nonfiction in the political and generic currents of early twentieth century science fiction.

Next is Sean Matheroo’s interview with filmmaker Craig Baldwin. In a philosophically freewheeling discussion, Matheroo and Baldwin talk about history, politics, science fiction, and, of course, the archive. Baldwin’s irreverent approach to filmstock—cutting, pasting, reversing, and remixing—offers a radically different approach to archival work, one that is coherent with his historical and political philosophies, and evident in his films. As a nod to the filmmakers’ approach, the article makes full use of its medium, with numerous embedded links to cut up and enliven the reading experience, pushing its readers towards multimodal immersion.

David Ian Paddy’s missive from J.G. Ballard’s archive takes us on a journey through Paddy’s discoveries. This brief report explores the relationship between the items Ballard preserved—more than one might have expected, given his views on archiving—and the sort of work to which a scholar can put these items. Along the way, we are treated to some surprising sentimental discoveries, offering us not just a great insight into Ballard’s archive and Paddy’s project, but also into his view of Ballard the man.

Finally, we have two Spotlight essays reflecting on important Science Fiction milestones. First, Lisa Mikhaylova chronicles the traditions and communities of Star Trek fans in Russia. While many retrospectives have been written in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the original 1966 premier of Star Trek, Mikhaylova focuses on an understudied community within Trekkie and Trekker culture, describing the food, games, and community-building activities that take place at the week-long camping convention RusCon. Mikhaylova’s archive of photos, stories, and other fan materials explores how Roddenberry’s utopian ideals can be transformed into local
practice. The second of these Spotlights takes a different approach to local Utopianism. Irene Morrison, in collaboration with Klein Librarian J.J. Jacobson and the Eaton Archive, curated an exhibit on “500 Years of Utopia,” commemorating both the 500th anniversary of Thomas More’s *Utopia* as well as the 50th anniversary of *Star Trek*. Morrison’s spotlight includes images and information about the exhibit, arguing that the principles and genre conventions of Utopia are reworked and remixed within contemporary science fiction by writers of color. The exhibit, with its showcases of rare books, illustrations, maps, ephemera, and realia, is currently only viewable at the Eaton Archive in Riverside, CA, but we hope to offer a glimpse of this archive for the wider public.

The publication of this issue sees some changes in how we are structuring the sections for the journal, along with some changes in our editorial personnel. Lisa Brown-Jaloza has stepped down as Managing Editor, and the responsibilities of helming the journal have been taken over by Stina Attebery and Taylor Evans. Brittany Roberts will join Lisa in retirement from Journal duties after this issue. We wish Lisa and Brittany the best in their future careers in the field, and thank them for all of their enthusiasm and hard work.

We are delighted to introduce an entire cadre of new editorial talent. Skye Cervone and Jeshua Enriquez will be taking over as editors for scholarly articles with a significant archival research component. Skye Cervone is a PhD Candidate in Comparative Studies at Florida Atlantic University whose current work focuses on science fiction’s disruption of the human/animal boundary. In addition, she currently serves as the Public Information Officer for The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts. Jeshua Enriquez is a Ph.D student in English at the University of California, Riverside. His research revolves around Science Fiction and American literature, with a focus on the ways technology affects ideas of modernity, community, and culture.

Miranda Steege and Dagmar van Engen will be helming the newly created Methods and Transformations section, a sections we have designed to replace the former Pedagogy and Methodology section. “Methods and Transformations” will serve as a space for articles that seek to expand the bounds of the SF archive, exploring new mediums, materials, or discourses as sites for speculative fiction scholarship with particular attention to understudied archives, underserved communities within science fiction, and SF performances, practices, and participatory events that challenge traditional archival methods. Dagmar Van Engen is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at the University of Southern California. Their research focuses on American science fiction, queer theory, transgender studies, race, and animality. Miranda Steege is a Ph.D. student in English at the University of California, Riverside. She works in Victorian literary and cultural studies and queer theory; her research includes Spiritualism and the supernatural, queer intimacies, selfhood and subjectivity, and transhistorical fan practices.
Finally, Daniel Creed and Kameron Sanzo will be taking over the Spotlights section. Daniel Creed is a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Studies at Florida Atlantic University. His current research is focused on developing a theoretical model for secondary world fantasy literature through postcolonial theory, epistemology, and a postmodern understanding of the imagination. Kameron Sanzo is a PhD student in English at the University of California, Riverside. Much of her work considers science fiction literature, bioart, and posthuman discourses in order to grapple with the possibilities and limits of science to describe our social condition.

Looking ahead, we will be holding an Eaton Journal sponsored roundtable discussion about archival work, fantasy, and epic at the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts in March 2017. After the success of our previous Eaton roundtable (transcript published in Issue 3.1), we look forward to turning our attention to a more overtly fantastical, rather than speculative, archive.

As always, we would love to have your voice both in and beyond our pages. Email any submissions to eatonjournal@gmail.com. If you should find yourself tweeting about the journal or a conversation it inspires, mention us with the hashtag #eatonjournal. Feel free to follow our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/eaton.journal/ for announcements about our publication.

Best,

Stina Attebery
Taylor Evans

Managing Editors