

From the Co-Editors

Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your support of this ninth issue of the *The Journal of Literature in Language Teaching*. This journal is a peer-reviewed publication of the Literature in Language Teaching group (SIG) of the Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT).

In this issue, for the first time in a while, we bring you articles from writers based exclusively in Japan. **Suzanne Kamata** writes about using centos in the classroom and some of her students create some astonishingly good poems. **Vicky Richings** and **Masateru Nishimuro** invite us to enliven our language classes with postcard and drama activities. In a recent interview we asked **Simon Bibby**, the founder of this literature SIG and journal, to offer his thoughts on our group and on using literature in EFL. **John Fawsitt** offers a write-up of his presentation at the Kyoto LiLT one-day conference about using Raymond Carver's stories and **John Maune's** write-up provides a *very* interesting Darwinian take on the study of *Romeo and Juliet*.

From many perspectives, 2016 can be viewed as an unfortunate year. Similarly, this issue also had its own (albeit comparatively minor) troubles when two contributors who were overwhelmed by other commitments unexpectedly had to withdraw their submissions. Hence, this issue is considerably shorter than usual. We hope that 2017 will be a better year on all fronts.

For readers who don't already know, there will be a **PanSIG Conference in Akita** from May 19-21 at Akita International University. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Indeed, given that literature's role in foreign language learning is under-appreciated, wouldn't it be wonderful if our group could make a strong showing? Details are here: <<https://pansig.org>>, <<http://pansig.org/cfp>> and <<https://www.conftool.net/pansig2017/>>. The **2017 JALT Conference** will be held from November 17-20 in Tsukuba, about an hour north of Tokyo. While it is a long way off, presentation proposals must be received by February, 13 at <<http://jalt.org/conference/call-proposals>>.

As always, LiLT members and readers from around the world are invited to submit their own observations and findings, as well as commentary about any of the articles published to date. The next issue of *The Journal of Literature in Language Teaching* is expected to be published in late summer of 2017 and **submissions** are being accepted **until May 12, 2017**. Further information is available at the LiLT SIG website <<http://liltsig.org>> and from the editors of this journal via email: <liltsig@gmail.com>. For the time being, you can also submit directly to <greggmcnabb@gmail.com>.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the contributors who have published in this journal and to the conscientious, thoughtful people who took a lot of time out of their busy schedules to help with careful editing and proofreading. Perhaps you may also want to help us in our double-blind review process and enable us to proceed more speedily through the publishing process. Most of all, as always, we thank you, our readers.

Gregg McNabb — Editor

Kevin Stein — Associate Editor