



Foreword from the President of the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes

When the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes was inaugurated in July 2001, one of its stated aims was to create a new journal which would act as a forum for cutting-edge research in our subject area. Such a journal would be interdisciplinary in focus, would seek to promote wide-ranging critical and theoretical debate, and would bring together a team of internationally recognised scholars on its editorial and advisory boards. After two years of dogged groundwork by our editors, the stage is now set, and I am delighted to be able to welcome our readers to this first issue of the journal. The range of contributions here is an exciting and innovative mix, and clearly shows the extent to which the lines between the different areas of our discipline are being redrawn. I hope that this publication will go from strength to strength over the years.

Nineteenth-century French studies open out onto multiple fields of enquiry and areas of knowledge. Since our methods of working and of sharing our ideas have been radically transformed over the last decade, the editors and the executive committee of SDN felt that it was important for this new publication to look forward from the outset in terms of its mode of delivery. An increasing number of academic journals are now being published in electronic form. This is not only because the medium is more cost-effective to scholarly organisations working on a tight budget, but above all because it enables greater flexibility of presentation and access. We considered it crucially important to capitalise on the advantages of the new medium. However, we were also aware that it would be folly to abandon the traditional hallmarks of good scholarship – thorough refereeing, meticulous editing, rigorously enforced standards of presentation and referencing – and we believe that the decision to deliver copy as PDF (portable document format) files offers the best possible means of blending the ‘traditional’ and the ‘modern’. On the one hand, image or other files can be linked in and accessed with ease, relevant articles can be downloaded or stored for local use, and the run of the journal’s contents can be viewed from remote locations. On the other hand, text is presented in camera-ready form; its pagination and formatting remain invariable, and articles or sections of articles can be referenced in exactly the same manner as printed material.

Dix-Neuf will strive to integrate the best features of traditional scholarship with the possibilities that are offered by electronic technology. We are confident that the refereeing and editorial process is exacting, painstaking, thorough, and consistent with the very highest academic standards. The journal will be available in identical form both on the World Wide Web at the SDN site, and on CD-Rom. I should like to take this opportunity to thank our editors for their hard work, and to wish them well for the future of this enterprise. Since the success of the journal is also very much in the hands of the wider community of nineteenth-century scholars, I invite you all to participate actively in this new venture, and thank you warmly for your interest in it.

Tim Unwin