

Editor's Preface

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We are honoured to present this special issue on Wilkie Collins which marks the bicentenary of Collins's birth on January 8th, 1824. The issue consists of articles originally presented as papers at the 26th METU British Novelists International Conference in Ankara. This conference series, organized by the Department of Foreign Language Education at the Middle East Technical University, receives the interest of international scholars and welcomes fruitful discussions on a single British author each year. In 2022, the theme of the conference was "Wilkie Collins and His Work," and the keynote speaker was Professor Andrew Mangham from University of Reading, the Department of English Literature. Professor Mangham's publications include *We Are All Monsters: How Deviant Organisms Came to Define Us* (MIT Press, 2023), *Literature and Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (CUP, 2021), *The Science of Starving in Victorian Literature, Medicine and Political Economy* (OUP, 2020), *Dickens's Forensic Realism: Truth, Bodies, Evidence* (Ohio State UP, 2016), *The Cambridge Companion to Sensation Fiction* (CUP, 2013), and *Wilkie Collins: Interdisciplinary Essays* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007). We are honoured to give place in this special issue to his stimulating study "Out of the Blue? Epilepsy, Sensation and Wilkie Collins's *Poor Miss Finch*" that explores the ways Collins's work intersects with the questions asked by the sciences of health and wellbeing. Mangham argues that the writer, drawing on ideas explored in the medical literature of his day, portrays epileptic disorder in this novel and offers an examination of the apparent intersections between biology, identity, and different models of biological determinism.

As in our earlier volumes, in this issue too, we continue to cover interdisciplinary studies at the intersection of different areas of the human sciences that fall within the scope of the *Journal* and to share new perspectives in the humanities. For this special issue, we have received valuable submissions, and it is our privilege to give place to papers that maintain fruitful discussions on Collins's fiction. The articles in the volume cover a variety of Collins's novels, including *Poor Miss Finch*, *The Woman in White*, *Basil*, *The Moonstone*, and *No Name*. We are certain that the papers in the issue will stimulate further research in Collins's cannon.

We, as the editorial board, would like to thank all the authors wholeheartedly for their scholarly contributions and for their collaboration throughout and our referees for their reviews and valuable comments. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hülya Yıldız Bağçe from the Middle East Technical University for her valuable contribution as the guest editor for this issue and as the chair of the organizing committee of the 26th METU British Novelists International Conference. We also thank the Board of Trustees and the Presidency of Çankaya University, and the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for their continuous support.