

## Editor's Note

**T**he present volume was supposed to appear in the early summer of 2020. But with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, those plans, like so many others, fell apart. While the past months already seem to blur together with time, few of us who were teaching in February and March of 2020 will forget those early days of incredulity and panic. Within weeks, colleges and universities throughout the world shifted their classes entirely onto then unexplored electronic formats. College campuses everywhere closed in favor of remote instruction. Zoom suddenly became a subject of daily conversation. Cities and nations across the world implemented lockdowns. Social tensions mounted. Masking mandates came and went only to return weeks later. Students struggled with the new conditions, and their teachers labored to help them while attending to their own mental health and the health of their immediate families and friends.

Within the world of scholarship, most research pretty much ceased altogether. Organizers repeatedly postponed conferences and other scholarly gatherings, radically downscaled them, or cancelled them outright. Archival libraries closed for long periods. Some colleges and universities even stopped receiving mail. Indeed, the editorial office of *JDJ* was inaccessible for more than a year. In the face of these and related challenges, journal submissions evaporated. Many of us had enough trouble simply keeping up with day-to-day urgencies, much less securing the kind of quality time necessary for sound scholarship.

But now in age, we bud again. The present volume begins with the presidential address Brent Nelson gave at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual John Donne Conference in Lausanne in 2018. It also includes wonderful essays by Judith H. Anderson, Jonathan F. S. Post, Theresa M. DiPasquale, Theresa M. Kenney, Arnaud Zimmern, Joan Faust, and the late James Longenbach, who sadly passed away a few weeks ago after a long illness. The "More Signs of Donne" feature, first introduced by Tom Hester

and R. V. Young years ago, lives again with a moving essay by Raymond-Jean Frontain about Derek Jarman's turns to Donne in the face of his own impending death. Finally, this volume concludes by marking the passing of four prime movers in seventeenth-century studies—Tom Hester, Donald Friedman, Paul Parrish, and Ted-Larry Pebworth—with heartfelt tribute essays.

We have much catching up to do, both in person and in print. The John Donne Society will hold the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual John Donne Conference at the Lod and Carol Cook Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from 8-11 February 2023. The submission deadline is 31 October. (See the call-for-papers at the end of this volume.) Meanwhile, the next volumes of *JDJ* are well underway. Chanita Goodblatt and I are in the process of editing a volume devoted primarily to "The Metaphysical Conceit," and Raymond-Jean Frontain is guest-editing a volume on the Donne's editors from the 1635 edition of Donne's *Poems* to the *Variorum* edition. In addition, there will be another volume devoted to the question "Why Teach Donne?"—a fundamental question during these turbulent times. Much remains to be considered and said. We aren't Donne (or un-done) with Donne yet. I look forward to the continuing conversation.

The Editor