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## From the Editorial Secretary

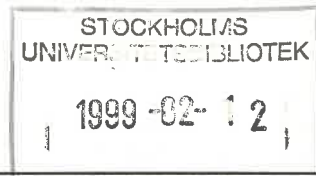
As promised, here at last is our – hopefully much awaited – special issue on Gender, with a range of articles reflecting both the general and specific concerns of those languages which our journal seeks to cover. A few words therefore about some of the contributions.

**Janet Holmes** shows in her thought-provoking article how people tend to create a gender identity by means of their language. In her corpus-based investigation **Jennifer Herriman** presents a number of very revealing findings as to which words are usually associated with *Man* and *Woman* in English texts. While **Celia Aijmer** characterizes the present state of feminist theory in her critical survey, **Shelley Saguario** fruitfully combines a gender-oriented and colonial perspective on the work of the 19th century Irish writer, Maria Edgeworth.

**Christiane Pankow** shows how trends within feminism have influenced the German language in relation to the use of female titles and the way in which women are addressed.

In our French section **Eva Ahlstedt** explores in her article in what ways the two archetypes – Eve and the Virgin Mary – are reflected in the fate of a number of French literary female figures – from Racine to writers of the present day.

In a similarly comprehensive manner **Auli Leskinen** looks at Spanish-American women's literature, focusing both on those few literary female voices that emerged during the colonial period and the more numerous, diverse and exciting female writing of today.



Sverker Bengtsson

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