

Editorial

This edition of the *Manchester Region History Review*, as well as offering many of the usual features, is particularly concerned with the literary culture of nineteenth-century Manchester and its region. Many of the articles and features have been especially commissioned by a guest editor to create this themed issue of the *Review*. It is hoped that the next few issues will continue to focus on particular topics and interests, with the next *Review* having a particular interest in the history of science. The intention to commission a number of thematic issues, however, is not meant to discourage the submission of articles on any subjects relevant to the history of Manchester and its region. Nor will the *Review* only publish themed issues.

One particular feature of this issue is the introduction of a group of articles on Manchester-based nineteenth-century periodicals and their context, including a piece by Terry Wyke and Michael Powell on the manuscript of Leary's history of the Manchester periodical press, which has long been a major research resource. The aim of this feature has been to commission individuals with a particular knowledge of and interest in individual periodicals to write both a descriptive and interpretative account of their chosen journal partly in the hope that other contributors might be encouraged to further the series on an occasional basis. Those of you who make particular use of or are especially enthusiastic about any individual magazine based in the region, of whatever date, might like to consider writing up your interest for the *Review*. As Margaret Beetham points out in her article, the history of periodicals has stepped well beyond an interest in them as merely evidential, and the possibility that the *Review* might begin to assemble an accumulative account of Manchester journals is an attractive one. The relationship between the regional and the national press is still an under-researched one, and there are considerable resources in the Manchester region for pursuing such a study – anyone who has worked in the Livesey archive at the University of Central Lancashire at Preston, described so lucidly by Aidan Turner-Bishop in this issue, will be immediately aware of the interaction between regional and national publication as an aspect of the temperance movement.

The introduction of themed issues coincides happily with a major change in the format of the *Review* which derives from a new relation with Carnegie, a publishing house with a well established reputation

for the publication of illustrated material relating to regions as well as many other illustrated books. We hope that this relationship will prove to be a productive and worthwhile one that will result in both a better looking and a more widely distributed *Review*.

The publication of a largely commissioned issue of any journal is entirely dependent on the goodwill of its contributors, and I am extremely grateful not just for the prompt and cheerful way in which authors responded to my request for contributions, but also for the equally cheerful support of Melanie Tebbutt and Craig Horner, who have so vigorously supported this issue, and to Carnegie Publishing for their active interest in the future of the *Review*.

Brian Maidment
University of Salford

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A spirited caricature of Lydia Becker, by the Manchester-based caricaturist Baxter, on the front cover of the weekly magazine *Momus*, 3 October 1878