

Preface

THE ESSAYS IN THIS issue of *Cervantes* were presented first as lectures at an international symposium entitled “One More Crossroads: *Don Quijote* at Four Hundred.” Held at Boston University on April 14-16, 2005 with the support of a generous grant from the Boston University Humanities Foundation, it was, of course, one of a great many events taking place that year to commemorate the quadricentennial. The co-organizers of the symposium wished to have it stand out both for the stature of the speakers as well as the breadth of critical approaches to Cervantes they would represent. That the invitations extended were, indeed, justified will hopefully be made evident in the quality of the pieces that follow.¹

Amid the animated exchange of ideas and the camaraderie that typified the symposium, none of the participants could suspect that one of us would not be present to see the publication of this issue. As most members of the community of Cervantes scholars might expect, the lecture presented by our dearly missed friend and colleague Carroll Johnson stood apart for its intellectual depth and liveliness—the trademark of Carroll’s long and distinguished career. When introducing Carroll, never realizing that this would be the last opportunity I would have to do so, I highlighted the ways in which he had nurtured and encouraged so many of his younger colleagues over the years. Having been invited out to UCLA back in 1980 to a symposium organized by Carroll to celebrate the Quevedo quadricentennial near the start of my own career, I spoke from personal experience. I went on to say that “Carroll is someone who sparks

¹ Professor Alan Smith, my friend and colleague at Boston University, was the other co-organizer. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to him for having done much to bring off the symposium successfully. It should be noted that the symposium also hosted presentations by Francisco Márquez Villanueva and Daniel Eisenberg, the latter of whom very kindly stepped in at the last moment to replace María Antonia Garcés. Their texts were published elsewhere because of prior commitments. (The reference to the “stature” of the speakers should not be interpreted as applying to the author of these lines, who also presented a lecture at the event.)

allegiance among those just starting up in the field in large part because of his wonderful willingness to change direction and rethink his positions.” Here I had in mind the considerable distance separating *Madness and Lust: A Psychoanalytical Approach to Don Quixote*, on the one hand, and *Cervantes and the Material World* on the other. His lecture at the symposium, “Phantom Pre-texts and Fictional Authors: Sidi Hamid Benengeli, *Don Quijote* and the Metafictional Conventions of Chivalric Romance,” showed that he was embarked on yet another promising path.

In the aftermath of the terrible news of Carroll’s passing away on April 3rd, 2007, it only made sense to dedicate to his memory the issue of *Cervantes* in which the “One More Crossroads” essays were scheduled to appear. Dan Eisenberg, the journal’s editor at that time, received the idea enthusiastically, for which I, along with the other symposium participants, thank him. We also wish to thank Tom Lathrop for picking up on the significant editing work Dan had already done and for accelerating the appearance of this homage.² We also wish to thank the leadership of the Cervantes Society of America for supporting the idea of honoring its former President in this manner.

Finally, as coordinator of the volume, I would like to extend my personal thanks once again to the participants in “One More Crossroads” for the seriousness with which they took the invitation to take part in yet another event in such an over-crowded year for all. I would also like to express my gratitude to them for the patience shown in waiting for this long overdue volume to appear.

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² In a somewhat strange (perhaps necessary) coincidence, it turns out that Carroll, Tom, and I all became *cervantistas* in large part because of Professor J. Richard Andrews. While at UCLA, in Carroll’s and Tom’s case, and at Vanderbilt in mine, he initiated us in the enticing labyrinths of the *Quijote* in an indelibly inspiring fashion.