



THE LITERARY ENCYCLOPEDIA
Exploring literature, history and culture

ANNUAL COMPANY AND PUBLISHING REPORT

2019

FINANCIAL REPORT

The continuing political uncertainty in the UK and US has affected institutional spending on scholarly resources. Hence in the second part of 2018 and in 2019 our subscription base has remained more or less level, with only a modest increase: we lost the Open University of Cyprus and Booth University in Canada. We gained Barker College, NSW, Australia. In the US we lost Northern State and Belmont, but gained East Central University, Vassar College, University of Pittsburgh, Punahou School Hawaii and The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr. In the UK we lost Plymouth but gained two major institutions, Glasgow and Cardiff, as well as Sir John Deane's College and Farnborough College of Technology. While we draw some solace from successfully weathering the choppy waters of our present times, we also note that our annual earnings have not risen quite as much as we would have wished. This is one of the reasons why this year's royalty pot was slightly lower than that of 2018. Another reason is that we have made a concerted effort to find some of our early contributors with whom we had lost contact and pay them the royalties that have accumulated in arrears in their accounts in recent years. In most cases this has meant paying out additional sums of between £50 and £500, thus reducing the overall debt of the company, but also this year's available royalty fund. However, previous years' royalties that were not claimed after repeated attempts on our part to get in touch with our colleagues have been transferred our Scholarship Fund. This will give us an opportunity to diversify the range of bursaries/grants we will be awarding in the future (see the section on 'Recent and Future Developments').

Our full list of institutional subscribers is at <http://www.litencyc.com/subscriberlist.php>. **If your own institution is not listed and you would like to arrange for a trial to be set up, please get in touch with us. It cannot be said too often that our contributors are our best ambassadors.**

Financial Report to Shareholders for the year 2018-2019

	2017-18	2018-19
Income	115.24	102,442
Expenses	99,599	96,601
Of which		
Accountancy & Bank charges	3,728	3,426
Wages and employment taxes	36,759	41,285
Software development and licensing	7,915	6,627
Depreciation and other written-off assets	137	103
General expenses (incl. insurance, marketing)	2,819	3,852
Entertainment	312	220
Royalties& Dividends	45,000	38,888
Corporation Tax		2200

Cash reserves at the end of December 2019 stood at £115,000, giving the Company a financially secure position.

Notes on the Accounts

Earnings and Withholding tax (WHT): Because royalties are a tax-deductible expense for publishers, the Company pays out as royalties most of the balance of its earnings after it has deducted its operating expenses. The Company is required to deduct personal income tax (WHT) from all royalty payments and pay this sum to the HMRC (UK Inland Revenue) according to international treaty agreements. All shareholders will see their own WHT deductions listed on their personal annual earnings statement. The rate of WHT depends upon the shareholder's country of residence, which we have deduced from the shareholder's institutional affiliation or email address; however, to be certain this is correct **we will be sending a circular to shareholders this year asking them to update their accounts with their 'country of residence for tax purposes' so that our future WHT payments are completely accurate.**

Debt: The Company benefits from a personal loan of £81,236 made by the founding editor Robert Clark and his wife Marianne Majerus that will be repaid when the company has sufficient reserves. Accumulating interest is charged on this loan at 5% p.a.

Remuneration and Staffing. *The Literary Encyclopedia* seeks to be highly efficient and low-cost in its administrative overhead in order to maximise returns to its authors and editors. In common with other Editors, Robert Clark, as Editorial Director, receives no remuneration for his work on the publication other than in royalties paid on his shareholding. At the time of writing, Dr Cristina Sandru remains the only full-time remunerated employee. Our Assistant Editor, Dr Jessica Gossling, is employed on a part-time basis of 15hrs/ week. Our software and server maintenance and software development are sub-contracted.

RECENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

New collaborations with scholarly associations

As part of our drive to increase our publication's reach and further engage with our academic constituencies, during 2019 we have initiated collaborative relationships with a number of scholarly associations (among which BSECS, ASECS, BARS, AATG, SERA, SEPC, ECIS), with a view to enabling their members to appreciate what we are doing and consider contributing articles. With this in mind, we have developed a procedure for giving free access to specific volumes of the *Encyclopedia* to members of scholarly associations who have expressed interest in collaborating with us. So far, there are more than 250 scholars who have availed themselves of this opportunity, but in 2020 we wish to increase our outreach and involve many more associations with our project. Any shareholder who is a member of an association which might wish to benefit from this offer is asked to let us know.

Senior Editorial Board

In 2019 we decided that we needed to create a more sophisticated editorial structure for the *Encyclopedia*, so we can receive focused advice on what we are doing. With this in mind we created a Senior Editorial Board which embraces and underscores the historical and geographical diversity of our project. Membership of the Senior Editorial Board also acknowledges the work of editors who have made very significant contributions to the publication. The following 6 colleagues are the current members of our Senior Editorial Board:

- [Professor Chris Baldick](#) (Goldsmiths, University of London)
- [Professor Jo Ann Cavallo](#) (Columbia University)
- [Professor Peter Childs](#) (Newman University, Birmingham)
- [Dr Nicholas Seager](#) (University of Keele)
- [Professor Virginia Mason Vaughan](#) (Clark University)
- [Professor Jennifer Marston William](#) (Purdue University)

New uses for the Scholarship Fund

Increasing transfers of royalties to our Scholarship Fund enables us to consider extending how the fund is used. We are currently consulting our Senior Editorial Board to establish the best use of these funds and will circulate our agreed proposals later in 2020.

Software and Site Development

The Literary Encyclopedia has been improving its software since the day it was born. In recent months we have conducted extensive testing of the entire site from the point of view of disabled users and made numerous small but crucial improvements to bring the site into conformity with current best practice. Behind the scenes we are also undertaking long-term in-depth improvements to the administration interface, improving ease-of-use for editors and staff. We have recently rewritten the process for adding bulk lists of primary works, making it easy and efficient, and by June 2020 we will have completed a wholesale rebuild of our application for listing Recommended Reading.

CONTENT GROWTH

The rate of both publication and commissioning in 2019 has increased by about 10% in comparison with 2018.

Articles commissioned in 2019: 312

Articles published in 2019: 339

Total articles published so far (excluding short notes): 8569

Of which

People profiles: 3614

Works profiles: 4232

Context essays: 519 (literary/cultural); 204 (historical)

Context short notes: 434 (literary/ cultural); 10,977 (historical)

IMPACT STATISTICS

Contributors can view the number of times their articles have been accessed by logging in and visiting **MyLE Account**, the Editors' and Contributors' Information area, under "List of articles you have authored: access stats and impact".

SAMPLE ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 2019

The range of our achievement is reflected in the following sample of major articles published in the course of 2019:

Works:

Tommaso Campanella, *La città del sole* [The City of the Sun] -

<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=31202>

Michael Frayn, *Democracy* - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=25335>

Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala* - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=35621>

Grace Nichols, *i is a long-remembered woman* -

<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=14252>

Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* -

<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=11787>

People:

Svetlana Alexievich - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=13646>

Umberto Eco - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=1385>

Robert Kroetsch - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=2563>

C. L. R. James - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=2334>

Chretien de Troyes - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=5472>

Context:

The Spanish Epic - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19557>

Libertine Fiction - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19554>

Women's Literature of the Lebanese Civil War -

<https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19560>

Ancient Greek Theatre in Italy - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19563>

Modern Haiku - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19528>

SOME REMINDERS

We urge our contributors to periodically check and update their personal details, institutional affiliation, country of residence for tax purposes, and payment preferences for royalties. If you have not done so already, please add a **short bibliographical profile**. All this can be done by accessing your **MyLE Account**.

Please log into your account first, then go the **MyLE Account** (<https://www.litencyc.com/php/members/admin.php>), the 'Editors & Contributors Information' area.

Robert Clark
The Editor, and
Managing Director, Literary Dictionary Company Ltd.

Cristina Sandru
Managing Editor

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