

Editor's Note

In the fall of 2001, I edited the first 'Southern Issue' of *American Studies in Scandinavia* (33/2), and the combination of traditional scholarly essays in American Studies combined with poetry, fiction, and interviews must have appealed to our readers for the issue sold out and has become a collector's item.

The second Southern issue of our journal proudly presents new poetry, by Nikky Finney and by William Walsh, who both have collections of poetry reviewed in this issue, new fiction by the master stylist Madison Jones, plus a review of a book on his achievement, and new non-fiction by Pam Durban on a lynching in her hometown; the novelist is interviewed in this issue.

Nikky Finney's poem on a tomato-throwing girl is complemented by Anette Nibe's study of measures in Mississippi to counter the growing rate of teen pregnancies. William Walsh's poem "Finding My Religion" is complemented by Marcel Arbeit's essay on the disappearing 'ole time religion' in today's Southern fiction.

Hans Skei's continued adoration of William Faulkner, especially the novel *The Hamlet*, is accompanied by Thomas Bjerre's analysis of *O Brother. Where Art Thou?* – a successful film significantly influenced by Faulkner's fiction.

The extensive social power plays in eighteenth-century Virginia are revealed in Zbigniew Mazur's essay, which can be read with Walter Edgar's analysis of South Carolina's historical reactions to the imposition of outside authority on the Palmetto State.

Mikko Saikku has written an essay on flood control of the Mississippi, and his book on the same topic is reviewed in this issue by Torben Huus Larsen, who has himself contributed an essay on historical events along the Tennessee River.

As editor I am grateful to the contributors and congratulate them on their work in Southern literature and in American Studies.

Jan Nordby Gretlund