

# CHIMÈRES

A Journal of French and Francophone Literatures and Cultures



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## CHIMÈRES VOLUME XXXII - FALL 2015

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Associate Editors: **Tamara Carrell and Christina Lord**

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Editorial Staff: **Megan McGinnis and Lucie Dubail**

Faculty Sponsor: **Paul Scott**

Website: <http://chimeres.dept.ku.edu/>

*Chimères*

The University of Kansas

Department of French & Italian

2103 Wescoe Hall

Lawrence, KS 66045

Tel. (785) 864-4056

email: [chimeres@ku.edu](mailto:chimeres@ku.edu)

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# Contents

<b>Editor's Introduction</b> .....	V
<b>Clément Marot's initial visit to Lyon and Jeanne Gaillarde's <i>Plume dorée</i>: Announcing the French Renaissance in Verse (ca. 1524)</b> <i>Robert J. HUDSON</i> .....	1
<b>Littérature et science-fiction: Une évolution rétrogressive</b> <i>Glise de la Rivière ORLANE</i> .....	19
<b>Transparence utopique et scientifique : La Nuit des Temps de René Barjavel</b> <i>Tessa SERMET</i> .....	35
<b>The Body Out-of-Bounds: Trauma, Corporeality and Representation in Marina de Van's <i>Ne te retourne pas/Don't Look Back</i> (2009)</b> <i>Romain CHAREYRON</i> .....	51
<b>"Une recherche esthétique autant que morale": Jean Genet's literary invasions</b> <i>Tolga AKGUN</i> .....	61



## Editors' Introduction

Academic publication is a competitive and rapidly evolving industry in which the *Chimères* staff ventures to remain relevant, though our publications have become admittedly sporadic of late. Doctoral student and co-editor of the current issue, Tamara Carrell, will eloquently compare the journal to the mythological chimera and phoenix in her editorial note on the future of *Chimères*. The journal has indeed undergone a transformation and phoenician renaissance – in its past, present, and future – though our work has never ceased. Behind the scenes since our last publication, we have developed an annual graduate student conference designed to work in concert with the journal and for whose creation we express our gratitude to fellow doctoral candidate Beth Wood. Future issues will correlate with the conference themes and highlight works presented, while supplemented by quality works received through submission. Before revealing this latest issue, five years in the making, however, my co-editors and I would like to review the journal's past, present, and future.

Professor Kenneth S. White emphasizes the faculty's dedication to the graduate student experience which ebbs below the surface of each and every edition in his opening letter for the tenth anniversary edition; "Nous avons lancé Chimères pour l'étudiant. Uniquement pour lui." A tradition which began in 1967, *Chimères* is fully developed, edited, and published by and for graduate students with the continued and unwavering support of our tireless faculty. White emphasizes their commitment to provide us with the experience of seeing our names in print for the very first time – "[i]nstant inoubliable où le sens de la création s'ouvre devant vous." Publication is, after all, the driving force, the ultimate goal, and the reward for the dark and lonely hours of meticulous reading and research. They provide this opportunity for any and all graduate students who wish to submit their work for review. The journal remains, nevertheless, a creation of the students who express their gratitude for the strength of their faculty's support, especially to the journal's faculty advisor, Paul Scott. We are grateful to Pam LeRow of CLAS Digital Media Services for her invaluable assistance with formatting the issue. Their prodding, their time, and their sage advice remain essential to *Chimères*'s enduring success.

The archives alone convey the concerted effort exerted over the years to maintain, improve, and evolve this publication so that it might remain current with its contemporary trends. The yellowing, twenty-seven, type-print pages of the 1967 edition testify to the complexity of our modern era. This inaugural edition even contains some handwritten revisions. Technology has facilitated the revision process from word processors, to computers, to the luxurious, light-weight, laptop computers we cherish today. And so the associated costs have remained low – our subscription price has barely changed. The first publicized price appeared in the 1973 fall edition for \$2.00 per scholastic year or \$1.25 per volume. Throughout the 1970s, the graduate students successfully published semi-annual volumes. Though our editions have more than doubled in length, they appear now merely annually, and the subscription price remains accessible to the slimmest of budgets.

Members of the journal's editorial staff garner the invaluable experience of the "other side" of the publication industry. The tedious task of sorting through the submissions – reading, evaluating, and deciding which articles should make "the cut." We are thankful to the University of Kansas for this comprehensive education and experience as we endeavor to likewise "publish or perish" in our own post-graduate careers.

– Kristi Roney  
Editor-in-chief and PhD candidate

Due to our hiatus, this long-awaited issue of *Chimères* incorporates quality work that we have received over the past couple of years. We would like to thank all scholars who submitted an article during this time and who also waited patiently for a response during a transitional period of reconfiguring the journal as well as our graduate student staff. With this in mind, the other editors and I would like to thank the current *Chimères* staff for their hard work and dedication in getting our journal up and running again: Doug Bartel (secretary), Madeline Farron (treasurer), Mary Claire Chao (book review editor), Clarisse Barbier (media specialist), and Megan Belaire and Lucie Dubail (editorial staff). After all, *Chimères* is not only the name of our journal, but it is also our French graduate student organization here at KU. We hope that our rebranded journal will be a successful reflection of us.

Since we had received a variety of submissions, we decided not to focus on a single theme for this issue. As Kristi has noted, we have only relatively recently created a graduate-student-run conference that is

coordinated with our journal; our conference in spring 2015 was themed “Science/Fictions” which you will see some of our authors explore, such as in an article by Tessa Sermet, a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who was one of our presenters. We are also proud to include an article by Professor Robert Hudson, a Renaissance specialist at Brigham Young University; he was our keynote speaker for the 2014 *Chimères* conference entitled “Renaissances and Reconfigurations.”

Just as the mythological chimera is composed of seemingly strange odds and ends, so is this issue. We hope you will enjoy the diversity of excellent scholarship ranging from Renaissance poetry to contemporary cinema and more. However, we do anticipate coordinating future issues of *Chimères* with our conference themes. Our upcoming 2016 conference is entitled “Margins & Marginalities” so we encourage scholars to submit their work on this theme for next year’s issue and conference.

In the meantime, *bonne lecture!*

– Christina Lord  
Co-editor and PhD candidate



The mythological chimera is composed of many disparate parts and is generally depicted as having a serpent’s tale, a goat’s body, and a lion’s head. This image is a perfect mascot for the journal, as it is composed of an historic tradition of the University of Kansas’ journal, the newly improved present edition, and the additions to our future issues of *Chimères*. Often, the chimera is depicted with the wings of a phoenix. Out of the ashes of the old journal, we are excited to give *Chimères* a new beginning.

We are very happy to announce the exciting future of *Chimères*. In addition to continuing to publish high quality articles centered around traditional and cutting edge literary themes, the journal will be introducing a book review addition.

“The book review section is new to *Chimères* and we are very excited about it. Look for our first book reviews starting Fall 2016!”

– Mary Claire Chao  
Book Review Editor for *Chimères*

We are also completely overhauling the *Chimères* website with updated information on the submission process for publication. Subscriptions will also include access to current and archived journals. Clarisse Barbier, *Chimères* webmaster explained to us what she has been working on and what we can expect to see soon on the website:

“A blog has been created for a more dynamic, engaging platform to advertise the journal as well as the French graduate student organization. The blog gives information on past and upcoming *Chimères* conferences, events, and testimonies about the French graduate programs at KU. In the coming months, the blog will display the table of contents from previous issues, in an ongoing effort to increase *Chimères*’ visibility, for scholars and Humanities lovers!”

We hope you will enjoy the new *Chimères* journal!

– Tamara J. Carrell  
Co-editor and PhD student



## New Series