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## From the Editors

Marvels & Tales Editor

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During the vibrant growth of fairy-tale studies over the past four decades, the stories of Hans Christian Andersen have received comparatively less attention than that of other European writers and collectors of classic fairy tales—such as Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, Charles Perrault, the *conteuses*, and Giambattista Basile—or that of any number of nineteenth- and twentieth-century authors, especially women, whose discovery, rediscovery, or recent appearance may have seemed more urgent, exciting, or relevant to advancing our understanding of the genre's history and development. To be sure, there was some critical discussion of Andersen's work, especially after Disney's film version of *The Little Mermaid* in 1989. However, with some exceptions, it seemed in general that Andersen's well-known tales did not lend themselves to the same sort of rediscovery or reevaluation that was changing the way we viewed the work of other writers. Of course, these generalizations do not apply to Danish scholarship, which has been producing important work on Andersen for many years, especially through the Hans Christian Andersen Center, established in 1988, and the rich resources of the center's Web site (<http://www.andersen.sdu.dk>). The generalizations also do not apply to scholarship of the past few years, during which important translations, studies, and biographies have appeared. These include, for example, *Hans Christian Andersen: The Life of a Storyteller*, by Jackie Wullschlager (New York: Knopf, 2001); *Schräge Märchen*, translated by Heinrich Detering (Munich: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 2002); *The Stories of Hans Christian Andersen*, translated by Diana Crone Frank and Jeffrey Frank (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003); *Fairy Tales*, translated by Tiina Nunnally and edited and introduced by Jackie Wullschlager (New York: Viking, 2004); *Hans Christian Andersen: The Misunderstood Storyteller*, by Jack Zipes (New York: Routledge, 2005); and Jens Andersen's *Hans Christian Andersen: A New Life*,

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translated by Tiina Nunnally (Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 2005). By offering new translations of the fairy tales or new perspectives on the man's life and works, these texts sought to reveal "the real H. C. Andersen" (Frank and Frank 1), to revise—in various ways—our understanding of "the misunderstood storyteller" (Zipes).

Appearing in anticipation of the 2005 bicentenary of Andersen's birth, these publications helped generate renewed interest in Andersen's life, work, and worldwide reception. This return to Andersen spawned the conference that was held in November 2005 at the Cotsen Children's Library of Princeton University, "Hidden, but not Forgotten": Hans Christian Andersen's Legacy in the Twentieth Century. Working in collaboration with guest editor Andrea Immel, the editors of *Marvels & Tales* are pleased to publish the important papers from that conference in this issue. We want to express our thanks to Andrea Immel for inviting the collaboration with *Marvels & Tales* and to all the contributors for the work being presented here.