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## From the Editors

Marvels & Tales Editors

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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We are most happy to present our readers with a double special issue that celebrates, on the one hand, the groundbreaking work of E. T. A. Hoffmann, whose tales challenged the very notion of the real vs. the imaginary, paving the way toward the rise of the fantastic tale; and, on the other, the influential work of Gianni Rodari, who, in the words of Jack Zipes, sought to “liberate the imagination of children who might then see that the world does not have to be the way it is.” As Christopher Owen and Amy Crawford explain in their introduction, the essays and artistic work on Hoffmann included here grew out of a symposium organized at Anglia Ruskin University celebrating “200 Years of *The Nutcracker*” in December 2016, which combined “the critical with the creative.” Crawford and Owen have gathered essays exploring fantasy, gastronomy, and Orientalism in Hoffmann’s tales, as well as creative reflections about the impact of Hoffmann on music, dance, and illustration, along with a number of original illustrations of Hoffmann’s work. Our “Homage to Gianni Rodari” section celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Italian writer’s birth and includes short essays that contextualize, from the perspective of both American and Italian scholars, his *Grammar of Fantasy* (1973; translated by Jack Zipes in 1996) and other work with fairy tales. The opening piece emphasizes the crucial role Rodari played in the development of a liberatory form of children’s literature, a theme that crosses all of the essays in this section; the other essays cumulatively work to convey the significance of Rodari’s work in Italy; its influence on public opinion, the schools, and constructions of childhood; and the translation of its potential today. This special issue thus celebrates two fairy-tale writers and theorists whose work deserves more critical attention as both sought to open up the frontiers of what the tale could do and could be for children as well as adults.

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