

## Thomas Wolfe, Old Friends, and Music in Literature

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

Early on in *NCLR*'s history, we published fairly regularly on Thomas Wolfe, though not so much lately. I appreciate George Hovis sharing his interview with Phillip Lewis about the Wolfean influence upon his debut novel, *The Barrowfields*.

Welcome back to Michael Parker, one of *NCLR*'s earliest literary finds. In 1993, Michael published his first book and his essay in our pages (in our second issue), and since then this North Carolina native has published ten more books and won the highest literary honors. Last summer, I heard him give a talk about his Luddite approach to writing. During the subsequent Q&A I typed, "Can *NCLR* publish this essay?" into the chat, and he generously agreed. Enjoy with it illustrations by one of *NCLR*'s earliest artists, Joan Mansfield, created to complement this essay.

Welcome back too to Barbara Campbell, a previous finalist, now the winner of the 2022 James Applewhite Poetry Prize, as well as the recipient of honorable mention.

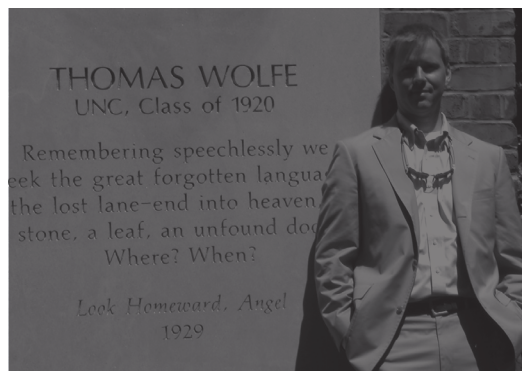
The other content in this section flashes back to our 2017 special feature topic: "Literature and the Other Literary Arts." Music plays a significant role in both the first and second place stories in the 2022 Doris Betts Fiction Prize contest, and Scott Dill shares with our readers his examination of musician/writer John Darnielle's "cherished beasts," which also inspired illustrations by the artist Bethany Salisbury.

We thank all of these writers and the artists who have allowed us to feature their work throughout this issue. The fine art in our pages has certainly been one of the distinguishing features since *NCLR*'s earliest issues, when our unique design won numerous design awards.

So this seems a good time and place to say thank you to *NCLR*'s Art Editor, Diane Rodman, who selects the fine art for the creative writing in the issue and often serves as a consultant on other art selections, as well as Art Director Dana Ezzell Lovelace and graphic designer Karen Baltimore for their beautiful designs throughout this issue. *NCLR* is lucky to have them share their talent with our readers. ■

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