# ARIEL

A Review of International English Literature

**Editor George Wing** 

## AN AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL NUMBER

### Articles on

RALPH WALDO EMERSON • BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
EDGAR ALLAN POE • MARY ROWLANDSON
HENRY DAVID THOREAU • ROYALL TYLER
ROGER WILLIAMS

By

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# An Editorial Note

When this special issue on American literature was announced over a year ago, it was thought befitting in the bicentennial year of the United States to focus on the early literature; that is, the various forms of writing from the beginning of settlement to about 1840. Such an attempt was somewhat adventurous, for it was not certain if there would be an adequate response of submissions when so many authors of this period — aside from such well-known names as Poe, Thoreau, and Emerson — are hardly heard of in the United States and are virtually unknown entities elsewhere. Consequently, articles on American literature since 1840 and comparative studies were also seriously invited.

It is with great pleasure to report an enthusiastic response to this issue dedicated to early American literature. Naturally, there were meritorious essays received whose subjects fell outside this area. The editor regrets that he could not include them, but such essays will find publication in future issues of *Ariel*.

This issue remains a collection of studies showing the features and force of American literature during its formative years. It is hoped that readers might find in them some of the literary richness of this period which is all too often considered to be one of "crude infancy." These essays, with their various approaches, perhaps will re-affirm how the "word" in any period of history is always adequate for the proper expression of contemporary circumstances and ideas.

John Stephen Martin