

Preface

A brief note on the origins of the following contributions is necessary. The essays by Fanie de Beer, Rory Ryan, Ernest Pereira and Ina Gräbe are slightly altered versions of four papers presented at a symposium entitled 'Poe and Reading' held at UNISA during March 1986. The essay by Marianne de Jong was commissioned by the editorial committee to add another voice to the debate, and Ivan Rabinowitz was subsequently requested to provide an introductory voice.

For those readers who are not familiar with *The Purloined Letter*, it is reproduced in this issue, after the essays. Lacan's *Seminar on The Purloined Letter* and Derrida's *The Purveyor of Truth* have generated much discussion in a number of journals. A select bibliography is provided, at the end, for further reading.

JLS/TLW Editorial Committee