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FORUM

Introduction: Literary celebrity and politics

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Following on from Part 1 of the Forum special issue on literary celebrity that was thematised around industry practice and published in the previous issue of *Celebrity Studies*, this Forum edition presents Part 2 which has been compiled and guest edited by Sandra Mayer and is thematised around the intersection of literary celebrity and politics.

In conceiving and compiling this special issue of the Forum, Mayer complements her own longer-standing interest in the intersection of the literary and the political that is showcased in the work she has previously undertaken on it, in particular as it pertains to the nineteenth-century celebrity of the Victorian-era British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, and the fame produced in political/literary spheres by his status as both a Conservative Party politician and an eminent novelist. As Mayer (2016) has argued elsewhere, 'Disraeli's mysterious celebrity appeal resulted from the strange mingling of his many public roles and personae, which challenged contemporary norms of categorisation.'

The contributions that comprise this second part of our special issue on literary celebrity make a welcome and important contribution to the field in considering the phenomenon as it intersects with political discourse across the spectrum of the history of celebrity from the early modern period to the present, and in ways that differently complement work that addresses literary celebrity published elsewhere in the journal, notably in the 2016 special issue 'Re-Viewing Literary Celebrity' of *Celebrity Studies* 7(4), guest edited by Rebecca Braun and Emily Spiers.

As expounded hereafter by this Forum's guest editor Sandra Mayer in own her introduction to the issue, from one piece to the next the contributors move forwards chronologically through history to examine political/literary celebrity over time from the Elizabethan era to the contemporary era.

References

1. Mayer, S., 2016. Rubbing shoulders with Disraeli the celebrity at Hughenden. *The Royal Oak Foundation* [online]. Available from: <http://www.royal-oak.org/2016/06/06/rubbing-shoulders-with-disraeli-the-celebrity-at-hughenden/> [Accessed 13 Dec 2016].