Transhistoricizing Claude McKay’s *Romance in Marseille*

When Claude McKay’s abandoned novel *Romance in Marseille* (1929–33) was first published by Penguin Classics in 2020, reviews across popular media praised the new-old text as one that resonated with both the present moment and the hundred-year-old era of the New Negro. *Romance* arrived as an “instant classic,” as one reviewer put it: both a benchmark of the Harlem Renaissance and, because of its exceptional inclusivity, a fresh statement that could have been written for woke twenty-first-century readers. Dedicated to transhistoricizing the novelty as well as the familiarity of *Romance*, this special issue offers pioneering and theoretically fertile readings of the novel from scholars working in a wide range of critical areas.