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Correspondence may be directed to *English Language Notes*, 226 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0226.  
Email: [eln@colorado.edu](mailto:eln@colorado.edu).

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## FORTHCOMING

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### **Pandemic! COVID-19 and Literary Studies**

What does the study of literature bring to our understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic? In this *ELN* issue the contributors reflect on and seek to make sense of one of the most disorienting and tragic phenomena of our lives. Much has been written about the pandemic from a scientific point of view, but as scholars of language and literature, the contributors investigate the meaning that literature and culture can add to our evolving understanding of the profoundly human dimensions of a crisis that has taken millions of lives and caused lasting physical, emotional, and psychological damage to millions more. The issue examines new literary narratives and frames them in relation to the longer history of cultural responses to the influenza pandemic of 1918–20, the outbreak of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and of SARS in 2002–4, and other public health crises. It explores narratives of environmental collapse and engages with scientific data, public health issues, and national and global policy making. Finally, it addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on literary studies in the academy.

Cover: Front: Rawan Maki with her designs at Selfridges department store, London, August 2021. Photograph courtesy of Rawan Maki. Back: “Parisian Spring Styles,” *Sunday Pictorial*, March 26, 1916. Dame Fashion requests a cease-fire in the trenches so that couturiers might offer women the latest modes.