Letter from the Guest Editor

Welcome to ‘Literary Migrations’, a special issue of Transnational Literature. Although we are well past the heyday of literary and cultural theory, frameworks such as post-colonial studies still have enormous explanatory and analytical power when applied to contemporary problems, issues and debates. Ania Loomba and colleagues have demonstrated that even though we may be considered to be ‘beyond’ postcolonial studies, an understanding of the origins of the field is necessary for exploring ‘this moment of doubt, renewal and expansion for postcolonial studies’.¹ This is certainly true in studies of literature from formerly colonised (and colonising) spaces.

This relevance of theory to practice was clearly evident in the Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities conference, held at Flinders University on 3-5 December, 2007. Delegates to this conference will have warm memories of hundreds of people attending lively and engaging sessions, many of which utilised or engaged directly with post-colonial perspectives. Since many of the papers presented at this conference have been published in a variety of outlets (including a special issue of FULGOR), it was natural that Transnational Literature act as a home for papers which pertain so directly to the journal’s themes.

Despite these thematic similarities, the papers in this issue reflect the diversity of the global cultural landscape. On the one hand we have an exploration of hybrid cultural identity through the new poetry of Macau, and on the other an analysis of the reception and (re-)interpretation of foundational Conquest narratives in Latin America. Post-colonial analyses of novels traverse Singapore and India (J.G. Farrell and Amitav Ghosh) as well as the United States and Japan (Don DeLillo and Haruki Murakami). We are also privileged to read transformations of genre as two authors combine scholarly cultural analysis with creative non-fiction in telling the story of a migrant family in Australia, and the history and cultural memory of the Jewish diaspora in South Africa.

Continuing in this vein of progressive academic publishing, this issue has several pieces of creative non-fiction as well as stories and poems which relate to the special issue’s themes. Continuing the strong tradition of publishing reviews which goes back to the CRNLE Reviews Journal, there are many reviews which pertain to the issue’s themes, as well as more general reviews. Finally we have the sad duty of publishing a tribute to Meenakshi Mukherjee, a member the journal’s editorial board.

In having the honour of guest editing this issue of the journal, there are several people I need to thank. First and foremost I would like to thanks the authors of the articles and other pieces, whose hard work and commitment to the project made it possible at all. Similarly, the peer reviewers provided excellent feedback and quality control, and made the issue the best it could be. Thanks also to Lyn Leader-Elliot for her monumental efforts in making the original conference such a success (and for supporting the launch); thanks to Gillian Dooley for helping me along the process (especially uploading the final articles) and for organising all the non-refereed pieces; to Rebecca Vaughan for lending her keen eye to copyediting, and to Lisa Bennett for designing a characteristically artistic flyer for the launch. Finally, thanks to you, the reader, for taking the time to sample what the issue has to offer: we believe you will be richly rewarded.

Chad Habel, November, 2009


Literary Migrations

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Jane Hanley
Christopher Kelen

Bernal Díaz del Castillo and the Reimagining of Colonial Mythologies

hybrid talk in mongrel town – questions of identity in the cross-
cultural space of the new Macao poetry

David Palmer
Last Days of Empire: DeLillo’s America and Murakami’s Japan

Eleni Pavlides
The Un-Australian Condition: An Essay in Four Parts

Michael C. Prusse
Imaginary Pasts: Colonisation, Migration and Loss in J.G. Farrell’s The Singapore Grip and in Amitav Ghosh’s The Glass Palace

Phyllis Sakinofsky
Shaping the Jewish South African Story: Imprints of Memories, Shadows and Silences

Short Stories:

Sybil Baker
Talismans

Leah Kaminsky
Tahirih

Creative Non-Fiction:

Etienne Fennell
Of Bishops and Pasties

Sukhmani Khorana
Diasporic Dispersals and Convergences: The Creative Trajectory of a PhD Project

Heather Taylor Johnson
The Foosball Table

Poems:

Ian Gibbins
Space Invaders

Deb Matthews-Zott
The Enemy

Mark O’Flynn
Lucca

Nathanael O’Reilly
Symptoms of Homesickness

Ian C. Smith
Stranded

Reviews: Memoirs and Creative writing

Gillian Dooley
Wings of the Kite-Hawk by Nicolas Rothwell (2nd ed.)

Elizabeth Holdsworth
The Celebrated George Barrington by Nathan Garvey

Denise MacLeod
Brother I’m Dying by Edwidge Danticat

Antonio Pagliaro
Oli Lucky Country by Rosa Cappiello

Anne-Marie Smith
Fatherhood by Adeeb Kamal Ad-Deen

Reviews: History, Biography and Criticism

Lyn Jacobs
Journey Without Arrival: The Life and Writing of Vincent Buckley by John McLaren

Gay Lynch
Ancestral Narratives: Irish Australian Identities in History and Fiction by Chad Habel

Eric Richards
Brittishness Abroad: Transnational Movements and Imperial Culture ed. Kate Darian-Smith, Patricia Grimshaw and Stuart Macintyre

Christine Runnel
Embracing the Other: Addressing Xenophobia in the New Literatures in English ASNEL Papers 11, ed. Dunja M. Mohr

Evan Smith
Exile Cultures, Misplaced Identities Paul Allatson & Jo McCormack

Humphrey Tranter
Brief Encounters by Susannah Fullerton

Tribute to Meenakshi Mukherjee

Reviews: Memoirs and Creative writing

Peter F. Alexander
A Fork in the Road: A Memoir by André Brink

Elizabeth Holdsworth
The Portrait by Willem Jan Otten

Ben Kooyman
The Salati Case by Tobias Jones

Robert Lumsden
This is how by M.J. Hyland

Michael Savvas
Words from Table One ed. Charles Gent and Alex Hope

Ruth Starke
Jetty Road by Cath Kenneally

Heather Taylor Johnson
Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature ed. Anita Heiss and Peter Minter

Debra Zott
Readings from the Little Yellow Book by Charles Crompton (Shaggy Doo Beats)

Reviews: History, Biography and Criticism

Sue Anderson
The City’s Outback by Gillian Cowlishaw

Paul Burger
The City of Words: Understanding Civilisation through Story by Alberto Manguel

Friday on our Minds: Popular Culture in Australia since 1945 by
Michelle Arrow  

Gillian Dooley  
Interview with Joris Luyendijk, author of *Fit to Print: Misrepresenting the Middle East*

Md. Rezaul Haque  
*Re-Thinking Europe: Literature and (Trans) National Identity* ed. Nele Bemong, Mirjam Truwant, and Pieter Vermeulen

Andrew Herpich  
*Reading Literature After Deconstruction* by Robert Lumsden

Eleni Pavlides  
*Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano

Noel Purdon  
*The Letters of George & Elizabeth Bass* by Miriam Estensen

Ian Reid  
*The Cambridge History of Australian Literature* ed. Peter Pierce

Jo Anne Rey  
*Writing the Nation: Patrick White and the Indigene* by Cynthia vanden Driesen

Emily Sutherland  

Debra Zott  
*Cutting Rhythms: Shaping the Film Edit* by Karen Pearlman

Contributors