

# ARIEL

*A Review of International English Literature*



MARC DELREZ Ian McEwan and the Nightmare of History

SUE GILLETT Gerald Murnane's *The Plains*

NEIL TEN KORTENAAR *Midnight's Children* and the Allegory of History

GERRY TURCOTTE Marian Engel's *Bear* and Elizabeth Jolley's *The Well*

PRISCILLA L. WALTON Joseph Conrad's *Almayer's Folly*

PAULINE G. WOODWARD Louise Erdrich's *The Beet Queen*

Poems by Betsy Berry, Sean Brendan-Brown, Tracy Danison,  
Grant Duncan, Selwyn Pritchard, Peter Robinson

Reviews by Evelyn Cobley, Judith Scherer Herz, Dorothy F. Lane,  
Joanne Tompkins

---

Volume 26 Number 2 April 1995 \$8.00

# ARIEL

## A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE

---

*ARIEL* is published quarterly, in January, April, July, and October.

*ARIEL* is a journal devoted to the critical and scholarly study of the new and the established literatures in English around the world. It welcomes particularly articles on the relationships among the new literatures and between the new and the established literatures. It publishes a limited number of original poems in each issue.

Articles should not exceed 6,000 words and should follow the *second* edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or *The MLA Style Manual*. All articles are refereed blind (authorship unattributed) by at least two readers; consequently, names of contributors should appear *only* on the title page of manuscripts and not as a running head on each page. *Two* copies of each manuscript are requested. For accepted articles, disks (in WordPerfect format, if possible) are appreciated. The editors require assurance that authors are not offering their articles *concurrently* elsewhere. Manuscripts are returned only when accompanied with self-addressed envelopes and *Canadian* stamps or International Reply Coupons. Translations should be provided for citations in languages other than French. The editors reserve the right to amend phrasing and punctuation in articles and reviews accepted for publication. While every care is taken in the handling of manuscripts, the editors will assume no responsibility in the rare event of their loss.

Opinions expressed in contributions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the editorial board, or the publisher.

Editorial correspondence should be sent to the Editors, *ARIEL*, The University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4 (Telephone 403: 220-4657; Facsimile 403: 289-1123; E-mail ariel@acs.ucalgary.ca); orders, advertising copies, and other business matters to Mavis Page, Business Manager.

Subscription rate per annum post free: Individual \$18.00; Student \$10.00; Institutional \$27.00; Cumulative Index, 1970-1981, \$2.00 (GST — R-108102864). Back numbers and sets on request. Claim period six months.

*ARIEL* is indexed in *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*, *Austlit*, *British Humanities Index*, *Humanities Index*, *MLA International Bibliography*, *Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities*, *Canadian Literary Periodical Index: A Guide to Periodicals*, and *Bowker International Serials Database*. Abstracts of articles are published in *Abstracts of English Studies*. Annual index appears in the October number of *ARIEL*.

*ARIEL* is sew-bound for durability.

---

Copyright © 1995 The Board of Governors, The University of Calgary

ISSN 0004-1327 Book Rate — No. 454702

Printed in Canada by MORRISS PRINTING COMPANY LTD., Victoria, B.C.

# ARIEL

*A Review of International English Literature*



*Volume 26*

*Number 2*

*April 1995*

# ARIEL

A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE

---

Volume 26 Number 2 April 1995

---

## Contents

### Articles

- Escape into Innocence: Ian McEwan and the Nightmare of History*  
by Marc Delrez 7
- Gerald Murnane's "The Plains": A Convenient Source of Metaphors*  
by Sue Gillett 25
- "Midnight's Children" and the Allegory of History*  
by Neil ten Kortenaar 41
- Sexual Gothic: Marian Engel's "Bear" and Elizabeth Jolley's  
"The Well" by Gerry Turcotte 65*
- "This vague feeling of their difference": Race, Gender,  
and the Original Impetus in Conrad's "Almayer's Folly"*  
by Priscilla L. Walton 95
- Chance in Louise Erdrich's "The Beet Queen": New Ways  
to Find a Family by Pauline G. Woodward 109*

### Poems

- All Aboard* by Selwyn Pritchard 24
- Homage to a Dead Poet* by Grant Duncan 40
- Calamity, Listen for My Step* by Sean Brendan-Brown 63
- Afterlives* by Peter Robinson 92
- Sydney in Shadows* by Betsy Berry 93
- Yucatan* by Tracy Danison 128

## Reviews

- Franz Stanzel and Martin Löschnigg, eds. *Intimate Enemies: English and German Literary Reactions to the Great War 1914-1918* (Evelyn Cobley) 130
- Robert Kiely. *Reverse Tradition: Postmodern Fictions and the Nineteenth Century Novel* (Judith Scherer Herz) 133
- Patrick D. Morrow. *Katherine Mansfield's Fiction* (Dorothy F. Lane) 135
- Richard Schechner. *The Future of Ritual: Writings on Culture and Performance* (Joanne Tompkins) 137
- Books Received 140
- Notes on Contributors 143

# ARIEL

A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Founded 1970

Founding Editor: A. NORMAN JEFFARES



*Editor*

VICTOR J. RAMRAJ

*Acting Editor (This Issue)*

PATRICIA SREBRNIK

*Associate Editor*

LORNE MACDONALD

*Reviews Editor*

PAMELA MC CALLUM

*Editorial Assistants (This Issue)*

ROBERTA JACKSON      JENNIFER KELLY

*Editorial Board*

Susan Bennett *University of Calgary*; Kelly Hewson *Mount Royal College*; Adrienne Kertzer *University of Calgary*; Inder Nath Kher *University of Calgary*; Victor Li *Dalhousie University*; Arun Mukherjee *York University*; Daphne Read *University of Alberta*; Susan Rudy Dorscht *University of Calgary*; Rowland Smith *Wilfrid Laurier University*; Aruna Srivastava *University of Calgary*; Fred Wah *University of Calgary*.

*International Advisory Board*

Marian Arkin *City University of New York*; Edward Baugh *University of the West Indies (Mona)*; Sneja Gunew *Deakin University*; Wilson Harris *London*; Shirley Geok-lin Lim *University of California (Santa Barbara)*; Mbulelo Mzamane *University of Fort Hare*; Shyamala Narayan Ranchi *University*; Dieter Riemenschneider *Johann Wolfgang Goethe University*; Susie Tharu *Central Institute of English & Foreign Language (India)*; John Thieme *University of Hull*; Gillian Whitlock *Griffith University*.

---

ARIEL is assisted financially by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Department of English, The University of Calgary.