

Editorial

IN THIS NUMBER we gather essays concerning Canadian and Australian literature and particularly the relations between them. The focus is scarcely a new one, for the business of comparing the two literatures has been around since 1889, and John Matthews's influential modern study, *Tradition in Exile: A Comparative Study of Social Influences on the Development of Australian and Canadian Poetry in the Nineteenth Century*, now dates from over twenty-five years ago (1962). But the pace of comparative work is increasing rapidly. The biennial conferences of The Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand, with their strong literary and cultural component, the recent *Australian and Canadian Literatures in English: Comparative Perspectives* (ed. G. Whitlock and R. McDougall), and the flourishing interdisciplinary journal *Australian-Canadian Studies*, now in its sixth year, are all symptomatic of a larger activity seen in publication of individual studies in the journals, cultural and scholarly exchanges, and the like.

The recent Badlands Conference on Canadian and Australian Literatures at the University of Calgary (August 1986) brought together over seventy delegates to consider the cross-cultural issues emerging from a common colonial and post-colonial matrix. This number of *ARIEL* publishes several papers originally given at the conference, along with some selected with a complementary aim. Along with reviews and poetry, they draw attention to emergent scholarly and cultural energies in our times.