

## Book Reviews

Mary C. Fuller. *Voyages in Print: English Travel to America, 1576-1624*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995. Pp. xiii, 210. \$44.95.

This is the author's first book, and an earlier version of a section included in it appeared in the new historicist journal *Representations*. After a short introduction, the work comprises four chapters which deal chronologically with figures from the book's half-century timespan. There are successive chapters on the early explorers and would-be colonists, Sir Humphry Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, a chapter on pioneering American colonist John Smith, and finally a chapter on the editor under whose auspices the exploits of these and many early English adventurers have come down to us, Richard Hakluyt.

Fuller's statements of intent may not inspire. She says she is interested in "demystifying the early history of English America as glorious expansion" (11), but she does at least convey the correct impression that the demystifiers have surely had it all over the mystifiers for quite some time. Peter Hulme (*Colonial Encounters*) is cited programmatically, but when Fuller quotes him as recently attributing the "'obsessive' documentation of the early English voyages and colonies to a 'self-conscious effort to create a continuous epic myth of origin for the emerging imperial nation'" (1), Fuller is referring less to an oppositionist scholarly intervention than she is relaying a sentiment stated quite directly by Hakluyt himself in the epistle dedicatory to his *Principal Navigations* (1589). Fuller's too brief rumination on how the superficially dry and denotative Hakluyt documents may be regarded as offering and constituting authorial self-representation, participating in the "production of selves" and contributing to a developing form of modern authorial self-consciousness, is more engaging (7). Though such thinking may abut in a simple "demystification," it leads more suggestively into the ensuing study of the rhetoric of exploration tracts.

Fuller first studies Gilbert and his Newfoundland ventures, and through an engaging comparison of poems ostensibly in celebration of Gilbert's ventures, by Thomas Churchyard and Stephen Parmenius,

demonstrates how early attitudes to the beneficences of new world discovery were highly ambivalent. One might wish, here, that Fuller had stepped slightly outside the chosen scope of her study; though it is referred to in a note, she does not dwell on Richard Whitbourne's optimistic new world inventory, *A Discourse and Discovery of New-found-land* (1620). This text would compare well with the Gilberteana Fuller does consider, as well as with Raleigh's *Discoverie of Guiana* (1596), the chief text under examination in her second chapter.

It was of course Gilbert's half-brother Raleigh who, despite a life similarly marked by tragedy and loss, most succeeded through his "posthumous legend" (17) in broadcasting the notion of a fecund, receptive New World. Fuller analyzes the *Discoverie*, a justificatory, compensatory document offered up in lieu of the actual object of Raleigh's mission: gold. She finds the text a "tissue of distances" (67) in fact "about not discovering Guiana" (71). Importantly, as Fuller points out, the *Discoverie* seeks to re-enact and rewrite the scene of an earlier Raleigh transgression, his illicit marriage to maid of honour Elizabeth Throckmorton. For this a jealous Queen imprisoned her theretofore favourite. Raleigh feminizes Guiana, and highlights his commands to his men not to dally with native women. The entire Guiana scheme was in some senses hatched as a plan for Raleigh to recover his reputation by opening up vast new territories and sources of wealth for England and Elizabeth I. Another voyage made by Raleigh twenty years later, with the desperate aim of discovering treasure so as to improve his standing with James I, was similarly fruitless.

Raleigh's repeated attempts to found Virginia colonies also failed. But the disappearance of some settlers there, the "lost colony," planted a future view that, as a colony had once been there, it might be still, somewhere, waiting to be rediscovered. Fuller concludes: "It might be said that though Raleigh failed to *find* gold in America, he succeeded in depositing it there" (84).

Prototypical American, John Smith, is next up for consideration, and Fuller attempts to analyze as much how this early venturer in Virginia wrote as what he wrote. The result is an interesting reading of Smith's self-fashioning in the numerous and repetitive semi-autobiographical texts he created. Rhetorically speaking, Smith's great achievement is to cast himself as a canny, pragmatic, and *passive* conqueror, whether his actions, or reactions, be in response to native men or women, his own countrymen, or the territorial exigencies of life in the New World. In documents such as his *Generall Historie* (1624), Smith absorbs prior Hakluyt documents, and tries to distinguish himself from precursors such as Raleigh by insisting upon his unusually prudent, provident, and unselfish conduct. Smith's writings further intimate that the greatest problems of colonisation were those posed by the varying aims and behaviour of the English colonists. Life among

American natives, with the unknown or ostensible enemy to be conquered, can seem preferable to being amidst a gathering of greedy and insubordinate colonists ill-suited to their new roles. The failure of English colonists to get along with themselves, let alone natives, is perhaps a topic which will become of greater interest in future.

Fuller closes with a reception study of Hakluyt in the nineteenth century. Including as it does ruminations on Richard Hakluyt's personality, editorial practice, the development of the discipline of history, and emergent nineteenth century British imperialist nationalism, the chapter opens out the study in a satisfying fashion, gesturing to the wider implications of the material just examined. Fuller highlights J. A. Froude, the historian who famously described Hakluyt documents as "the prose epic of the English nation," and Sir Walter A. Raleigh, the Oxford Chair of English who added a concluding monograph to a major Hakluyt re-edition of 1904. Some slight reference to the latter pages of Froude's *England from the Fall of Cardinal Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada* (12 vols., 1856-1870) might have helped to sketch in some of Froude's ambivalences towards the period which spawned the buccaneers. Fuller's analyses can seem diffuse and suggestive rather than conclusive—a wandering corps/corpus body/text theme appears irregularly, a gender slant is from time to time broached, a will to wordplay surfaces (seamen/ semen, etc.). Hakluyt editor Janet Hampden is referred to as Janet Hampton. *Voyages in Print* is more economically written than it seems, however. It is highly readable, critically sure-footed, and is a useful addition to studies of early exploration documents in English.

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Sander Gilman. *Franz Kafka, the Jewish Patient*. New York and London: Routledge, 1995. Pp. xi, 328. \$23.95 pb.

From so many of his earlier publications on Freud, Jews, modern culture, and medical myths, one could almost have predicted that Sander Gilman would write *Franz Kafka, the Jewish Patient*. Yet for all the expectations of familiar territory covered in previous books, the reader encounters much that is original and thought-provoking in this latest study. After a series of three epigraphs offering opinions that Kafka's experience is too Jewish, not Jewish enough, and Christian, Gilman boldly concludes, "And then comes me" (xi), promising a provocative argument which he lives up to in the pages that follow.

In his opening chapter, "On Difference, Language, and Mice," Gilman examines Jewish stereotypes in Mitteleuropa at the turn of the century, focusing on issues of race, illness, and gender. Through such minutiae as Kafka's "spit," his insights and unusual points of view proceed: "the skewer that pinned Kafka to his time and his place in soci-