

ariel

vol. 34.2-3
april - july 03
a review of
international
english literature

articles on
Indian nationalism,
Singapore writing,
Coetzee, Conrad,
Walker and more

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In Memoriam

A. Norman Jeffares

Readers of *ARIEL* will be saddened to learn of the death of A. Norman (Derry) Jeffares, the founding editor of the journal. Educated at Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University, he taught at Adelaide University in Australia before returning to Britain to take up a Chair in the Leeds University School of English. In 1974 he moved to the University of Stirling where he taught until his retirement.

Professor Jeffares was an outstanding scholar of Irish literature who published several books on W.B. Yeats, including *W.B. Yeats: Man and Poet* (1948), *New Commentary on the Poems of W.B. Yeats* (1968) and *W.B. Yeats: A New Biography* (1988). His little anthology of selected poetry of Yeats introduced generations of students to this key modernist writer.

In 1970 he undertook the editorship of *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, a journal he founded to succeed *A Review of English Literature*. The change of title is significant for he wished to promote scholarly discussion about the emergent literatures written in English from around the world. Reading, criticism and the exchange of ideas, he felt, had the power to facilitate dialogue across diverse cultures and national boundaries. It is not an exaggeration to say that his championing of “Commonwealth literature” (then) and “post-colonial literatures” (now) was crucial in building what has become an important international area of literary and cultural study.

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