

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOL. 12, NO. 2, 1994

EDITORIAL		iii
FOCUS ON EXPLORATION		
SIMON RYAN	Discovering Myths: The Creation of the Explorer in Journals of Exploration	1
BARBARA BELYEA	Sea of Dreams: La Vérendrye and the Mapping of Desire	15
J.A. WAINRIGHT	Australia North: The Gaze from Above/Down Under in <i>Map of the Human Heart</i>	29
PENNY VAN TOORN	<i>True Country</i> : A Review Essay	39
INTERVIEW		
GERRY TURCOTTE	"The Germ of Document": An Interview with Michael Ondaatje	49
REVIEWS		from 59
<i>Books on Exploration</i>		
BRIAN EDWARDS	<i>Enduring Dreams</i>	
SIMON RYAN	<i>Taming the Great South Land</i>	
BARBARA BELYEA	<i>Unravelling the Franklyn Mystery</i>	
MARVIN GILMAN	<i>Territorial Disputes</i>	
<i>General Reviews</i>		
DOUGLAS BARBOUR	<i>The Sting in the Wattle; The World Faces Johnny Tripod; Red Centre Journal; At the Florida</i>	
MICHAEL HAYES	<i>Mudrooroo</i>	
DENNIS DRUMMOND	<i>Yves Thériault</i>	
LEONIE SHORT	<i>Canadian Health Care and the State</i>	
GREG RATCLIFFE	<i>Mona's Gift</i>	
GERRY TURCOTTE	<i>The English Patient</i>	
REBECCA ALBURY	<i>Challenging Times</i>	
ANNE LEAR	<i>Wilder Shores</i>	
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS		108

COVER DETAILS

The Glyde River, Arnhem Land

Photo credit: Djon Mundine

FRONT:

David Malangi, Glyde River mouth, bark painting

Courtesy Bulabula Arts

BACK:

This map (Milingimbi 5873 and Howard 5973) is © Commonwealth Copyright, AUSLIG, Australia's National Mapping Agency. It has been reproduced with the permission of the General Manager, Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, Department of Administrative Services, Canberra, ACT.

AUSTRALIAN-CANADIAN STUDIES is the official journal of ACSANZ. It is a refereed journal of both the Humanities and the Social Sciences and focuses on comparative, interdisciplinary research in these areas. Its aim is to provide a forum for intellectual debate and information exchange in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

EDITORS

Gerry Turcotte
Dept of English, University of Wollongong

Luke McNamara
Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong

Book Review Editor: Marvin Gilman
Dept of English, University of Wollongong

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Malcolm Alexander
Faculty of Humanities, Griffith University

Gillian Whitlock
Faculty of Humanities, Griffith University

James Wieland
Dept of English, University of Wollongong

Bruce Ziff
Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

EDITORIAL BOARD

Reg Berry Dept of English/ Canterbury	Brian Galligan Federalism Research Centre/ ANU	Agnes Grant Native Studies/ Brandon
Coral Ann Howells Dept of English/ Reading	Beryl Langer Dept of Sociology/ La Trobe	Alan Lawson Dept of English/ Queensland
Peter Lyon Inst. of Comm. Studies/ London	David Staines Dept of English/ Ottawa	Helen Tiffin Dept of English/ Queensland

Subscriptions:..... See inside back cover for information about subscription rates and membership of ACSANZ.

Contributions:..... Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate. A style guide, to assist in the preparation of manuscripts, will be forwarded on request. Material will be returned only if accompanied by an S.A.S.E. (or international reply coupon).

Copyright:..... Copyright is retained by *Australian-Canadian Studies*.

Correspondence:.....

The Editor <i>Australian-Canadian Studies</i> Department of English University of Wollongong Northfields Ave., Wollongong, NSW, 2522	Tel. No. (042) 21-3737 Fax. No. (042) 21-4471
or The Editor <i>Australian-Canadian Studies</i> Faculty of Law University of Wollongong Northfields Ave., Wollongong, NSW, 2522	Tel. No. (042) 21-4415 Fax. No. (042) 21-3188

Acknowledgements:..... *Australian-Canadian Studies* gratefully acknowledges grants received from ACSANZ as well as the financial support of the Department of English, and the Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong. Founded as *Australian-Canadian Studies: a Multidisciplinary Review* at La Trobe University in 1983. Editors Vols. 1 - 3: G. Ternowetsky, A. Borowski, T. Puckett and B. Langer. Editors Vols. 4 - 9: Malcolm Alexander and Gillian Whitlock.

ISSN:..... 0810-1906

EDITORIAL

In *Territorial Disputes*, Graham Huggan (1994, 11) argues that “maps are ultimately neither copies nor semblances of reality but modes of discourse which reflect and articulate the ideologies of their makers.” Huggan’s comment expresses succinctly the underlying theme of this special issue of *Australian-Canadian Studies*—a focus on exploration and the companion process of mapping. Each of the feature articles in this issue examines, in various contexts, the *idea* of exploration and of mapping. Of particular concern is the mythical or creative dimension of exploration and of map-making, including the construction of the ‘discoverer’ and the ‘discovered’.

Central to the very endeavour of exploration and ‘discovery’ (and, indeed, of the broader colonial enterprise) was a fundamental denial of the existence and value of Indigenous cultures. The maps of European cartography are both complicit in this subversion—as a self-serving re-writing or outright denial of Indigenous knowledges—and a vivid metaphor for the physical and cultural silencing of Indigenous peoples. This crucial dimension of the exploration/mapping process is depicted in our cover design—incorporating representations of the Glyde River in Arnhem Land in the far north of Australia. The images present, in visual form, some of the core themes developed in the feature articles: the existence of divergent depictions of ‘reality’, and the notion of mapping/exploration as a “geopolitical claim” (Huggan, 1991, 9).

Cartographic theorists, Denis Wood and John Fels (1985) offer the following explanation of the capacity of maps to be appropriated as the “means of modern myth”:

[E]very map is at once a synthesis of signs and a sign in itself: an instrument of depiction—of objects, events, places—and an instrument of persuasion—about these, its makers, and itself. Like

any other sign, it is the product of codes: conventions that prescribe relations of content and expression in a given semiotic circumstance.

(Wood & Fels in Huggan, 1994, 5)

The conjunction of myth-making, map-making and exploration is a theme which runs literally 'cover to cover' in this issue of *ACS*.

In "Discovering Myths" Simon Ryan considers the mythology of exploration via an examination of journals of exploration. As Ryan explains, the journals construct a reality—of the romantic and intrepid pioneer, who carries the burden of exploration history, including the need to discover. In the context of Australian 'exploration history', the need to discover necessitated a denial of Aboriginal knowledge. Without such denial, the rationale for the colonial exploration enterprise could not be sustained.

Ryan's articulation of this theme provides convenient point of connection with Barbara Belyea's account of the exploits of the La Vérendryes in North America, and in particular, their search for the "mer de l'Ouest"—the fabled inland sea. Echoing Ryan's discussion of the romantic mythology of exploration, Belyea highlights the centrality to the process of exploration, of the dream and of desire; a theme which is effectively expressed in the context of a discussion of La Vérendrye's futile search for the mythical inland sea.

The metaphor of mapping is evident in Belyea's account of the 'fusion' of Cree and French maps, in what she calls a "process of cartographic assimilation". This is not a case of Indigenous knowledge being 'invisible' in the sense discussed by Ryan (and later, Penny van Toorn); it is a story of appropriation. The Cree information 'shaped to fit' by the technical processes and colonial imperatives of European cartography. When the directions provided by the Cree chiefs 'mislead', the distorted Cree contribution becomes a 'deception' in the eyes of La Vérendrye, and his stereotypical perception of the Indigenous peoples is perpetuated.

Mapping as a manifestation of the colonial exercise of imposing and superimposing European perception on both the lands and cultures of Indigenous peoples is, for J.A. Wainright, a central theme of the film, *Map of the Human Heart*. However, in "Australia North: The Gaze from Above/Down Under in *Map of the Human Heart*" Wainright argues that the film ultimately fails to escape the very constraints and stereotypes of colonial gaze which filmmaker Vincent Ward is concerned to critique. More specifically, Wainright argues that "Ward's metaphor of the map essentially fails because the map's power to exert control over the

unpredictable Arctic landscape and its complex life-forms is not ironised in the film...".

For Penny van Toorn, Kim Scott's *True Country* represents a challenge to the 'truth' of European settlement in Australia. She argues that the novel involves a rejection of the binary divide between black and white, in that it "draws self-consciously on both Aboriginal and European traditions, thereby breaking down the 'us-and-them mentality' covertly fostered by Eurocentric literary forms" (including maps and exploration journals). As van Toorn explains, the journey of Billy Storey—from his arrival in Karnama as another "latter-day explorer", to his 'rediscovery' of his own Aboriginal heritage—is a story of the intersection of different 'ways of knowing'.

Our regular review section also has a mapping and exploration flavour—it includes reviews of John Moss' *Enduring Dreams: An Exploration of Arctic Landscape*, William Lines' *Taming the Great South Land*, David Woodman's *Unravelling the Franklin Mystery*, and Graham Huggan's *Territorial Disputes: Maps and Mapping Strategies in Contemporary Canadian and Australian Fiction*. Another special feature of this issue of *Australian-Canadian Studies* is an interview with leading Canadian writer, Michael Ondaatje.

Thanks to the many who have helped in the production of this issue, including Professor John Goldring, Professor James Wieland, Carmel Pass, Scott Grattan, and our new Book Review Editor, Marvin Gilman.

Special thanks to Djon Mundine, Bulabula Arts, and Ian Miller, National Data Centre, for permission to reproduce the graphics that provide the cover for this special issue on exploration and mapping.

Happy reading. We look forward to seeing many of our readers at ACSANZ '95.

WORKS CITED

- Huggan, Graham. 1994. *Territorial Disputes: Maps and Mapping Strategies in Contemporary Canadian and Australian Fiction*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Wood, Denis and John Fels. 1985. "Design on Signs: Myth and Meaning in Maps", *Cartographica*, Vol. 23, No. 3, 54–103.