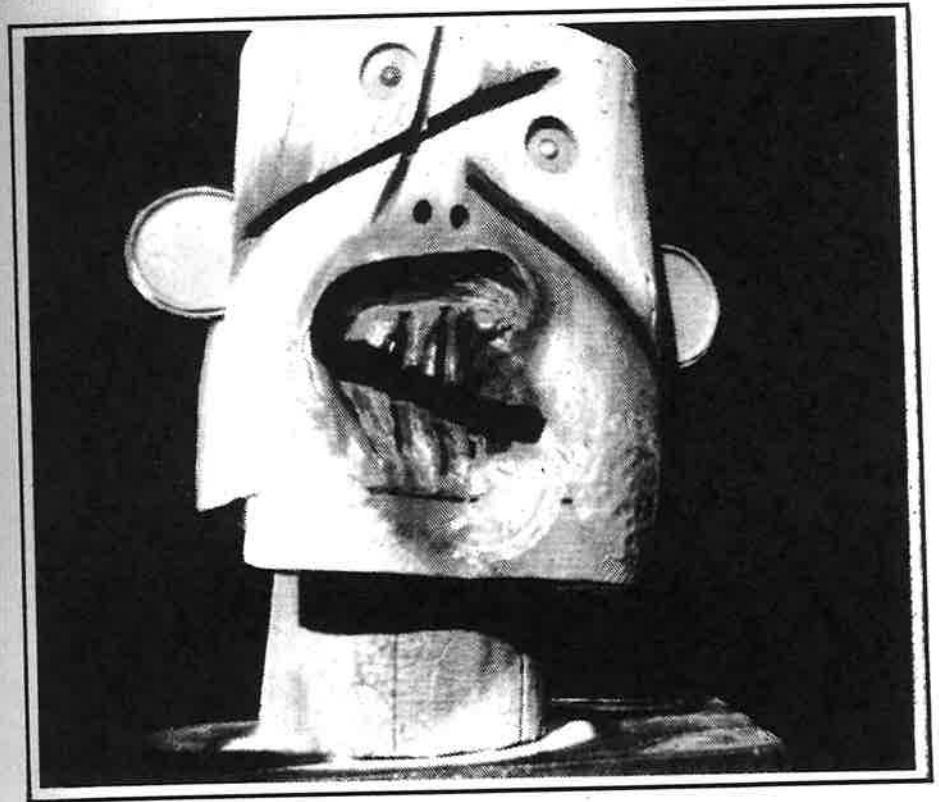


australian-canadian studies

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table of contents

Editorial		1
Feature Articles		
Philip Resnick	Neo-Conservatism on the Periphery: The Lessons from British Columbia	5
Patrick Mullins	The Politics of Development: Right Radicalism in Queensland and British Columbia	25
Harry H. Hiller	Western Separatism in Australia and Canada: The Regional Ideology Thesis	39
Dixon Thompson	The Tyranny of Images	55
Brian Edwards	Textual Erotics, The Meta-Perspective and Reading Instruction in Robert Kroetsch's Later Fiction	69
Douglas Barbour	Extended Forms: One Book & Then Another: The Canadian Long Poem	81
Review Essay		
J.J. Healy	Notes Towards an Imperial Fiction: New South Wales 1788. A Reading of Robert Dixon's The Course of Empire	91
Taking Issue		
Gordon Ternowetsky	Unemployment: A Vital Issue for Social Policy: An interview with Keith Windschuttle	109
In Review		123
Endnotes		141
Notes on Contributors		145
ACSANZ '88 Conference Notice		147

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Cover:

Viktor Tinkl: Detail from a sculpture. Viktor Tinkl was one of the
four Canadian artists who recently gave workshops and exhibited at
the Noosa Regional Gallery.

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editorial

'You do not have to spend a lifetime of winters with snow up to your buttocks to understand Canadian books' — this piece of Bowering-speak (which we are reminded of in Brian Edwards' essay in this issue) is a pithy and appropriate reminder that those of us who study, write and think about Canada from the warmth of antipodean space have something to say which is worth hearing. Similarly Canadians, who may venture south only for the occasional ACSANZ conference, sabbatical or tour, can engage in conversation with us about what it means to live in a society which, as a result of its history, struggles to 'occupy its intellectual space with vigour and confidence' (to borrow from Dixon Thompson's article published here).

This issue of ACS presents a series of such 'conversations'. Firstly there is a focus on regionalism in papers by Phil Resnick, Harry Hiller and Pat Mullins. Each of these takes the regional perspective as an analytical tool. Resnick's paper investigates the regional context of neo-conservatism in British Columbia: what were the peculiar features of the British Columbian situation which made it particularly receptive to the general neo-conservative current? The description of the politics of polarisation and resource development, of right-wing populism and the 'civic boosterism' of an Expo enterprise, not to mention the tendency to forego 'the subtleties of parliamentary and political debate and act decisively (and often pig-headedly)' strike home for those of us who read about the Bennett regime from post-Petersen Queensland. The Canadian-Australian comparisons which echo throughout Resnick's paper are taken up explicitly in the work of Hiller and Mullins, who look to the nature of regional and State/provincial dissent and differentiation in the Canadian and Australian federations.

Each of these analyses considers key debates about regionalism: What is the class basis of regional movements? Who manipulates regional ideology and to what end? What is the degree of support for separatist movements? The three approaches presented here offer different answers to these questions. Resnick suggests that BC politics reflect the enduring legacy of the resource frontier; Mullins presents an interpretation of Queensland politics in terms of populism, while Hiller understands Western regionalism as an ideology.

Dixon Thompson's article 'The Tyranny of Images' begins what emerges as a leitmotif for the rest of this issue — the problem of developing a vocabulary in colonised space. The immediate concern here is the need for correlation between the arts and humanities and the sciences. In particular he stresses the role of the arts in influencing technological change, and the role of culture in promoting an understanding of how and where we live. In Thompson's view, design and innovation in both Australia and Canada are hampered by the ongoing sense of

inhabiting a 'branch office' of the imperial centre. In an analysis which ranges from landscape to architecture, jet passenger aircraft to rock music, Thompson argues that Australia and Canada are 'mirror images', both still seeking a vocabulary which will allow them to be at ease in their home environment.

In their analyses of contemporary Canadian writing both Doug Barbour and Brian Edwards argue that these art forms are developing a language appropriate to Canadian space although, in each case, it is inflected with a sense of the difficulty of such articulation. Barbour focuses on the long poem — a form as common in English Canadian writing as it is rare in Australian literature. His reading suggests that English Canadian writers work in the shadows of other 'englishes', to the south and across the Atlantic. The ambiguity, refusal of closure and relativity of the ongoing long poem is a response to marginalisation. Similarly Edwards sees Robert Kroetsch's writing as unravelling inherited aesthetics and mythologies, as opening the discourses of 'Canadianness' to new influences.

J.J. Healy's review essay 'Notes Toward an Imperial Fiction' presents a Canadian view of Robert Dixon's study of colonial New South Wales, *The Course of Empire*. Although plentifully reviewed in Australian journals, Dixon's book emerges anew from the gaze of a critic outside of the Australian cultural establishment. Healy's superb and wide ranging response, which argues that the vocabulary of neo-classicism rang hollow in the brutality of colonial New South Wales, goes further to consider what happened when a European ideal met its 'zero place' in the frontier colonies.

Conversations proliferate further in Gordon Ternowetsky's interview with Keith Windschuttle, a trans-Pacific dialogue which reflects on trends in policy directions from the larger perspective which is generated when two national contexts are brought into view. There is also, in Diana Brydon's review, the juxtaposition of two Australian and Canadian Oxford University Press literary guides. In this case she suggests that Canadian scholarship has something to learn from the Australian.

This issue of ACS sees a major change in the editorial team. Carol Murray, the associate editor, is leaving to return to Canada. This has forced the editors to do more of the 'engine room' duties of production and has led to a renewed sense not only of the amount of work Carol managed but also of just how much the journal owes to her sense of design and order. Carol saw the journal as an object of design, and we thank her for her work and her good taste. Not coincidentally we also lose an important and enthusiastic voice as Stephen Slemon moves from our Editorial Committee to a lectureship in Commonwealth literature at the University of Alberta. He will, no doubt, return on our review pages in future issues. To Carol and Stephen thank you and good luck.

Finally we carry an obituary for Grahame Jones, a founding member of ACSANZ. The Association owes a great deal to Grahame's enthusiasm and talent and his untimely death is a loss to us all.

Obituary

Professor GRAHAME CHARLES JONES

Officier des palmes académiques, BA (NSW), MA (Melb.), DU (Grenoble)

Readers of ACS will be saddened to hear of the death of Grahame Jones, who was a founding member of ACSANZ and a member of the current executive. He was the driving force for promoting the study of Quebec literature in the Association and was always a valued and active member.

Grahame was educated at Newcastle Boys High and then went on to study French literature at Newcastle University, graduating with first class honours. After teaching for a year, he did a MA at the University of Melbourne and then went to France to do a Doctorate at the University of Grenoble. The Doctorate was awarded at the highest possible level.

Grahame and his family returned to Newcastle in 1966 and after two years at the University of Newcastle he spent four years in Western Australia before becoming Professor of French at the University of New England at the age of 33.

Grahame was a scholar of international repute in French and French-Canadian literature. He received three Australian Research Grant Scheme (ARGS) awards to travel to Canada and developed close contacts with many French-Canadian writers. He presented papers at both the first two ACSANZ Conferences. 'The Minority View and the Problem of Identity in Australian and French-Canadian Fiction' is published in the proceedings of the 1982 Macquarie conference and 'The English Presence in the French-Canadian Novel' is published in the proceedings of the 1984 Christchurch Conference. Two other articles from this side of his work are: 'Cogne la caboche et s'ouvre la vie' in *Voix et Images*, Vol. 6, No. 2, Hiver, 1981 and 'Alexandra Chenevert et Kamouraska' in *Voix et Images*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Hiver, 1982.

Grahame Jones' academic expertise, his advice and his gentle humour and presence will be sorely missed within ACSANZ and within the Australian academic community. He is survived by a wife and three children.