



*The Ohio State
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Spring 09 Titles
Announcement*



Queering Cold War Poetry

Ethics of Vulnerability in Cuba and the United States

Eric Keenaghan

In *Queering Cold War Poetry*, Eric Keenaghan offers queer theory, queer studies, and literary theory a new political and conceptual language for reevaluating past and present high valuations of individualism and security. He examines four Cold War poets from Cuba and the United States—Wallace Stevens, José Lezama Lima, Robert Duncan, and Severo Sarduy. These writers, who lived in an era when homosexuals were regarded as outsiders or even security threats, offer critiques of nationalism and liberalism. In their struggles against state and cultural mandates that foreclosed positive estimations of vulnerability, Stevens, Lezama, Duncan, and Sarduy radically revised ethics and identity in their day. Their work exemplifies how much modernist poetry disseminates experiences of differences that challenge prevailing attitudes about individuals' relationships to one another and to their nations. Through studies of Cuban and U.S. lyric and poetics, *Queering Cold War Poetry* clears the way for imagining what it means to belong to a passionate and compassionate citizenry which celebrates vulnerability, searches for difference in itself and each of its constituent individuals, and identifies less with a nation than with a global community.

Eric Keenaghan is assistant professor of English at The University at Albany, SUNY.

January 2009 232 pp.

\$39.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0330-9

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9177-1

A Latin Lover in Ancient Rome

Readings in Propertius and His Genre

W. R. Johnson

Over the centuries, Latin love elegy has inspired love poetry in the West from Petrarch to Pound. A *Latin Lover in Ancient Rome: Readings in Propertius and His Genre* offers a critical reevaluation of the Latin elegiac poet Propertius, situating him within the social and political milieu of first-century BCE Rome. W. R. Johnson's study is centered on close readings of the poems in Propertius' four books that emphasize both his celebration of erotic freedom as a manifestation of the sovereignty of the individual and his insistence on the value of this freedom, especially when it is threatened by autocratic ideology. Many recent titles on Propertius have tended to minimize or ignore this aspect of the poet's work, concentrating instead on neo-formalism or Lacanian psychology. Johnson restores Propertius' erotic creed and his politics to the core of his poetics and his career. He offers a vivid picture of the socio-political and erotic world of the late Roman Republic and the early years of the Empire which hatched Latin love elegy and allowed it to flourish. This study aims to redirect attention to the pleasures and energies Propertius provides that later generations of poets and readers discovered in and through him.

W. R. Johnson is John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature Emeritus, University of Chicago.

February 2009 176 pp.

\$29.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0399-6

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9179-5

The National PTA, Race, and Civic Engagement, 1897–1970

Christine Woyschner

In *The National PTA, Race, and Civic Engagement, 1897–1970*, Christine Woyschner examines the PTA in relation to its racial politics and as a venue for women's civic participation in educational issues. Her argument is that the PTA allowed for discussions about race and desegregation when few other public spaces, even the schools, did so during this time. The PTA, the largest voluntary educational association in the twentieth century, has over the course of one hundred years lobbied for national legislation on behalf of children and families, played a role in shaping the school curriculum, and allowed for participation of diverse community members in dialogue about the goals of public schooling.

Christine Woyschner is an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology in Education at Temple University.

February 2009 344 pp.

\$52.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0755-0

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9190-0

Unexceptional Women

Female Proprietors in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Albany, New York, 1830–1885

Susan Ingalls Lewis

Unexceptional Women: Female Proprietors in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Albany, New York, 1830–1885 challenges our conceptions about mid-nineteenth-century American women, business, and labor, offering a detailed study of female proprietors in one industrializing American city. Analyzing the careers of more than two thousand women who owned or operated businesses between 1830 and 1885, Susan Ingalls Lewis argues that business provided a common, important, and varied occupation for nineteenth-century working women. Based on meticulous research in city directories, census records, and credit reports, this study provides both a demographic portrait of Albany's female proprietors and an examination of the size, scope, longevity, financing, and creditworthiness of their ventures.

Although the growing city did produce several remarkable businesswomen in trades as diverse as hotel management, plumbing, and the marketing of pianos on the installment plan, Albany's female proprietors were most often self-employed artisans, shopkeepers, petty manufacturers, and service providers. These women used business as a method of self-employment and survival.

Susan Ingalls Lewis is associate professor of history, SUNY at New Paltz.

February 2009 240 pp.

\$44.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0398-9

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9178-8

Historical Perspectives on Business Enterprise, Mansel G. Blackford and K. Austin Kerr, Series Editors

A Body of Individuals

The Paradox of Community in Contemporary Fiction

Sue-Im Lee

A Body of Individuals: The Paradox of Community in Contemporary Fiction examines the conflict over the collective "we" through discourses of community. In the discourse of benevolent community, community is a tool towards achieving healing, productivity, and connection. In the discourse of dissenting community, community that serves a function is simply another name for totalitarianism; instead, community must merely be a fact of coexistence. What are the sources and the appeal of these irreconcilable views of community, and how do they interact in contemporary fiction's attempt at imagining "we"?

By engaging contemporary U.S. writers such as Toni Morrison, Richard Powers, Karen Tei Yamashita, Lydia Davis, Lynne Tillman, and David Markson with theorists such as Jean-Luc Nancy, Giorgio Agamben, François Lyotard, Ernesto Laclau, Louis Althusser, Roland Barthes, and Ludwig Wittgenstein, this book reveals how the two conflicting discourses of community—benevolent and dissenting—are inextricably intertwined in various literary visions of "we"—"we" of the family, of the world, of the human, and of coexistence.

Sue-Im Lee is assistant professor of English at Temple University.

March 2009 232 pp.

\$44.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0407-8

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9181-8

Contemporary African American Fiction

New Critical Essays

Edited by Dana A. Williams

In *Contemporary African American Fiction: New Critical Essays*, edited by Dana A. Williams, eight contributors examine trends and ideas which characterize African American fiction since 1970. They investigate many of the key inquiries which inform discussions about the condition of contemporary African American fiction. The range of queries is wide and varied. How does African American fiction represent the changing times in America and the world? How are these changes reflected in narrative strategies or in narrative content? How do contemporary fictionists engage diasporic Africanisms, or how do they renegotiate Americanism? What is the impact of cultural production, gender, sexuality, nationality, and ethnicity on this fiction? How does contemporary African American fiction reconstruct or rewrite earlier "classic" African American, American, or world literature? Authors under study include Ernest J. Gaines, Ishmael Reed, Edwidge Danticat, Octavia E. Butler, Olympia Vernon, Toni Morrison, and Reginald McKnight, among others.

Dana A. Williams is associate professor of African American literature at Howard University.

March 2009 208 pp.

\$42.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0576-1

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9183-2

The Business of Reflection

Hawthorne in His Notebooks

Edited by Robert Milder and Randall Fuller

The Business of Reflection: Hawthorne in His Notebooks is a scholarly, annotated selection of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *American Notebooks*, *English Notebooks*, and *French and Italian Notebooks* culled from the authoritative *Centenary Edition of the Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne* (The Ohio State University Press, 23 volumes) and intended both for students and teachers of American literature and for general readers.

The American Notebooks (1835–53) cover the period of most of Hawthorne's published writing and are crucial background for the genesis of his fiction, for his psychological and vocational development, for his marriage to Sophia Peabody, and for his relationships with contemporaries such as Emerson, Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller. *The English Notebooks* (1853–60) record his experiences and impressions during his residence in England, among them his incisive and influential sketch of Herman Melville. *The French and Italian Notebooks* (1858–59) are a sourcebook for Hawthorne's last published romance, *The Marble Faun* and, as Henry James observed, for his deeply ambivalent response to the aesthetic and historical legacy of European civilization.

Robert Milder is professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis. Randall Fuller is associate professor of English at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri.

March 2009 352 pp.
\$29.95 paper 978-0-8142-5170-6
\$98.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0476-4
\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9185-6

Renaissance Postscripts

Responding to Ovid's *Heroides* in Sixteenth-Century France

Paul White

Renaissance Postscripts: Responding to Ovid's Heroides in Sixteenth-Century France by Paul White offers an account of the wide variety of responses to the *Heroides* within the realm of humanist education, in the works of both Latin commentators and French translators, and as an example of a particular mode of imitation. The author examines how humanists shaped the discourse of Ovid's heroines and heroes to pedagogical ends and analyses even the woodcuts that illustrated various editions. This study traces comparative readings of French translations through a period noted for important shifts in attitudes to the text and to poetic translation in general and offers an important history of the "reply epistle"—a mode of imitation attempted both in Latin and the vernacular. *Renaissance Postscripts* shows that while the *Heroides* was a versatile text that could serve a wide range of pedagogical and literary purposes, it was also a text that resisted the attempts of its interpreters to have the final word.

Paul White is British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of French, University of Cambridge.

April 2009 320 pp.
\$49.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0744-4
\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9191-7
Text and Context, Frank Coulson, Series Editor

Uncommon Women

Gender and Representation in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Women's Writing

Laura Laffrado

Uncommon Women discusses provocative, highly readable, nineteenth-century American texts that complicate notions of self-writing and female agency. This feminist study considers the generic forms, language, and illustrations of a group of complex and often daring texts, including Sarah Kemble Knight's unconventional travel *Journal* (1825); Fanny Fern's controversial newspaper essays (1851–72); Civil War nurse Louisa May Alcott's *Hospital Sketches* (1863); and cross-dressed soldier's S. Emma E. Edmonds's *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army* (1865), along with later women's war reminiscences. The study concludes with a fresh reading of neglected aspects of Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861), the primary Black female autobiographical text of the century, which fundamentally displays what whiteness enabled.

Laura Laffrado is professor of English at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

April 2009 216 pp.
\$39.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0618-8
9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9186-3

The Roman Salute

Cinema, History, Ideology

Martin M. Winkler

The raised-arm salute was the most popular symbol of Fascism, Nazism, and related political ideologies in the twentieth century and is said to have derived from an ancient Roman custom. Although modern historians and others employ it as a matter of course, the term "Roman salute" is a misnomer. The true origins of this salute can be traced back to the popular culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that dealt with ancient Rome: historical plays and films.

The Roman Salute: Cinema, History, Ideology presents extensive evidence for the modern origin of the raised-arm salute from well before the birth of Fascism and traces its varieties and its dissemination. The continuing presence of certain aspects of Fascism makes an examination of all its facets desirable, especially when the true origins of a symbol as potent as the salute and the history of its dissemination are barely known to classicists and historians of ancient Rome on the one hand, and to scholars of modern European history, on the other. Thus this book will appeal to classicists and historians, including film historians, and will be of interest to readers beyond the academy.

Martin M. Winkler is professor of classics at George Mason University.

April 2009 272 pp.

\$54.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0864-9

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9194-8

Where the World Is Not

Cultural Authority and Democratic Desire in Modern American Literature

Kim Savelson

In *Where the World Is Not: Cultural Authority and Democratic Desire in Modern American Literature*, Kim Savelson examines the ways in which resoundingly popular U.S. novels by Frank Norris, Willa Cather, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ralph Ellison host the tug-of-war between thought and action, between the democratic agenda of the pragmatist movement and the aristocratic idea of aesthetics. Savelson argues for and reads these novels as a way of thinking through the implications for the meaning and making of "culture" brought about by the ongoing social revolution of democratic modernity. She thus expands the scope of the current work being done on pragmatism, as well as the work being done on literature and democracy, carving out an intersection of these two fields.

Savelson demonstrates that the questions under her consideration appeared at different key moments over the course of the first half of the twentieth century, embodying and deepening the struggle between the abstract and the practical, the cultural and the commercial—a struggle that turned into a dilemma and a period of growth for modern democratic desire. In so doing, she offers a historical recontextualization of selected literary texts, analyzing them as a way of thinking about intellectual history with subtlety and particularity.

Kim Savelson teaches at Stanford University in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric.

May 2009 248 pp.

\$44.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0746-8

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9189-4

Distancing English

A Chapter in the History of the Inexpressible

Page Richards

How did fears of cultural inadequacy play out in the English language after American independence and the War of 1812? Like many of his nineteenth-century contemporaries, essayist Walter Channing suggests that the country's perceived deficiency in literature is due to a crucial overlap with England, that is, having "the same language with a nation, totally unlike it in almost every relation." In *Distancing English*, Page Richards shows how these concerns of language are historically interwoven with the inexpressible.

Often overlooked, the topos of the inexpressible redirects the ventriloquism of the English language. From its beginning, this topos combines the hyperbole of high expectations with the failure of inadequate words. In Charles Brockden Brown or George Tucker, it can register deficiency of "character" on and off the page, establishing important strategies of decenteredness also associated with modernism.

Page Richards is associate professor of English at The University of Hong Kong.

May 2009 208 pp.

\$35.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0741-3

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9187-0

Qualified Hope

A Postmodern Politics of Time

Mitchum Huehls

In *Qualified Hope: A Postmodern Politics of Time*, Mitchum Huehls contends that conventional treatments of time's relationship to politics are limited by a focus on real-world experiences of time. By contrast, the innovative literary forms developed by authors in direct response to political events such as the Cold War, globalization, the emergence of identity politics, and 9/11 offer readers uniquely literary experiences of time. And it is in these literary experiences of time that *Qualified Hope* identifies more complicated—and thus more productive—ways to think about the time-politics relationship.

Qualified Hope challenges the conventional characterization of postmodernism as a period in which authors reject time in favor of space as the primary category for organizing experience and knowledge. And by identifying a common commitment to time at the heart of postmodern literature, Huehls suggests that the period-defining divide between multiculturalism and theory is not as stark as previously thought.

Mitchum Huehls is visiting assistant professor of English at UCLA.

May 2009 264 pp.

\$44.95 cloth 978-0-8142-0617-1

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9184-9

The Departure Lounge

Paul Eggers

What happens when people land on unfamiliar moral and cultural turf? The five stories in Paul Eggers' *The Departure Lounge* examine that question, focusing on characters in either voluntary or involuntary exile—men and women forced to confront their deepest emotions and beliefs, removed from familiar, comforting surroundings.

In one story an academic flees his family, arriving in Africa only to find that his African host is dealing with a similar crisis. In another, an American chess hustler in Africa is forced come to terms with his own sense of right and wrong. In yet another, an old Vietnamese man now living in California finds that his relationship with his now-dead daughter was not what he had assumed. In the story "Hey," a young chess star confronts the death of his brother in the Vietnam War. And in the final story, an aging American couple—former UN relief workers—return to their refugee-camp worksite in Malaysia, discovering what they had forgotten about themselves.

In lyrical, tough-minded prose, Eggers' stories illuminate in unexpected ways the profundity of cross-cultural experiences, as well as deliver fresh insights into the complexity of identity.

Paul Eggers is associate professor of English at California State University, Chico.

June 2009 160 pp.

\$24.95 paper 978-0-8142-5195-9

\$9.95 CD 978-0-8142-9195-5

The Ohio State University Prize in Short Fiction

Rimbaud

The Cost of Genius

Neal Oxenhandler

Rimbaud: The Cost of Genius analyzes twenty-one major poems, showing the poet's development during the ten years (1869–1879), when he was actively writing. It offers new solutions to the "joke" or "trick" poems, such as "H" and "Conte." It also deals with the poet's confinement in the Babylone barracks during the Commune, envisioned in the enigmatic poem, "Le Coeur du pitre." In the last chapter, Neal Oxenhandler studies how sublimation is achieved in "Une Saison en enfer" through the rhetorical trope of chiasmus.

The book concludes with a personal "Appendix" that seeks to penetrate the mystery surrounding Rimbaud's death in the Conception Hospital in Marseilles on November 10, 1891, at the age of thirty-seven.

Neal Oxenhandler is Edward Tuck Professor of French and Comparative Literature Emeritus at Dartmouth College.

June 2009 232 pp.

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