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Unexpected Pleasures
Parody, Queerness, & Genre in 20th-century British Fiction
by Lauryl Tucker

In eighteenth-century England, “variety” became a prized aesthetic. *Unexpected Pleasures* explores the connection between genre parody and queerness in twentieth-century British fiction. Teasing out the parodic sensibility of writers including Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bowen, Sam Selvon, Dorothy Sayers, Stella Gibbons, and Zadie Smith, Tucker offers an innovative reading of works that seem to obey excessively the rules of genre. By oversupplying the pleasurable sense of knowledge and the illusion of predictive power that genre confers, these works play with readerly expectation in order to expose and queer a broader set of assumptions about desire, resolution, and futurity. Gathering a surprising group of writers together, it reveals new through-lines between middlebrow and highbrow, and among modernist, mid-century, and contemporary literature.
Because gramophonic technology grew up alongside Ireland’s progressively more outspoken and violent struggles for political autonomy and national stability, Irish modernism inherently links the gramophone to representations of these dramatic cultural upheavals. Many key works of Irish literary modernism—like those by James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, and Sean O’Casey—depend upon the gramophone for their ability to record Irish cultural traumas both symbolically and literally during one of the country’s most fraught eras. In each work the gramophone testifies of its own complexity as a physical object and its multiform value in the artistic development of textual material. Cammack examines the gramophone as an object that refuses to remain in the background of scenes in which it appears, forcing us to confront its mnemonic heritage during a period of Irish history burdened with political and cultural turbulence.
Freedom Beyond Confinement

Travel and Imagination in African-American Cultural History and Letters

by Michael Ra-shon Hall

Freedom Beyond Confinement uses the paradox of freedom and confinement to examine the cultural history of African-American travel and the lasting influence of travel on the literary imagination. Analyzing a range of sources from the Black press and periodicals to literary fiction and nonfiction, Hall charts the development of critical representation of travel from post Reconstruction (ca. 1877) to the present. Travel experiences (often challenging and vexed) provided the raw data with which writers produced meaningful images and ideas as they learned to navigate, negotiate, and even challenge racialized and gendered impediments to their mobility. In their writings African Americans worked to realize a vision and state of freedom informed by those often difficult experiences of mobility.
American Modern(ist) Epic

Novels to Refound a Nation

by Adam Nemmers

American Modern(ist) Epic argues that during the 1920s and ’30s a cadre of minority novelists revitalized the classic epic form in an effort to recast the United States according to modern, diverse, and pluralistic grounds. Rather than adhere to the reification of static culture (as did ancient verse epic), in their prose epics Gertrude Stein and John Dos Passos utilized recursion, bricolage, and polyphony to represent the multifarious immediacy and movement of the modern world. Meanwhile, H. T. Tsiang and Richard Wright created absurd and insipid anti-heroes for their epics, contesting the hegemony of Anglo and capitalist dominance in the United States. Nemmers demonstrates how modernist epic novels attempted to undermine and revise the foundational ideology of the United States, contesting notions of individualism, progress, and racial hegemony while modernizing the epic form.
Locating Milton
*Places and Perspectives*

edited by Thomas Festa and David Ainsworth

*Locating Milton: Places and Perspectives* examines Milton’s works as the product of his unique intellectual experiences at home and abroad, while also tracing the ways in which those works themselves express the influence of his travel, his reading, and his political engagement. The first section examines how Milton locates himself through his travels in Italy, how his early reading leads him to situate himself intellectually, and how the intellectual framework he generated remains pertinent. The second section examines the impact of early modern mathematical and scientific models on Milton’s cosmology, demonstrating how Milton’s complex negotiations of such models give form and perspective to his greatest works. The final section locates Milton distinctly through his global reception, ranging from his place in the “new world” to his presence as a figure inspiring political resistance.

256 pages
November 2021
In August 1969, a dairy farm in New York state hosted a pivotal moment in the history of pop music. Taking place only two years after the “Summer of Love” and one year after the tumultuous events of 1968, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair put an exclamation point on the transformational decade of the 1960s. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, Berklee College of Music hosted a week-long celebration that included conversations with luminaries from the era. Participants included Woodstock co-founder, Michael Lang; emcee, stage, and lighting designer, Chip Monck; audio engineer, Bill Hanley; photographers Henry Diltz and Elliott Landy; public relations officer, Rona Elliot; and Gerardo Velez, drummer for Jimi Hendrix. Woodstock Then and Now commemorates the discussion between these Woodstock luminaries, making available the transcripts of this historic event.
Bandit/Queen
The Runaway Story of Belle Starr
by Margot Douaihy with illustrations by Bri Hermanson

Bandit/Queen explores the figure of Belle Starr, a notorious Wild West outlaw, and how newspaper coverage shaped her public image, through the medium of documentary poetry. As the media elevated Starr from a lawbreaker to a compelling anti-hero, her criminality became more alluring and elaborate. Narrative and experimental poems thread themes of identity, perception, rule-breaking, and (in)authenticity. Bri Hermanson’s scratchboard illustrations draw inspiration from the newspaper and media coverage of Starr’s exploits and the visual symbols associated with the legendary bandit. The artwork incorporates maps of her possible hideouts and relief prints of ephemera and wild plants from areas where Starr was active. Many of Hermanson’s inky illustrations experiment in interpretation, letting the viewer “read” images according to their own partiality and occlusions.

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