Call for Papers

Submissions due January 15, 2010

For this special issue, Papers is interested in articles that theorise colonial discourses and postcolonial narrative strategies while paying attention either to children’s texts written during the colonial period, or to contemporary literature addressing the colonial past. Authors are invited to select topics, genres, and approaches including the examination of: gender representations, empire/nation building, Indigenous cultures, class critique, instructional texts, domesticity and family issues, morality tales, school stories, adventure stories or robinsonades, fantasy, poetry and verse, texts which have given rise to debates within the field, comparisons between contemporary and colonial texts, canonicity and notions of heritage, and questions relating to the publishing and marketing of colonial texts.

Essays should be limited to 5000-7000 words, including all quotations and bibliographical references, and should follow the ‘Author Guidelines’ on this website for internal citation and works cited.

Although essays need not be restricted to Australian literature, this call for papers coincides with the launch of Stage 1 of the AustLit Children’s Literature Digital Resources Project (austlit.edu.au). This database contains some 200 primary texts spanning settlement to 1945 and associated critical works. These texts and articles are fully searchable full text items and may also be downloaded for personal use. Many of the primary texts are colonial, and all resources are available from the database AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource, which is available through most Australian university libraries. Contact Amy Cross (amy.cross@qut.edu.au) for guest access to AustLit if needed.