

ABSTRACTS OF ENGLISH STUDIES

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ABSTRACTS OF ENGLISH STUDIES was founded in 1958 by members of the University of Colorado Department of English. The editorial offices are now at THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, ALBERTA. AES appears four times a year (the fourth number includes the Annual Index). At present approximately 500 journals and numerous monographs are screened for material dealing with American and English literature, world literature in English and related languages, and English language. These articles are abstracted by volunteer contributors and field editors.

AES abstracts are designed to indicate the content of the article or monograph as concisely as possible and without editorial bias. The abstracts state the thesis, express the method of development, and point to the major implications. Any subject mentioned in the abstract is covered significantly in the article. The abstract is intended as a quick guide to the basic utility of the article or monograph and should not be considered a substitute for the original.

Reference to the source of the article or monograph immediately follows the title, the journal or monograph title being abbreviated. A key to the abbreviations in all current issues immediately precedes the abstracts.

AES provides quarterly and annual indices, which are keyed to item number, not page number. The index contains, in a single alphabetical listing, two major types of entries: (1) names of people referred to significantly and (2) subjects treated. Generally the subject categories are used when the article is concerned with concepts, theories, themes, etc.

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Helix

Ezra Pound in Australia

It was Pound himself who coined the phrase 'The Melbourne Vortex' in referring to a small group of enthusiasts who in the 1950s set themselves to further the cause of his poetry and ideas in this country. At the same time they began campaigning for his release from St. Elizabeths in Washington – the criminal asylum to which he had been committed without trial.

Pound primed his disciples with a steady flow of advice, news and manuscripts, all of which they put to maximum use. They laid down a Poundian barrage against the journals *Meanjin* and *Twentieth Century*, infiltrated the Melbourne paper *New Times*, and produced eight issues of an independent magazine, *Edge*.

Late in 1955 *Meanjin* became the first journal to print Pound's canto 90, a step which did not impress the poetry reviewer for *The Age*, who thought he had found "four pages of polyglot nonsense by a poet whom the gods destroyed before they made him mad". For his pains the reviewer received a phone call at home from one of the Pound mafiosi, asking him what he meant, what he knew, and whether he'd care to go a round of epigrams at dawn.

In this special issue of *Helix* the Vortex is given a new turn with a memoir from Noel Stock and a selection of correspondence written by some of the participants. There is an essay on the political and financial pressures to which *Meanjin* was subject at this period (its editor was hauled before the Petrov Commission in 1955, and its Literature Fund backing was attacked by the Victorian League of Rights); and there is a description of Australian attitudes towards modernism in the snoozy fifties. (Did A.D. Hope, for instance – that arch-enemy of the modern – actually know the difference between Harriet Monroe and Marianne Moore? Could he spell Ms. Moore's name?)

Pound is also considered in the wider context. Various biographical controversies are scrutinised, such as the question of whether Pound was clinically insane, or whether he was incarcerated merely for having the face to broadcast for Mussolini. The psychiatric records – here tabled for the first time – suggest that in fact Pound's doctors used 'insanity' to protect him from due process. Jerome Kavka, formerly one of the St. Elizabeths staff, gives his view of what happened. There is a transcript of Pound's interrogation at Genoa (following his arrest by the U.S. Army in 1945); and copies of just released documents from FBI files which help to determine the Administration attitude towards Pound's alleged treason. Tim Redman translates passages from *Orientalamenti* and Pound's Italian journalism. James Laughlin introduces a selection of letters from Pound and Carlos Williams, and Wallace Martin reconstructs a key exchange between Pound and F.S. Flint, contesting the origins of Imagism. Thaddeus Pound, the poet's grandfather, is reincarnated from family documents by Mary de Rachewiltz. And a range of scholars and critics address themselves to various aspects of Pound's texts. Finally, there is a review article devoted to half a dozen new books on Pound, and a comprehensive bibliography of Pound criticism since 1975.

All this, with photographs, facsimiles, and drawings by Sidney Nolan, is on sale for A\$7.50. Order through your bookstore, or direct from the Editors, *Helix*, 119 Maltravers Road, Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079.



The Review of Contemporary Fiction

GILBERT SORRENTINO NUMBER (Vol. I, No. 1, 1981) Interview with Sorrentino, and selections from his work-in-progress and recent criticism. Essays by Robert Creeley, Toby Olson, Leon Roudiez, Gerald Bruns, Hubert Selby, Donald Greiner, Coleman Dowell, Nicholas Mosley, and several others. Plus book reviews and Richard Sheldon's translation of Shklovsky's "The Parody Novel: Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*."

PAUL METCALF/HUBERT SELBY, JR. NUMBER (Vol. I, No. 2, 1981) Interviews with Metcalf and Selby. Essays by Metcalf, George Butterick, Richard Grossinger, Gilbert Sorrentino, Theodore Enslin, Don Byrd, Michael Stephens, Eric Mottram, Charles DeFanti, and several others. Book reviews and Richard Sheldon's translation of Shklovsky's "Potebnya."

WALLACE MARKFIELD/DOUGLAS WOOLF NUMBER (Vol. II, No. 1, 1982) Interview with Markfield. Essays by Robert Creeley, Donald Phelps, Melvin J. Friedman, Sanford Pinsker, Edward Dorn, George Bowering, Keith Abbott, Eric Mottram, and several others. Book reviews and Richard Sheldon's translation of Shklovsky's "Ornamental Prose: Andrei Bely."

WILLIAM GADDIS/NICHOLAS MOSLEY NUMBER (Vol. II, No. 2, 1982) Interviews with Gaddis and Mosley. Essays by Nicholas Mosley, Joel Dana Black, Carl D. Malmgren, Steven Weisenburger, Kathleen Lathrop, Michael Boccia, John Banks, Stephen-Paul Martin, Francis Booth, Tom Sawyer, and several others. Book reviews and Richard Sheldon's translation of Shklovsky's "Toward a Theory of the Comic."

PAUL BOWLES/COLEMAN DOWELL NUMBER (Vol. II, No. 3, 1982) Interview with Coleman Dowell, plus recent criticism and selection from work-in-progress. Essays by Gilbert Sorrentino, Thom Gunn, Edmund White, Stephen Emerson, Balcomb Greene, Eric Mottram, Irving Malin, John & Linda Kuehl, Jack Collins, Paul Metcalf, Stephen-Paul Martin, Wendy Lesser, Miriam Fuchs, Tim Hunt, and several others.

FUTURE ISSUES devoted to **JACK KEROUAC — ROBERT PINGET — WILLIAM BURROUGHS — ITALO CALVINO — JOHN HAWKES — PAUL GOODMAN — JUAN GOYTISOLO — WILLIAM EASTLAKE — B.S. JOHNSON — AIDAN HIGGINS — CLAUDE SIMON — CAMILO JOSÉ CELA — JEAN RHYNS — ISHMAEL REED — JULIO CORTÁZAR.**

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Issues of Language

A special number on issues of language is planned for 1984. Submissions on such topics as the role of the vernacular in literatures in English or their relation to those in other languages in multi-language cultures are invited, as are practical textual or intertextual studies and theoretical studies of the function of language in text. Poetry will be selected with particular emphasis on its extension of the resources of poetic language. The number will be co-edited by Pamela McCallum and submissions should reach the editors by May 31st, 1984.