

## *Editorial: Psychoanalytic readings of literature*

Popular culture has mythologized Sigmund Freud as the dirty-minded doctor preoccupied with the symbolism of cigars and caves and with the decidedly unromantic dimension of the Family Romance. And admittedly, even in literary studies, too often psychological readings are equally superficial: they involve the easy pasting of Freudian theory on to all of the text's phallic symbols and mother-son relationships. Any C student can do this.

Far more difficult is the task of understanding how fiction and myth reflect and amplify the psychology of a culture. This issue of *CCL* is dedicated to this task. We begin with Mitchell and Reid-Walsh's ground-breaking article "Mapping this dark country," which scrutinizes patterns of identity development in Young Adult Literature and finds some revealing patterns: asexual females; Oedipal males; the "shoot-out" resolution in male novels of becoming, to name a few. The authors use opposing theories of development (Otto Rank's and Carol Gilligan's) and note the gender differences that both the theories and the novels illuminate.

Victor Tremblay also takes as his subject the psychological and emotional development of children in his article "Who Bewitched the Witch?"; but there he offers a broader psycho-historical reading of one cultural construct of female identity: the witch. Untangling the origins of this ubiquitous figure (have you seen her hanging in kitchens lately?) and exploring the psychological reasons for her existence, her dress, her power, her looks, Tremblay, like Mitchell and Reid-Walsh, asks us to consider the psychological power of our cultural fictions.

This issue also introduces a new space devoted to powerful purveyors of fiction in our (dare we say, post-literate?) culture: film, video and television. We are very pleased to have Gerald Rubio launch this new review section with his engaging critiques of the latest Shakespeare videos.

Marie C. Davis

### ***SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*** ***Governor General's Award for François Paré***

We are delighted to announce that our respected colleague, François Paré, a former editor of *CCL*, has won this year's Governor General's Award for French non-fiction for his book *Les Littératures de l'exiguïté* (Nordir). François continues to contribute to our journal (he writes the French mini-reviews with unusual succinctness and energy). We are enormously proud of his achievement and feel honoured by his continued involvement with our journal.