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Newfoundland and Labrador Studies is a bi-annual inter-disciplinary journal devoted to publishing original essays in either English or French about the society and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador, past and present. The editorial goal is to publish essays which are likely to be of general as well as scholarly interest.

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Contributors

CHRISTOPHER J. ARMSTRONG teaches in the Dept. of British and American Cultural Studies at Chukyo University, Nagoya, Japan. His research interests include literary regionalism, modernism, and contemporary Atlantic Canadian literature.

ADAM BEARDSWORTH is Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Fine Arts, and Music at Algoma University. His research interests include contemporary poetry and poetics and he is currently exploring topographies of pain and the socialization of sentience in midcentury American poetry and culture.

SONJA BOON joined the Department of Women's Studies, Memorial University, shortly after completing her PhD at Simon Fraser University. She has broad research interests in auto/biography (particularly epistolarity), women's writing, corporeal feminist theory and the reproductive body. Her work appears in journals such as *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and *Limina*. Her monograph, *The Life of Madame Necker: Sin, Redemption and the Parisian Salon* will be published in March 2011.

ADRIAN FOWLER is Honorary Research Professor in English at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University in Corner Brook.

ADAM LAWRENCE has successfully defended his dissertation at Memorial and is currently teaching at Saint Mary's University in Halifax.

CYNTHIA SUGARS is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Ottawa where she teaches Canadian literature. She is the author of numerous essays on Canadian literature and Atlantic-Canadian fiction. She has edited three collections of essays on Canadian literature and theory: *Unhomely States: Theorizing English-Canadian Postcolonialism* (Broadview, 2004), *Home-Work: Postcolonialism, Pedagogy, and Canadian Literature* (U of Ottawa Press, 2004), and *Unsettled Remains: Canadian Literature and the Postcolonial Gothic* (Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2009). Recently, she has co-edited a new two-volume historical anthology of Canadian literature with Laura Moss, entitled *Canadian Literature: Texts and Contexts*, published by Pearson/Penguin in 2009.

HERB WYILE is Professor of English at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He is the author of *Speculative Fictions: English-Canadian Novelists and the Writing of History* (2002) and *Speaking in the Past Tense: Canadian Novelists on Writing Historical Fiction* (2007), and co-editor of the special journal issue *Surf's Up! The Rising Tide of Atlantic-Canadian Literature* (2008). <http://english.acadiau.ca/waterfrontviews/>

EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS YEAR MARKS the 25th anniversary of the first issue of *Newfoundland Studies*. That is no small accomplishment; many academic enterprises have had shorter life spans. Its success reflects the hard work of many of those who over the years have contributed to *Newfoundland and Labrador Studies*, as it was renamed in 2005. Particularly striking is the fact that this issue is devoted to the contemporary literature of Newfoundland and Labrador and contains essays from a young generation of scholars who are not affiliated with Memorial and who teach at universities across Canada; and in one case, in Japan. Such a thing would not have seemed possible in 1985, since then there were so few authors of fiction and poetry in the province and even fewer people studying Newfoundland literature. Today it would have been possible to have another half dozen articles by other critics engaging in analysis of a whole set of worthy authors that are not included here. That fact that so many scholars at other universities contributed to this issue reflects both the place of respect that *NLS* has earned, and more significantly, it is testament to the recent fluorescence of Newfoundland and Labrador literature which has earned national and in some cases international critical attention. I thank Paul Chafe, a scholar of Newfoundland literature currently working at Ryerson University, for conceiving of this issue, soliciting the contributions and aiding in the selection of peer reviewers.

At its beginning, the journal almost exclusively published people affiliated with Memorial and the first issue had a historical bent — which was not surprising given the commitment to Newfoundland scholarship of those at the university and the sense that Newfoundland's culture was endangered and needed to be rescued. Volume One, Number One contained essays by many faculty at Memorial and one graduate of Memorial who remained very much a member of the local scholarly community. Increasingly over the years, authors at other universities have published in these pages and both residents of the province and those living elsewhere have engaged in a dialogue about the contemporary state of Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the last quarter century *NLS* has published some of the best scholarship and counts among its contributors nearly every significant author working on the culture, history, and society of this place. Given the proliferation of venues for

publication they all had other opportunities, and we thank them for sending such fine work to us. During my three-year tenure as editor I have particularly enjoyed my small role in helping young academics into print for what is sometimes their first time. My own first publication was in these pages, and I remember how that essay helped establish my academic credibility while I was still a doctoral candidate.

We owe a debt to those who in the 1980s had the foresight to found a forum for communication across disciplinary boundaries. This journal's multi-disciplinary character and commitment to prose accessible to the non-specialist has been a particular strength for us, during a period when the academic norm in some fields seemed to be "if I can understand it, it must not be very good." There has not been an issue of this journal which has not contained articles of interest to social science and humanities scholars who engage with the place. During these past 25 years we have enjoyed the constant support of the Faculty of Arts of Memorial University and the Social Science and Humanities Federation of Canada. I am also grateful to the more than 50 experts across many specializations who have assessed manuscripts in the last three years. They did so without any benefit to themselves, and their sense of obligation to the community of scholars makes this journal possible. With their continued support and the new editorial team we can be confident that *NLS* will continue to foster and disseminate the best of scholarship of this place.

Jeff Webb