

## THE ROOT CELLAR ILLUSTRATED

**The Root Cellar.** Janet Lunn. Illus. Scott Cameron. Knopf Canada, 1981, 1994. 231 pp. \$24.95 cloth. ISBN 0-676-97033-8.

Teachers and librarians have noticed that the unfortunate boudoir pink colour of the “Puffin” paperback edition of *The Root Cellar* turns young male readers (as well as some females) away from this otherwise excellent book. They will be delighted that a quality hardback is now available which has not only an attractive dark green cover, but also ten beautiful colour illustrations spaced throughout the book. Scott Cameron is an award-winning illustrator who has been a finalist for the Governor General’s Award for Illustration in Children’s Literature. There are also maps which lay out the action in the novel, making it easy for students to follow the journey of the protagonist, as well as the spatial location of the American Civil War. The novel itself is already regarded as a classic Canadian historical novel, and it is taught widely, as well as read avidly by young people choosing books on their own. It is the well-researched story of the fictional Rose Larkin, an orphaned American girl, who is dumped into the large noisy family of her Canadian cousins; from her twentieth century unhappiness, she journeys back in time to the American Civil War. Janet Lunn, who herself came to Canada from the USA many years ago, has a long-time interest in historical fiction and history, and she is also author (with Christopher Moore) of *The Story of Canada* (Lester, 1992), illustrated in full-colour by Alan Daniel and with numerous historical photographs. Lunn’s many talents have also produced picture books for young people, but she writes that her first love is with historical fiction. This edition will hold up to heavy library use — and it is one children will love.

**Mary Rubio** is a founding editor of CCL, the co-editor of *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery*, and the editor of *Harvesting Thistles: The Textual Garden of L.M. Montgomery, Essays on Her Journals and Novels*.

## THERE AND BACK AGAIN: THREE TIME-TRAVEL NOVELS

**The Secret of Sentinel Rock.** Judith Silverthorne. Coteau Books, 1996. 162 pp. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 1-55050-103-8. **The Secret under the Whirlpool.** Elaine Breault Hammond. Ragweed Press, 1996. 158 pp. \$7.95 paper. ISBN 0-921556-61-6. **Thunder Ice.** Alison Acheson. Coteau Books, 1996. 143 pp. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 1-55050-105-4.

Time travel drives these three adventures. *The Secret of Sentinel Rock* tells of twelve-year-old Emily and Emma meeting on a rock in “Saskatchewan.” A 1990s Emily is anxious about her future after her grandmother’s funeral and the impending sale of the farm. An 1880s Emma has arrived from Scotland to face the prairies with curiosity and determination. In *The Secret under the Whirlpool*, a parentless Maggie and legless Marc are caught up in a “whirlpool” on the PEI coast