

## *Editorial: Shifts in the time-slip novel*

Time-slip fiction is the recurring theme in this issue of *CCL*. A child reader may slide by way of a book out of his or her own time and into a past era for one of two reasons: to gain a wider and deeper sense of the historic past, or to get away from the present and its tensions and pressures.

Early time-slip fantasies like Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill* (1906) provided English children with a sense of the rich British past; Cornelia Meigs (editor of the first major history of children's literature) carried American children through comparable time-shifts in *Rain on the roof* (1925). In Canada, John Buchan, writing *Lake of gold* (1941) while he was Governor-General, gave Canadian children a similar sense of pride: in his novel a mysterious Indian guide carries the young Canadian hero to the times of Cartier or Vancouver or Wolfe. But national pride has become universally more problematic. The time-slip novels emphasized in articles in this issue are revisionist in their substitution of a view of history very different from text-book focus on battles and discoveries and treaties.

Similarly books in which the protagonist slips into the past as a way of evading the present are changing. In stories like Philippa Pearce's *Tom's midnight garden* (1958) or Penelope Lively's *The ghost of Thomas Kempe* (1973) children hover between a troubled present and a localized and colourful past. Canadian protagonists (generally female), equally troubled, face both a past and a present beset by notably different social, familial, and regional problems.

We are also pleased to include in this issue a timely article on Sarah Ellis, a British Columbia writer who recently won the Governor-General Award for Children's Literature in English, and a detailed assessment of a handsome new production titled *The Anne of Green Gables treasury*.

Last but not least, our French section includes an article by H el ene Beauchamp which examines the recent evolution of Qu eb ecois theatre for children, its new themes and most promising authors.