

Editorial: Romance revisited

When *CCL* put out a call for papers on Canadian women writers for children, they came in clusters – several on Nellie McClung, several on Catharine Parr Traill, and many, predictably, on L.M. Montgomery. Our first installment of these papers appeared in *CCL*# 62; we reserved the Montgomery studies for the present issue. The thrust of these Montgomery papers is feminist: all emphasize the anti-patriarchal sub-texts embedded in the apparently conventional work of this very popular author, so long subject to dismissal or to patronizing criticism by the literary pundits of the press and the colleges.

One article collates Montgomery's rebellious subtexts with the contemporary feminism of such writers as Virginia Woolf; another explicates the ambiguous revelation of forces ranged against female artistry in the *Emily* series; a third offers a revisionist interpretation of *Anne of Green Gables*. A fourth article traces intertextual echoes of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Anne. Our cover picture, of a lady dressed to the nines and living high off the hog complements a general focus in this issue on puns and subtexts. Finally, an essay on the language of diaries kept by young women in the late 19th century, adds a linguistic stratum to the current discussions of the way women, trained to a life of deference and domesticity, have handled the complex weapon of language.

The effect of L.M. Montgomery on all subsequent discourses of empowerment, aesthetic, linguistic, political and social, will be recognized this spring, in two sessions of the Annual conference of Learned Societies. Organizers report that 26 papers were submitted in response to the announcement of the Montgomery sessions – further indication of the groundswell of interest to which this issue of *CCL* attests.

With this issue a major change takes place in the *CCL* establishment. François Paré, who has made this journal a unique example of dedication to an ideal of bilingualism, in content and presentation, has accepted responsibility for editing another scholarly journal, *Renaissance and Reformation*. We are very pleased that Daniel Chouinard, like Professor Paré a member of the French Department at the University of Guelph, has agreed to join our editorial group. Professor Chouinard has published many articles on French literature of the 17th century and on Québec literature.