

Southwestern American Literature

Volume 36

Number 3

Summer 2011

SOUTHWESTERN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Volume 36
Number 3
Summer 2011

Editors

Mark Busby
Dick Heaberlin

Guest Editor

Rick Wallach

Senior Editor

Twister Marquiss

Editorial Associate

Linda Busby

Editorial Assistant / Business Manager

Tammy Gonzales

Student Assistants

Jamie Alas
Lorenzo Almanza

CONTENTS

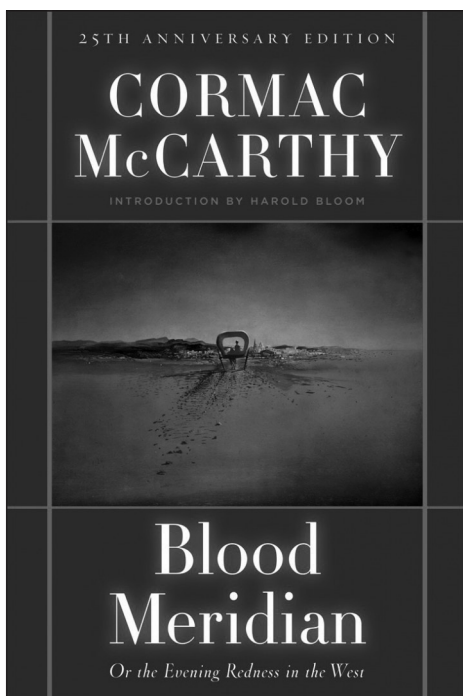


Summer 2011

Guest Editor's Note	
Rick Wallach	5 Twenty-Five Years of <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Nonfiction	
Alex Engebretson	9 Neither In Nor Out: The Liminal Spaces of <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Liana Vrajitoru Andreasen	19 <i>Blood Meridian</i> and the Spatial Metaphysics of the West
Christopher White	31 Reading Visions and Visionary Reading in <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Bryan Vescio	47 "On Parallax and False Guidance in Things Past": Valéry and the Uses of History in <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Ruth Miller Covington	60 The Subjection of Authority and Death through Humor in <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Josef Benson	70 An Ironic Contention: The Kid's Heroic Failure to Rebel against the Judge's Hypermasculinity in <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Mark Busby	87 Rolling the Stone, Sisyphus, and the Epilogue of <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Chris Dacus	96 Borderline Insanity: Modernity as a Political Problem in Cormac McCarthy's <i>Blood Meridian</i>
Contributors	107

Special Issue

The 25th Anniversary of Cormac McCarthy's
Blood Meridian



The editors of *Southwestern American Literature* are pleased to provide this special issue courtesy of the Cormac McCarthy Society.

Rick Wallach, original co-organizer of the Society and long-time secretary-treasurer, made these selections from essays presented on the 25th anniversary of the publication of Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*.

—Mark Busby and Dick Heaberlin, co-editors

CONTRIBUTORS



Liana Vrajitoru Andraesen | Texas

Liana Vrajitoru Andraesen is originally from Romania, and given her love of the American novel, she came to the U.S. for an M.A. (Salisbury University) and Ph.D. (SUNY Binghamton). She teaches at South Texas College, at the border with Mexico. Her essays have appeared in *The CEA Critic* and *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*.



Josef Benson | Florida

Josef Benson is a Ph.D. literature candidate at the University of South Florida. He plans on defending his dissertation, *Failed Heroes: Hypermasculinity in the Contemporary American Novel*, in spring of 2012. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Raymond Carver Review*, the *Journal of Bisexuality*, and others. He holds creative writing degrees from Missouri State University and the University of South Florida. His fiction and poetry have appeared in *Moon City Review*, *Type Magazine*, *Adirondack Review*, and *Prick of the Spindle*. He resides in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Lauren and son Lazarus.



Mark Busby | Texas

Mark Busby is director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest and the Southwest Regional Humanities Center and Jerome H. and Catherine E. Supple Professor of Southwestern Studies and professor of English at Texas State University-San Marcos. He is author of the novel *Fort Benning Blues*, *Larry McMurtry and the West: An Ambivalent Relationship*, *Ralph Ellison*, and several other books and critical studies, including an essay in *Myth, legend, dust: Critical responses to Cormac McCarthy*. His next book is *Cedar Crossing: A Novel*.



Ruth Miller Covington | Utah

Ruth Miller Covington graduated in December 2010 from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in American studies and minors in humanities and editing. She has been accepted to the comparative studies M.A. program at BYU and will begin her first year as a graduate student in the fall. She grew up in Georgia and enjoys researching Southern art, literature, and history.



Chris Dacus | Texas

Chris Dacus is an independent scholar who has previously published on McCarthy in the *Cormac McCarthy Journal*. He is currently working on a philosophic commentary on the Westerns of Robert B. Parker.



Alex Engebretson | New York

Alex Engebretson earned an M.A. in English from California State University, Fullerton and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in English at the Graduate Center, The City University of New York. He has delivered papers on Stanley Cavell, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Cormac McCarthy, and Marilynne Robinson and co-organized the first North American conference devoted to David Foster Wallace. He teaches Introduction to Literature at Hunter College and lives in New York City.



Bryan Vescio | Wisconsin

Bryan Vescio holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and is currently associate professor of English and humanistic studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he teaches American literature, critical theory, film, and interdisciplinary humanities. His work on Cormac McCarthy explores the relationships between McCarthy's fiction and other important 20th-century literary figures and movements. In addition to *Blood Meridian*, he has written on McCarthy's *Suttree*, *No Country for Old Men*, and *The Road*. His other research interests include the boundaries between literary studies and the disciplines of philosophy and film studies. His current project details a neo-pragmatist theory of literature to be titled *Informalism: Reconstructing Literary Studies*.



Rick Wallach | Florida

Rick Wallach is the editor of John Sepich's *Notes on Blood Meridian; Myth, legend, dust: Critical responses to Cormac McCarthy*; and co-editor with Wade Hall of *Sacred Violence: A Reader's Companion to Cormac McCarthy*. His current book in progress is a detailed study of the character of Judge Holden as represented by Union Army General Samuel Chamberlain and by Cormac McCarthy in his novel *Blood Meridian*. He has also written on Patrick White, Charles Brockden Brown, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, Ishmael Reed, Vassily Aksyonov, Dennis Potter, literary and film theory, and other topics in modernist and postmodernist writing. His criticism and reviews have appeared in *Antipodes*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *South Atlantic Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Southern Quarterly*, *Brilliant Corners*, *Appalachian Heritage*, and *Texas Books in Review*. From 1973 to 1975 he was seminar director for mythologist Joseph Campbell. This is his second stint as guest editor for *Southwestern American Literature*.



Christopher White | Illinois

Christopher White is assistant professor of English at Governors State University where he teaches courses in American literature and literary theory. He holds a Ph.D. in English from The Pennsylvania State University and has published on William Faulkner.