

The Literature of Small Islands

A Selected Annotated Bibliography

Created by the students of Island Studies 616, University of Prince Edward Island,
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PRIMARY WORKS

Acorn, Milton. *The Edge of Home: Milton Acorn from the Island*. Selected and Introduction by Anne Compton. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies, 2002.

This collection gathers all of Acorn's poetry that relates directly or indirectly to Prince Edward Island. Anne Compton's introductory essay, "The Ecological Poetics of Milton Acorn's Island Poems, contextualizes the poetry from the point of view of Prince Edward Island landscape and Acorn's poetics. [BML]

Brown, Stewart and John Wickham, eds. *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories*. Introduction by Stewart Brown. New York: Oxford UP, 1999.

The anthology is a generous sampling of a wide variety of writers from the region, including the islands of Jamaica, Trinidad, Dominica, Barbados, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Surinam, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Martinique, Antigua, Belize, Dominican Republic, and Grenada. The volume is arranged historically and provides a good starting place to look for literary themes regarding islandness in the short fiction of the region. [BML]

Césaire, Aimé. *Une Tempête*. Trans. *A Tempest*. 1969.

Written by a black writer and activist from Martinique, *A Tempest* reinterprets Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as an argument for a nationalist independence movement in the context of political unrest. Caliban expresses the colonial resistance to Prospero's European claim to the colony. [BML]

Conrad, Joseph. *An Outcast of the Islands*. 1896. Markham: Penguin, 1981.

Conrad's second novel, though written as a prequel to his first, "Almayer's Folly." It explores the conflict between colonizers and natives when Willems, a man with few redeeming qualities, betrays his friends and is marooned on a Malayan island. He becomes passionately involved with a beautiful native woman, eventually leading to his destruction. Conrad uses the heat and humidity of the tropical rainforest to heighten the sense of isolation and hopelessness of a man cut away from society. [NMS]

Cook, Michael. *Jacob's Wake*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1975.

The primary theme of family loyalty and obligation, often present in island literature, is strongly emphasized in this play as family members are compelled to gather and return home to pay their final respects to the dying Skipper. This play uses the importance of

family – both immediate and extended – to illustrate the foundation from which family members grow individually and together. [HG]

Darwin, Charles. “Galapagos Archipelago. in *The Voyage Of H.M.S. Beagle*. New York: The Heritage Press, 1957.

This journal is a classic in the history of scientific literature in general and the literature of small islands in particular. This chapter contains the observations made about the geology, flora, and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. They were the first evidence which would later support Darwin’s theory of evolution due to natural selection. Many other islands were also visited by the *Beagle*. Descriptions include the Cape de Verd Islands, the Falklands, Chilos, Chonos, Tahiti, New Zealand, and Mauritius. [GC]

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. 1719. London: Penguin, 2001.

This first modern English novel and early castaway narrative describes the adventures and struggles of Robinson Crusoe, an Englishman shipwrecked alone on a temperate Pacific island. Themes typical of castaway literature emerge, including the primacy of physical survival; the castaway’s close examination of self; attempts to get off the island; the contemplation of suicide; the need for a psychological “other”; and the castaway’s sense of rulership over the island. [AJ]

Duggan, Derm. *A Doryful of Newfoundland Laughs*. St. John’s: Flanker P, 2003.

Derm Duggan presents the sly wit and humour of Newfoundlanders in this hilarious collection of jokes and stories. [HG]

Enguehard, Françoise. *Tales from Dog Island, St. Pierre et Miquelon*. St. John’s: Killick Press, 2002.

This is the English translation of *Les Litanies de l’Île-aux-Chiens* by Françoise Enguehard, who was born and raised on the French islands of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and who now lives in Newfoundland. Based on a true story, the novel tells the story of 18-year-old Victor Lemetayer, who leaves the family farm in Brittany to sail on a fishing schooner bound for Newfoundland, where he fishes off the Grand Banks. He is eventually joined on tiny Dog Island, off the coast of Saint-Pierre, in 1899, by Marie-Joseph Menard — the author’s great-grandmother — where they weather the trials and tribulations of life on a small remote island in the North Atlantic, raise six children, and endure the inevitable changes in the fishing industry and their traditional way of life. Nominated for the Governor-General’s Award for English Translation by Jo-Anne Elder. [LB]

Flanagan, Richard. *Death of a River Guide*. Ringwood, Australia: Penguin Books, 1994.

Death of a River Guide tells the story of Aljaz Cosini, a river guide, who, unable to escape from where he is wedged beneath a rock, is drowning in the Franklin River. As he dies, the story of his middle-class life unfolds: his parents’ stories, his own marriage, the

tragic loss of his infant daughter. He begins having visions, and is visited by his ancestors, one of whom was his great-grandfather Ned Quade, an infamous convict who butchered and grilled up his fellow escapees, to avoid being killed and eaten himself. His memories shatter illusions of a gentile Tasmania, and repudiate the view of history with which most of the recent generations of Tasmanians had grown up. Rather, they see it for what it was: a brutal penal colony that elicited much shame in the immediate descendants of the convicts. *Death of a River Guide* is an important novel that reclaims Tasmania's past. [LB]

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. New York: Berkley, 1954.

This novel discusses many themes and the conflict between them. This seems to be the driving force of this book. Golden exemplifies these conflicts in a number of ways: good vs. evil, savagery vs. civilization, and order vs. mayhem. [WA]

Hay, Pete. *Vandemonian Essays*. North Hobart, Tasmania, Australia: Walleah Press, 2002.

This collection of essays is centred on Van Diemens Land, or the more commonly used name, Tasmania, which is an island state within Australia. Tasmania was a penal colony for much of its history and the rejection of authority has led to a unique "Green" environmental movement. Hay states that he has moved away from the highest form of literary arts, poetry, to writing essays to escape the dictates of argument.. He has done this to loosen up, to raise possibilities rather than prove theories. Afterword by Richard Flanagan.[GC]

Johnston, Wayne. *Baltimore's Mansion*. Toronto: Knopf Canada, 1999.

Baltimore's Mansion is Johnston's memoir about growing up in Newfoundland. Through the eyes of three generations of Johnston men, including Johnston himself, his father Arthur, and grandfather Charlie, the book traces the impact of the 1948 referendum on joining the Canadian Confederation on the island of Newfoundland, and on the family; particularly, how Charlie's inexplicable betrayal on referendum day led to a festering guilt that affected all their lives. The book is a lament for a loss of a country; a discussion of Newfoundlanders' pride in being "islanded" and how joining Canada affected that sense of independence; about leaving and staying, and how painful it can be when you must make the choice to do either. [LB]

Johnston, Wayne. *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*. Toronto: Knopf, 1998.

A fictionalized biography of Father of Confederation Joey Smallwood, this novel tells the story of a "small" man bent on wrapping his arms around the island of Newfoundland. [SU]

Johnston, Wayne. *The Story of Bobby O'Malley*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 1985.

The first novel of a nationally acclaimed author, this is the story of everyday life that reads as anything but everyday for a child in Newfoundland. If you ever wanted to understand the people of Newfoundland, read this novel. [SU]

Kneale, Matthew. *English Passengers*. Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2000.

This Booker Prize finalist describes the adventures of the captain and crew of a Manx sailing ship that finds itself, through a series of misadventures, on a voyage to discover the Garden of Eden. A tale of islanders travelling from their home on the Isle of Man to the island of Tasmania, the novel is full of insights into “islands,” “islanders,” and “islandness.” [SU]

Lamming, George. *In the Castle of my Skin*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1954

This is an autobiographical novel of the author, who moved from the West Indies to London, and his attempts to integrate in into a British society that was completely alien to him.(MM)

Ledwell, Frank. *The North Shore of Home*. Halifax: Nimbus, 1986.

With the goal of preserving the rural society and culture of Prince Edward Island in writing, local author Frank Ledwell uses poems and personal recollections to paint a picture of life in St. Peter's Bay between 1930 and 1950. [AJ]

Ledwell, Jane. *Last Tomato*. Charlottetown: Acorn Press. 2005

This is a collection of poetry by a local PEI author. It is a romantic vision of elements visible on the island, whilst exploring the landscape, the community, the family, and love. (MM)

Levy, Andrea. *Small Island*. New York: Picador, 2004.

Winner of the Orange Prize, the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and Whitbread Book of the Year, *Small Island* tells the story of Hortense Joseph, who leaves her home in Jamaica for London, England, to join her husband Gilbert after the Second World War. It's also Queenie's story, the white landlady who takes in Jamaican boarders, and that of her husband, a war veteran who has been damaged by his war experience. The book captures the plight of Jamaicans as they struggle with their decision to leave their home island, and follows their experiences as immigrants in London. It also captures the experience of white Londoners dealing with a new multicultural society — and the concomitant racism. Flavoured with a good dose of Jamaican patois and commentary on the plight of a colonial Jamaica-in-transition, *Small Island* is also a rich and satisfying

love story. Levy was born in London of Jamaican immigrants, “neither feeling totally part of the society nor a total outsider.” [LB]

Lowry, Malcolm. *October Ferry to Gabriola*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre. 1988.
The last book of Lowry (author of the classic *Under the Volcano*), posthumously published by his wife, Margerie Lowry. Gabriola exists mainly in the imagination and high expectations of a couple who contemplate their lives as they journey to their new island home. [NMS]

MacDonald, Ann-Marie. *Fall on Your Knees*. Toronto: Vintage, 1997.

Set in Cape Breton and spanning much of the twentieth century, this multi-generational novel delves into the complexities of family, community, and socio-economic determiners. By exploring the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Island, the novel is an especially effective corrective to the common perception that Cape Breton is an island of Celtic homogeneity. [BML]

MacLaine, Brent. *Wind and Root*. Montreal: Vehicule P, 2000.

In this book of poetry, Brent MacLaine portrays his life growing up in rural Prince Edward Island. Through the use of Island imagery, he illustrates, in detail, what life was really like in this rural Canadian province in poems that are humorous, sad, realistic, and ideal. [WA]

MacLeod, Alistair. “The Boat.” *Island: The Collected Stories*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2000.

In his first published short story, MacLeod uses the depiction of one Cape Breton fishing family to illustrate some of the challenges residents of the island faced in the late 1960s. Foremost among these was the struggle between cultural and economic tradition, represented by long-practised occupations such as fishing, and new opportunities, such as going away to university. As extensions of this struggle, the issues of intergenerational conflict and freedom of personal choice are played out. The “here”/ “away” dichotomy common to many islands and a depiction of the day-to-day rigours of fishing also figure in the story. [AJ]

MacLeod, Alistair. “Island”. *Island: The Collected Stories*. Toronto: MacLelland and Stewart. 2000.

The title story of this collection is replete with island themes, including island folklore with its origins in Celtic and Gaelic stories. [SU]

MacLeod, Alistair. *No Great Mischief*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Inc., 1999.

This novel was published after thirty years of carefully written short stories. The central character is the narrator, an orthodontist living in Southern Ontario. His parents were drowned off the coast of Cape Breton in a winter storm. He and his twin sister were raised by their grandparents. There are flashbacks to their ancestors leaving Scotland. The life of an alcoholic uncle is also written into this North Atlantic-specific but universally thematic fiction.[GC]

Macphail, Sir Andrew. *The Master's Wife*. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies. 1994. Facsimile of 1939 edition.

An biography, cum-autobiography, the memoir describes the family, community, and society of post-immigrant rural Prince Edward Island. It provides a broad and deep insight into the protestant Celtic culture of early twentieth-century PEI, with a particular emphasis on agriculture, religion, and education. Macphail, a medical doctor and writer who moved to Montreal, is ideally placed to describe the home-away tension that informs much of island literature. [BML]

McKenna, M. Olga. *Micmac by choice: Elsie Sark — an island legend*. Halifax: Formac. 1990.

This is a biography of Elsie Sark, a British nurse who returned to Lennox Island as the bride of one of the local natives. It is a romantic projection of the woman as a witness to change in the community.(MM)

McKenna, Mary Olga. *Micmac by Choice: Elsie Sark an island legend*. Halifax: Formac Publishing Company, 1990.

This is a biography of British born nurse, Elsie Houghton. During World War I she met and married a Canadian soldier, John J. Sark. He was the son of a Micmac Chief from the Lennox Island Reserve on Prince Edward Island. This book gives an account of a European woman who dedicated her live to her family and to the aboriginal peoples of a native reserve. She did all she could to overcome the cultural, and physical isolation of the Micmac community on Lennox Island from the white, mainland communities of PEI. [GC]

Naipaul, V.S. *The Loss of El Dorado: A History*. London: Penguin. 1973.

Naipaul tells the history of his native Trinidad, once reputed gateway to the discovery of "El Dorado," a legendary kingdom full of gold. This legend made Trinidad the focus of Spanish and English colonial ambitions for two hundred years and was the site of massacres, torture, slavery, and revolutions. After British rule settled in and slavery was banned in the 1830s, Trinidad's past eventually was glossed over until it became as much a delusion as the original El Dorado. A Nobel Prize-winner (2001), Naipaul writes with a great novelist's skill and insight into the complexities of his island home. [NMS]

O’Crohan, Tomas. *The Islandman*. New York: Oxford UP, 2000.

The author writes of his experiences of Island life in the extremely remote, isolated, and primitive Blasket Island. His keen power to observe, paralleled with his ability to participate in such a unique lifestyle, is depicted in this novel. [WA]

O’Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphin*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1960.

This is a true story depicting the life of a woman who was stranded on an island for over eighteen years. Political, economic, and individual survival are some prominent themes in this novel. [WA]

Parker Day, Frank. *Rockbound*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1989.

Set on a small island off the coast of Nova Scotia, this compelling novel deals with survival and life’s ambitions for power and money. It paints a picture of the extreme hardship of family life in the post-war era. [WA]

Quammen, David. *Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions*. Toronto: Touchstone, 1997.

Although not a piece of literature per se, this text contains many images and metaphors that can be applied to the literature of small islands. [SU]

Random Passage. Dir. John N. Smith. Perf. Colm Meaney, Aoife McMahon, Deborah Pollitt, Daniel Payne, Brenda Devine, Michael Sapieha, Jessica Pare, Mary Walsh, and Andy Jones. Morningstar, 2002.

Bernice Morgan’s novels *Random Passage* and *Waiting for Time*, produced as a television mini-series, is set in the late 19th century, and portrays early life in Newfoundland fishing stations. This four-part mini-series is a representation of the journey that many English and Irish made to the “new” world. By primarily following the journey and life of a young Irish maiden, the television series gives a good idea of the hardship that new settlers faced as they established new settlements, as they worked to provide for themselves, and as they worked to create and sustain a local economy. [HG]

Ransen, Mort, dir. *Margaret’s Museum*. With Helena Bonham Carter and Clive Russell. Astra Cinema, 1995.

Through the story of a fictional young woman, Margaret MacNeil, and her family, this film depicts the mining community of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in the 1940s. Since mining is the town’s economic backbone, the boys and men of the community must continually risk injury and death to follow their ancestors underground. The film’s portrayal of the mines as vitally important highlights several characteristics common to many small islands, including economic hardship, dependence on natural resources, and

lack of personal choice. The struggle to maintain a distinct culture is also present in the older generation's attempts to preserve the traditional bagpipe music and Gaelic language. Based on the novel *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* by Sheldon Currie. [AJ]

Ryan, Stella Gladys (Oxford-Hewlett). *Outport Girl: Growing Up In A Newfoundland Outport Circa 1920 - 1935*. Ed. R. Lloyd Ryan. Lewisporte: Outport Publishing. 1992.

Memoirs of a harsh life in Robert's Arm, an outport in north-central Newfoundland. A starkly told account of hardship, poverty, and injustice during the author's childhood, as well as her mother's life in that area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [NMS]

The Shipping News. Dir. Lasse Hallstron. Perf. Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Gordon Pinsent. Miramax, 2001.

The Shipping News depicts the monotonous daily life of residents in a small rural Newfoundland fishing outport from the perspective of a character returning to Newfoundland. Based on E. Annie Proulx's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, this film highlights complexities often emphasized in small island societies, including hardship, family loyalty and obligation, and personal reflection. [HG]

Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay*. New York: Avon Books, 1969.

A castaway narrative for young adults, *The Cay* is the story of an eleven-year-old boy who is stranded on a tiny cay in the Caribbean during the Second World War. He and his companion, a black man named Timothy, set about making shelter and finding food, and dealing with Phillip's sudden blindness. After four months, Phillip is rescued, but not before Timothy dies protecting Phillip from being washed away in a hurricane. Phillip learns survival skills on a barren island; but, more importantly, he has dropped his racist attitudes. [LB]

Theroux, Paul. *The Happy Isles of Oceania: Paddling the Pacific*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1992.

Novelist and travel writer, Theroux, recovers from a failed marriage by spending 18 months kayaking around such Pacific islands as New Zealand, Australia, the Solomon and Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti, Easter Island, and Hawaii exploring and assessing the modern reality of the mythic territory of Melville, Stevenson, Gauguin, and Maugham. [NMS]

Wallace, Alfred Russel. *Island Life*. New York: Prometheus Books, 1998. Previously published New York: Harper & Bros., 1881.

This book contains the observations made about the natural history and geographical distribution of animals and plants on islands throughout the world. They led Wallace to independently codiscover, with Charles Darwin, the same scientific theory of evolution due to natural selection. The biogeographical descriptions of flora and fauna on specific

islands is a theme of global significance and is a universal explanation of life on earth. [GC]

Weale David. *Them times*. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies. 1992

This is a collection of stories gathered from the horses' mouth, i.e., from islanders on PEI. The book is an anthology of times gone by on the island, full of reminiscences and nostalgia. (MM)

Weale David. *Overheard on the island: the funny, foolish and fantastic things Islanders come out with*. Charlottetown: Tangle Layne Publications. 2003

This is a hilarious publication full of one-liners that have been heard on PEI through the locals. If analyzed, these sentences will show a strong tendency to conservatism, fear of change, sarcasm, and other elements strongly present on islands. (MM)

Williamson, Eileen M. *Outport: A Newfoundland Journal*. Scarborough: Medallion Books, 1980.

Written by a Canadian originally from Regina, Saskatchewan, Eileen Williamson recounts her experiences when she and her husband moved to northern Newfoundland to aid in the establishment of a mining operation. While attempting to integrate and fit in to the community, Williamson's outside perspective looking in on an isolated community emphasizes distinct cultural intricacies that are otherwise unfamiliar to the outside world. [HG]

Zemeckis, Robert, dir. *Cast Away*. With Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt. 20th Century Fox, 2000.

A modern-day adaptation of *Robinson Crusoe*, this film sees an American business executive marooned alone on a tropical island after his plane crashes in the South Pacific. The elements of the castaway narrative that are showcased here include the primacy of physical survival; an early attempt to "escape" from the island; the contemplation of suicide; the necessity of a psychological "other"; and the challenges faced when the castaway returns to society. [AJ]

SECONDARY WORKS

Baldwin, Douglas. "L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*: The Japanese Connection." *Journal of Canadian Studies*. 28.3 (1993): 123-134.

Baldwin discusses similarities between Prince Edward Island and Japan according to the writings of L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*. He parallels the culture of Japanese women with the character of Anne in the novel. [WA]

Barash, David P. "Red in Tooth, Claw, and Trigger Finger." *Chronicle of Higher Education*. 51.49 (2005): B19-21.

In this article, Barash explores the dichotomy between savagery and civilization in three works, including *Lord of the Flies*. He looks into how human beings have tendencies towards violent behaviour, even when coming from a civilized society. [WA]

Bend in the Road, The : An Invitation to the World and Work of L. M. Montgomery. CD-ROM. Charlottetown: L. M. Montgomery Institute, 2000.

This interactive CD-ROM presents both primary and secondary sources related to Prince Edward Island author, L. M. Montgomery, including her photographs, journals, scrapbooks. This tool, which also includes a more extensive bibliography of L. M. Montgomery-specific sources, is a helpful source for looking at primary sources that are otherwise unavailable to the general public because of the interactive function enabling users to pick up and manoeuvre items. [HG]

Benitez-Rojo, Antonio. *The Repeating Island: The Caribbean and the Postmodern Perspective*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke UP. 1992.

Divided into sections entitled "Society," "The Writer," "The Book," and "The Paradox," this book explores the historical, political, and economic determiners of the region and how they are figured in Caribbean island literature. [BML]

Berces, Francis. "Existential Maritimer: Alastair MacLeod's *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*." *Studies in Canadian Literature* 16.1. 1991. [NMS]

An investigation of MacLeod's short stories from a philosophic perspective, suggesting that MacLeod deals with existential themes throughout his stories. [NMS]

Carger, Chris Liska; Daniel, Mayra. "More Than a Sunny Playground." *Book Links*. 14.3. 2005. [NMS]

A guide to books from Caribbean islands for children and young adults. The brief descriptions make it clear that this region, often thought of as a tourist playground, has a rich and often turbulent history. As well as a guide to this literature, the article provides insight into the vulnerability, traditions, and daily lives of people in the region.

Creelman, David. "Hoping to strike some sort of solidity: the shifting fictions of Alistair MacLeod." *Studies in Canadian Literature*. 1999. Vol.24, Iss. 2; p.79.

The author looks at the recurring themes of MacLeod's writing; and examines what he perceives to be a difference in the "philosophic or ideological paradigm" in *As Birds Bring Forth the Sun* and *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*. [SU]

—. *Setting in the East: Maritime Realist Fiction*. Montréal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's UP, 2003.

This book explores the development and use of cultural realism in the fiction of Canada's three Maritime provinces between 1920 and 2000. Several of the authors whose works are discussed were or are islanders and/or wrote or write about islands; these writers include Frank Parker Day, Alistair MacLeod, and Ann-Marie MacDonald. [AJ]

Davies, Gwendolyn. Afterword. *Rockbound*. 1928. By Frank Parker Day. Toronto: U of T Press, 1989. 295-323.

In her afterword to the award-winning novel *Rockbound*, Gwendolyn Davies provides biographical information about the author, Frank Parker Day; enumerates criticisms of the book and quotes Day's rebuttals; examines the integration of real-life events into the fabric of the story; discusses the on-site research Day conducted prior to writing; looks at the phonological and syntactical features of the characters' speech; and discusses the romantic and idealistic nature of the novel. [AJ]

Deloughery, Elizabeth. "Island Ecologies and Caribbean Literatures," in *Journal of Economic and Social Geography*, Volume 95, Number 3, 2004, edited by Godfrey Baldacchino.

This paper, presented at the Islands of the World VII Conference in 2001, looks at the effects of European colonialism on the landscape, environment, ecology, and culture of Caribbean islands, as seen through the literature of such Caribbean writers as Edouard Glissant, Wilson Harris, Jamaica Kincaid, and Olive Senior. [LB]

Epperly, Elizabeth R. *The Fragrance of Sweet-Grass: L. M. Montgomery's Heroines and the Pursuit of Romance*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1992.

Divided into categorical sections, this book analyzes the characters and their relationships with each other and to Montgomery herself in Montgomery's major novels, most of which take place on Prince Edward Island. [HG]

Epperly, Elizabeth R. & Irene Gammel. *L. M. Montgomery and Canadian Culture*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1999.

This book is a collection of essays that were presented at the 1996 L. M. Montgomery International biannual conference. The papers in this anthology address issues about Montgomery's life and works in a specifically Canadian context; for example, some papers focus on Montgomery's attitude toward The Great War and how her attitudes are reflected in her Canadian novels, and others concentrate on Montgomery's fictional works in comparison with other Canadian authors who share similarities. [HG]

Gammel, Irene. *Making Avonlea: L. M. Montgomery and Popular Culture*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2002.

This book is another collection of essays from the biannual international L.M. Montgomery conference held at the University of Prince Edward Island. These articles explore issues about L. M. Montgomery and her writing as a figure of popular culture and how both she and her work fit into current popular culture in Canada. [HG]

Greenberg, Michael. "Freelance." *TLS*. Issue 5241 (Sept 2003): 16-18.

Greenberg describes the dramatic differences between life in New York city and rural Island Canada. He explores issues of language, culture, and Canadian Island society in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. [WA]

Hamilton, Stephen. "New Zealand (with the South Pacific Islands)." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. 39.4 (2004): 97-113.

This article acts like a detailed annotated bibliography because Hamilton provides extensive and comparative descriptions of New Zealand literature. He also includes literature of the South Pacific Islands. [WA]

Hay, Pete. "The Poetics of Island Place: articulating particularity." *Local Environment*, Vol. 8, No 5, 553-558, October 2003.

At the Islands of the World V conference in Mauritius in 1998, conference delegates signed a "Mauritius Declaration": "...that islanders speak, and others hear, of the unique and positive cultural experiences of island living through literature and other forms of expression." This article, written by one of those delegates, argues for islands and their distinctiveness — and their distinctive literature. Because most of the literature of small islands is from once-colonized islands, it often concerns itself with the politics of identity and reclaiming territory, taking for its themes the negative aspects of existence such as loss, dislocation, isolation, and marginalization. But islands are celebrated, too, and much

opportunity exists to draw links from the particular to the universal, addressing large, cosmic questions of existence, “within a context of shore-bound particularity.” The article concludes with island-themed poetry by Hugh MacDonald (PEI), Joseph Sherman (PEI/Cape Breton Island), Robin McGrath (Newfoundland), Pete Hay (Tasmania), Kerron Clague (Isle of Man), John Joy (Newfoundland), and Kevin MacNeill (Skye). [LB]

Hereniko, Vilsoni, and Rob Wilson. *Inside Out: Literature, Cultural Politics, and Identity in the New Pacific*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Pub., 1999.

This comprehensive collection of essays and interviews looks at the emergent literature that is “breaking down and building up” across the islands of the Pacific Ocean. The papers raise a timely and complex set of questions concerning the creation, circulation, and critical reading of what Samoa’s Albert Wendt calls “the youngest literature in the world.” Includes writing about such islands Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Polynesia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand. Includes the excellent and important essay by Epeli Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands,” in which he turns Oceania’s culture of dependency on its head by reconnecting these islands through traditional mythology and culture, which portrays the sea as a connective and binding force rather than a barrier. [LB]

Ho, Elaine Yee Lin and Shirley Geok-Lin Lim. “Introduction” *Ariel* 32.1 (January 2001): 7-17.

As editors for this special edition of *Ariel* on the subject of “Small Cultures: The Literature of Micro-states,” Elaine Yee Lin Ho and Shirley Geok-Lin Lim provide a succinct overview, including problems of definition and inclusion, of the scholarship of micro-states as it relates particularly to culture. The South Pacific and the Caribbean receive special attention, and themes include the post-colonial stance, the theory of indigenous culture, marginalization, and the paradox of the island-ocean topography. [BML]

Holm, Bill. “Iceland 1999” in *Eccentric Islands: Travels Real and Imaginary*. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 2000, pp. 185–248.

In this literary pilgrimage through Iceland, Holm celebrates a culture that idolizes literature and books: Holm calls Icelanders “literary fundamentalists.” After all, “literature is true; religion — maybe, maybe not”! The essay includes an annotated tour through Icelandic literatures, including some of the famed Icelandic sagas and eddas. At a gathering of Icelandic writers, Holm remarks, “It is good to be in a room that trusts narrative,” as distinct from a similar gathering in America, at which “you are besieged with opinions and preferences.” [LB]

Hulme, Peter. “Tempest in the Caribbean.” *Shakespeare Studies*; 2005, Vol. 33, pp. 252-259, 8p.

A book review of "Tempest in the Caribbean," by Jonathan Goldberg, discussing ways Caribbean writers have used the character Caliban and the play’s contentious sexual

relationships to make political and sexual comments relevant to the Caribbean culture. [NMS]

Ingram, Douglas H. "Of Time, Narrative, and Cast Away." *PsyArt: An Online Journal for the Psychological Study of the Arts* (Article 010327, 1 October 2001).
<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/ipasa/journal/2001_ingram01.shtml>. 30 October 2005.

This article explores the psychological function of Wilson, the volleyball companion of Tom Hanks' character, Chuck Noland, in the film *Cast Away*. The author characterizes Wilson as a *dialogic other*, a human substitute that takes on Noland's rational characteristics, acts as a sounding board for his ideas, and keeps him sane while marooned. [AJ]

Keefer, Janice Kuluk. "Loves Labour Lost: Alistair MacLeod's Elegiac Ethos." in *Alistair MacLeod: Essays on His Works* ed. Irene Guilford. Toronto: Guernica, 2001. 72 -83.

In this article Keefer describes the fiction of MacLeod in the rootedness and cultural specifics of Cape Breton. This includes characters not only found in his short stories but also his first novel *No Great Mischief*. These heroic labourers are compatriots. They include fishermen in "The Boat," the miners of the short story "The Closing Down of Summer," and the miners of the novel. Keefer suggests further that there are also universal compatriots outside of Cape Breton. They include the migrant contract farm-workers from the developing world in the opening chapter of the novel. [GC]

King Russell, Connell John and White Paul. *Writing across worlds: literature and migration*. Routledge 1995

Migration is a dominant feature in island studies. This book explores migration literature across different countries in order to realize the reality of the migrant's experience from letters and diaries, to journalistic experiences, autobiographies, and fiction, ranging from Irish and Italian to Maltese and Samoan literature. (MM)

Leder, Judith Remy. "Synge's *Riders to the Sea*: Island as Cultural Battleground." *Twentieth Century Literature*. Vol 36:2, 1990. 207-225.

This article analyzes Synge's play *Riders to the Sea* through the lens of cultural transition. Leder presents detailed analysis about how each character displays the cultural transition from the traditional to the modern world in the Aran Islands. [HG]

MacLaine, Brent. "Crooked Signs and Shining Things: The Magic of Books in the Literature of Atlantic Canadian Islands" in *Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands*. Eds.

Laurie Brinklow, Frank Ledwell, and Jane Ledwell. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies, 2000. 37-50.

In attempt to define a paradigmatic element of small islands literature, the article compares the theme of books and reading as formative experience of islandness in works by Sir Andrew Macphail, Alistair MacLeod, and Frank Parker Day. [BML]

McDonald Ronan. *Tragedy and Island Literature*. Macmillan. 2002

In *Tragedy and Irish Literature*, McDonald considers the culture of suffering, loss, and guilt in the work of J.M. Synge, Sean O'Casey, and Samuel Beckett. (MM)

Riegal, Christian. Elegy and Mourning in Alistair MacLeod's "The Boat."
Studies in Short Fiction, Summer, 1998. [SU]

An examination of these recurring themes in MacLeod's best-loved story. [SU]

Robertson, Ian Ross. "Sir Andrew Macphail and Prince Edward Island as a Way of Life: A Canadian Critic of Industrialization" in *Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands*. Eds. Laurie Brinklow, Frank Ledwell, and Jane Ledwell. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies, 2000. 203-213.

Sir Andrew Macphail was born in 1864 and raised on Prince Edward Island. This article highlights the versatility of this 19th-century "man-of-letters." He wrote many essays and books advancing ruralism or farming as a way of life and a superior calling to urban industrialization. He lived and worked at McGill University in Montreal but summered in pastoral PEI. The vast majority of islanders were rural farmers and Macphail idealized what would later be called "The Garden in the Gulf." [GC]

Rosello, Mireille, *Litterature et identite creole aux Antilles*. Paris: Karthala. 1992

The author observes patterns of resistance in Francophone Caribbean islands. This book provided the groundwork to the translation of Aimé Césaire's *Notebook of a Return to my Native Land*. (MM)

Ruggier, Joe, *In the suburbs of Europe: perspectives on Maltese language and literature*, Vancouver: Multicultural Books. 1993

(I have to get the book first and have a thorough look at it; am awaiting its arrival through an inter-library loan).(MM)

Scafe, Suzanne. "The Caribbean." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. 39.4 (2004): 29-47.

This article lists Commonwealth literature written by Caribbean authors. The author explicates Caribbean books that address issues including colonialism, imperialism, natural disasters, and Caribbean culture. [WA]

Seidel, Michael. *Robinson Crusoe: Island Myths and the Novel*. Boston: Twayne, 1991.

Seidel's book is an in-depth study of Daniel Defoe's classic novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, with chapters dedicated to examples of islands in earlier literature; the psychology of living on an island; writing about life on an island; and the deepening of religiosity that Crusoe experiences while marooned. [AJ]

Shackels, Theodore. *The Island Motif in the Fiction of L. M. Montgomery, Margaret Laurence, Margaret Atwood, and Other Canadian Women Novelists*. (Studies on themes and motifs in literature; v.68). New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2003.

This book highlights the major role islands play in the novels of Canadian women of the twentieth century. Female heroines often retreat to islands or are already trapped on them. The island experience is usually positive but occasionally it is negative. Other novelists examined include Marian Engels, Audrey Thomas, Alice Munro, Gabrielle Roy, and Marie-Claire Blais. Bibliography included. [GC]

Singh, Jyostna. "Post-colonial Criticism" in *Shakespeare: An Oxford Guide*. Eds. Stanley wells and Lena Cowen Orlin. New York: Oxford UP, 2003. 492 – B 507.

This chapter of the Oxford guide to Shakespeare presents a brief introduction to and explanation of post-colonial criticism of Shakespeare. It also provides a more detailed analysis of how *The Tempest* has been read as a post-colonial text. The chapter is relevant to themes of shipwreck, castaways, native and usurping power, and island nation-building. [BML]

Soltan, Margaret. "An Oblivion That Knows Its Limits: James Merrill on Santorini" in *Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands*. Eds. Laurie Brinklow, Frank Ledwell, and Jane Ledwell. Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies, 2000. 101-121.

The article analyzes James Merrill's long poem "Santorini: Stopping the Leak" with an emphasis on how the landscape and geology of Santorini, a volcanic island, provides a metaphor for the poet's late-middle-age reflections of life and art. [BML]

Stephanides, Stephanos, and Susan Bassett, Eds. *Beyond the Floating Islands*. Bologna, Italy: COTEPRA, 2002.

This is a three-part collection dedicated to the particularity of islands as peripheral cultures in relation to such themes as islands and travel; islands as utopias/dystopias, Edens, Arcadias, stepping stones, and cultural crossroads; the desire for islands; and displacement, solitude, isolation, exile, and insularity in islands. The first part consists of excerpts of island literature, ranging from Homer's *Odyssey* to writings from the end of the 19th century. The second is a selection of academic essays that range from Icelandic sagas to post-colonial literature. The book concludes with a brief selection of contemporary prose and poetry on the island theme. [LB]

Stevens, David. "Writing Region Across the Border: Two Stories of Breece Pancake and Alistair MacLeod." *Studies in Short Fiction* 35 (3) (Summer 1998): 233-240.

Stevens' essay examines the important decision that the young male characters in Alistair MacLeod's short story "The Boat" and Breece Pancake's "Tribolites" must make: whether to strike out for someplace new or stay at home and live according to the community's traditions. Stevens also considers the characters' challenge of psychologically separating themselves from "home" once they do leave. [AJ]

Thomson, John. "New Zealand (with the South Pacific Islands)." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. 33.3. 1998.

A discussion of trends in the literature from New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands as published in 1997. Themes include the predominance of poetry as compared to prose; a tendency away from autobiographical works; rising children's book market; and the introduction of 'The Dictionary of New Zealand English.' [NMS]

Urquhart, Jane. "The Vision of Alistair Macleod." in *Alistair MacLeod Essays on His Works* ed. Irene Guilford. Toronto: Guernica, 2001. 36 - 42.

The article outlines some of the characteristics of the fiction of Alistair MacLeod found in the seven short stories in *As Birds Bring Forth the Sun and Other Stories*. These characteristics include the observation that they have been crafted in a careful manner. Urquhart suggests that, like the sheep dogs in his fiction, MacLeod cares too much and tries too hard while engaging in their craft. This has made him one of our best authors. [GC]

Vauthier, Simone. "Time and Space in Alistair MacLeod's 'The Road to Rankin's Point'" in *Down East: Critical Essays on Contemporary Maritime Canadian Literature*. Eds.

Wolfgang Hochbruck and James O. Taylor. Trier: WNT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 1996.

The essay in this book presents a critical assessment of Cape Breton-specific yet a universal short story written by Alistair MacLeod. Its significance is grounded in the construction of time (temporal) and space (spatial) that is definitely Canadian. Once again animals, this time three border collies, have supernatural qualities, perhaps reflecting the Christian Holy Trinity in the role they play. MacLeod's story is an experiment in time and space. [GC]

Western, J. *A passage to England: Barbadian Londoners speak of home*, London: UCL Press. 1992.

It compares the experiences of migration and nationhood of immigrants from Barbados. This is a review of studies on human geography. (MM)

Winduo, Steven Edmund. "Unwriting Oceania: The Repositioning of the Pacific Writer Scholars within a Folk Narrative Space." *New Literary History*. 31.3. 2000.

A discussion of regional scholarly critiques about the metaphors, significance and narrative structure in Pacific folk narrative featuring children killing ogres. [NMS]

Authors

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Notes for Compiling the Selected Bibliography Island Studies 616 — C The Literature of Small Islands

In order to make this exercise as easy for everyone as possible, please observe the following guidelines:

- Create a back-up of the document whenever you open it.
- Use MLA format throughout.
- Add 5 primary work titles and 5 secondary work titles to the bibliography when you receive it.
- Maintain the format begun by [BML] for the entry and the descriptive comment.
- The descriptive comment ought to relate helpfully to some aspect of the study of island literature.
- Interfile your entries alphabetically by author.
- Print out a separate copy of your own 10 entries ONLY and arrange to copy them for members of the class.
- Hand the disk copy on quickly so that other seminar participants can complete their entries before the end of the semester.