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Front Matter

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Criterion

In her recent study of the "Indian ghosts" that, she argues, haunt the American literary tradition, Renée L. B... stories are ghost stories," if only insofar as all stories are told in words, and all words conjure something th... and possibly never was. Perhaps because its object is so often language, much recent literary and cultur... notion of haunting to describe pasts that make themselves forcibly felt in the present, absences wi... present, things supposedly dead which still and endlessly insist upon mixing their business wi... In the shadow of the First World War, Sigmund Freud pioneered the underlying notion of t... repressed. For Freud, this return initially occurred primarily within the individual mind... later essay "Mourning and Melancholia," who remains ambivalent toward the dead, or... also returns at the level of whole cultures, like the ones that Freud later den... haunting charted a theoretical divide that persists even now. Freud's distinction between psychologi... common to both models—about which more anon—is a rever... formula, one in which the spirits of the dead return to impart... treasure, or to bring guilt to light. And yet the notion th... what has been hidden is a distinctively modern one wh... the enlightened conviction that ghosts as such do r... and Terry Castle is a distinctively modern one wh... Greenblatt's 2002 study *Hamlet in*... figure of Hamlet's dead father th... of Shakespeare's tragedy. Gre... specter who arouses... stirs a sense of per... not be gone—... point where... between... collar... Ro...

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“If you compare several representative passages of the greatest poetry you see how great is the variety of types of combination, and also how completely any semi-ethical criterion of ‘sublimity’ misses the mark. For it is not the ‘greatness,’ the intensity, of the emotions, the components, but the intensity of the artistic process, the pressure, so to speak, under which the fusion takes place, that counts.”

❖ T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

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Rebecca Peterson

Jalena Reschke

Amanda Rodriguez

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Kara Visconage

Emilia Williams

Matthew Wise

contents

xiii

editors' note

Brice Peterson and Joseph Post

15

make or break

The Effects of Traumatic Experience on Sympathy in *As I Lay Dying*

Jordan Call

25

“artes that been curious”

Questions of Magic and Morality in Chaucer's “The Franklin's Tale”

Kaitlin Coats

37

fixing the phantoms of conceit

Wordsworth's Prefiguration of the Photographic Impulse in “Tintern Abbey” and *The Prelude*

Rachel Daniel

57

wittgenstein, language, and mathematics

in Paul Auster's *City of Glass*

Nichole Eck

69

by the waters of the susquehanna, i laid
down and wept

The Trauma of Removal in Mary Rowlandson's *The Sovereignty and
Goodness of God*

Aaron Graham

81

“REX QUONDAM REXQUE FUTURUS”

The Chronology of Camelot in *Le Morte d'Artur*

Elizabeth McIntosh

95

“the most fatal thing a man can do is try
to stand alone”

Collective Individualism in Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely
Hunter*

Rebecca Peterson

forum address

109

forum prompt

Haunted Subjects

Jayne Elizabeth Lewis (Univeristy of California-Irvine)

115

speaking through death

in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Monir Birouk

133

“nicht wirklich unheimlich, vielleicht
gemütlich, auf eine gemeine art”

The Pleasure of Haunting in Judith Hermann's *Nichts als Gespenster*

Brad Gerhardt

147 **the death of trauma:**
Mourning and Healing in Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*
Marinda Quist

157 **Contributors**

