The Writers' Picnic': Genealogy and Homographesis in the Fiction of Sumner Locke Elliott
Abstract

Like many mid-century authors, Sumner Locke-Elliott fled Australia for more welcoming shores. From his first novel (1963), Locke-Elliott laid the foundations for a fictional self-authorship that suffused his writing with biographic detail and themes of origin, place and time. Despite his long absence from Australia and his naturalisation as an American citizen, his final novel and fictional coming out in (1990) returns readers to the homophobic Sydney of his childhood. This blurring of biographic and fictional detail within the representational space of childhood creates an embodied literary network that connects Australia of the 1930s & 1940s and New York of the 1980s & 1990s, merging literary corpus and authorial life. Taking up this sense of presence, absence and connection, I argue that Locke-Elliot’s representation of childhood is a nostalgic point of interface that generatively refigures his oeuvre as an embodied queer and transnational literary network.

Keywords

Sumner Locke Elliott, Australian Literature, the closet, nostalgia, homophobia

Full Text:

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References


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Reviews (13 Sep. 1999).


Refbacks
There are currently no refbacks.

The Sumner Locke Elliott (BookRags) Study Pack contains: Biographies (1). Sumner Locke Elliott. 3,138 words, approx. 11 pages. Sumner Locke Elliott was an expatriate Australian novelist and former radio, television, and stage dramatist, whose birth in Kogarah, a southern suburb of Sydney, on 17 October 1917, resulted in the death of his mother the day after his birth, and effectively deserted by Logan, who had been posted overseas in February, he was taken in by the eldest of his mother’s six surviving sisters, Lilian Locke Burns, and her husband George, Labor activists who were themselves childless. Elliott had begun full-time duty in the Citizen Military Forces on 5 January 1942.