She rides astride: Mateship, morality and the outback-colonial girl
She Rides Astride: Mateship, Morality and the Outback-colonial Girl

Abstract

This article focuses on the representation of girlhood, gender and mateship particular to Australia, and to a lesser extent New Zealand, within the context of an emerging nationalism, social change and political upheaval. In it, I apply an illustrator’s perspective to interrogating the cultural significance of Mary Grant Bruce’s iconic outback heroine, Norah of Billabong Station. By comparatively examining Norah’s sequential representation in the narrative text, and the illustrations produced by John MacFarlane, I argue Bruce and her little-known, and rarely discussed immigrant illustrator combined to create an ideal and national type that was counter to anything that had been created for colonial girl readers before.

Keywords

Mary Grant Bruce; outback; girl; colonial

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Far from demure, she performed daring stunts and rode astride, like her brothers. From. Wikipedia. Further, long skirts were the usual fashion and riding
astride in such attire was often impractical, awkward, and could be immodest. From. Wikipedia. A vest, shirt, choker or stock tie, gloves, boots and riding breeches are similar to those used when riding astride. From. Wikipedia. However, most well-trained horses adapt to the basics fairly quickly and generally can be used for riding both sidesaddle and astride. From. Wikipedia. An ideal stance is comfortable relaxed and balanced, with the feet 40 cm apart, parallel and astride the crease. From. Wikipedia. Her lips are divine, in fact, she'd be fine. If only her tits weren't so tiny! There was a young lady from China, who had an enormous vagina. And when she was dead, they painted it red, and used it for docking a liner. There was an old monk of Coblenz. And the tricks of the pricks that were fucking 'em. A lesbian once in Khartoum. Took a nancy-boy up to her room. e.g. When the war broke out she took down the signed photograph of the Kaiser and, with some solemnity, hung it in the men-servants’ lavatory; it was her one combative action. (E. Waugh). Source: based on the contradiction between the logical and the syntactical: logically defining becomes syntactically defined and vice versa. The article with the second noun will help in doubtful cases. e.g. “this devil of a woman” instead of “this devilish woman”, “the giant man” (a gigantic man); “the prude of a woman” (a prudish woman), “the toy of a girl” (a small, toylike girl), “the kitten of a woman” (a kittenlike woman). e.g. She was a faded white rabbit of a woman. (A. Cronin).