

EnterText volume 7 number 2

ABSTRACTS

Josef Bordat, Human Rights and the Question of Humanitarian Interventions: A Closer Look at the “Just War” Topic

In the debate about the question if, when, and how humanitarian interventions can afford peace and justice, military action needs to be taken into consideration. To discuss the meaning of justice in relation to military intervention, conclusions can be drawn from a historical view of the *bellum iustum* topic, as treated by the Spanish scholars Sepúlveda, Vitoria and Las Casas. Historical analysis reveals the principles both for the *ius ad bellum* and the *ius in bello*, that can be found in a recent proposal, the report *The Responsibility To Protect* (2001) of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). In addition, for the recovery of justice, a *ius post bellum* for the prosecution of “crimes against humanity,” as intended by the International Criminal Court (ICC), seems important.

Samar Habib, Reading the Familiarity of the Past: an Introduction to Medieval Arabic Literature on Female Homosexuality

This paper introduces a selection of mainly medieval material (written between the ninth and eighteenth centuries AD in Arabia), not previously available in English and dealing with female homosexuality. The critical and theoretical importance of this material casts a new light on approaches to sexuality studies, particularly in the framework of queer theory which, in recent years, has abandoned an essentialist analytical approach in favour of the view of sexuality-as-a-concept. The introductory paper challenges the assumption that sexualities are the sheer products of discursive structures and hence not the

properties of individuals themselves. The paper also addresses a number of orientalist stereotypes that have dominated the (mis)understanding of female homosexual relations and behaviours in the Arab world, indicating that female homosexuality in this region has a long recognised history among the Arabs which has only in the most recent centuries been ignored.

Mohamed Kamara, Slavery, Colonialism, Human Rights, and the Négritude of Léopold Sédar Senghor

This essay examines the humanist views of Léopold Senghor *vis à vis* slavery and colonialism. The first part of the essay presents a general discussion of slavery and colonialism, whereas the second focuses specifically on Senghor's response to the atrocities perpetrated through the slave trade and colonialism. The discussion of Senghor looks at two areas: his critique of slavery and colonialism, and his plea for and promotion of a new kind of humanism that would complement, if not replace, the Renaissance and Enlightenment humanism that failed to prevent them.

Claire Tylee, The Self and Others in 1950s England: Anthropology and the Literary Imagination in Barbara Pym's *Less Than Angels*

The article argues against the over-simplification of Barbara Pym's writing which is evident in prevalent critical readings. It places Pym's masterpiece, *Less Than Angels* (1957), in the tradition of the Women's Novel which straddles both feminine and masculine worlds. In particular, Pym is shown to demonstrate mastery of the literary and anthropological discourses of her time. Furthermore, her comedy has ulterior motives. Her satire of contemporary British Anthropology and postwar English society reveals their spiritual emptiness at the same time as it ridicules their condescending paternalism towards both Englishwomen and Africans. However, she suggests hope for a new future in a revolutionised anthropology and sexualised gender equality. As Edwin Ardener

acknowledged, she was a “third world feminist” before the Women’s Movement erupted again in the 1960s.