

It is appropriate that [redacted] should be launched with an issue on an American Studies theme. The history and culture of the New World form a fertile area for both cutting-edge scholarship and cultural engagements. The scholarly articles in this issue have been selected to mirror the range of subject matters and discourses taking place in the field of American Studies.

One of the themes which links these diverse pieces is interconnectedness, both within the cultures of the New World, and with those of the Old. Taking up this latter theme, David Dabydeen makes literary history by introducing a hitherto unknown text from Guyana which appears to be the earliest colonial rewriting of Shakespeare's play [redacted], with its special position in Old World discourses of the New World. Published in 1929, the era of high modernism, Samaroo's [redacted] is an extraordinary, surreal narrative making use of Guyanese Creole, Hindi and Latin. [redacted] takes Prospero through a number of reincarnations, including a gigantic purse, and an axe-armed Shiva, destroyer of the forest. Samaroo's Caliban is a bionic creature, born from Miranda, who is the raped forest, a reminder that ecological concerns about what was beginning to happen in the Amazonian rainforest in the early twentieth century remain urgently topical today. In his wide-ranging lecture commissioned by the BBC, Dabydeen situates his discussion of Samaroo, an East Indian Guyanese about whom nothing else is known, in a lively survey of colonial and postcolonial works whi

the innovations of the New York poet Kenneth Koch through the metaphor of poetry as a