

Editorial

THE THREE ARTICLES in the following pages intersect in ways that I think most readers will find suggestive. Colene Bentley's essay, "Rawls, Literary Form, and How to Read Politically," raises the question of how and whether literary interpretation, especially the interpretation of narratives, might count as an act of citizenship. She is not recommending that we read works of fiction simply for their political message, whatever that might be; indeed, she believes that the real political value of a literary work has more to do with its form than its content. But her argument is both more surprising and more subtle than my shorthand account can convey, so I recommend it as a thoughtful and persuasive piece of writing on a question that matters to all readers.

On either side of Bentley's work you will find articles that, in different ways, demonstrate in practice some of the principles she has adduced. David H. Evans argues, in "Alien Corn: *The War of the Worlds*, *Independence Day*, and the Limits of the Global Imagination," that the representation of invading forces in an early work of science fiction (1898) and a recent blockbuster movie (1996) can help us to rethink the notion of globalization. "Aphra Behn's Tigers," by Eric Miller, is a sustained enquiry into the resources and strategies which enable a sophisticated European female author to discover the heroic in a world from which she is estranged by geography, gender, and race. Both Evans and Miller are interested in the politics of the texts they write about, but not at the expense of the formal patterns in which the political energies are encrypted. Both Evans and Miller are out to solve difficult critical problems, and both are able to do so in admirably readable prose.

I will not comment on the creative writing printed in this issue, except by indirection. One of the poets featured here, George Elliott Clarke, is the newest recipient of the Governor General's Award for Poetry. It is with great pleasure that I offer congratula-

tions, on behalf of *The Dalhousie Review*, to a distinguished poet and a deserving winner.

Almost three years ago we published a special issue (78.2) devoted exclusively to fiction and poetry. Partly because of a favourable response to this venture, partly because we continue to receive many more submissions of high quality than our normal publication schedule allows, I am planning that our next issue (81.2) be another gathering of creative work. If you're a writer with a manuscript that ought to be published, let me hear from you before the end of January 2002.

R.H.