

# The Unusable Past

Russell J. Ruskong

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# Unusable Past

**María Eugenia & Díaz**



## Unusable Past:

**Unusable Past** Russell J. Reising, 2013-11-05 First Published in 2002 Amongst a time of rapid and radical social change New Accents is a positive response to change with each volume seeking to encourage rather than resist the process of change to stretch rather than reinforce boundaries that currently define literature and its academic study This study offers the authors theories of American literature and more specifically his interest here is in how those theories define the canon of American literature and how those definitions influence our understanding and teaching of that canon **The Unusable Past** Jan Carletta Dawson, 1984 **The Unusable Past** Russell J. Reising, 1986 **Critical essays on the myth of the american Adam** María Eugenia & Díaz, 2001-01-01 *José Martí's "Our America"* Jeffrey Grant Belnap, Raul A. Fernandez, 1998 Considerable attention has been given to Cuban poet essayist and activist José Martí's 1891 essay *Nuestra América* but relatively little has been paid to the rest of the journalistic work that Martí produced during his fourteen year exile in the United States In *José Martí's Our America* Jeffrey Belnap and Raul Fernandez present essays from Latin American Caribbean and U S based scholars who consider Martí's rich and underexplored body of work and position Martí as an emblem of New American studies A Cuban exile from 1881 to 1895 Martí was a correspondent writing in New York for various Latin American newspapers Grasping the significance of rising U S imperial power he came to understand the Americas as a complex system of kindred but not equal national formations whose cultural and political integrity was threatened by the overbearing aggressiveness of the United States This collection explores how in his journalistic work Martí critiques U S racism imperialism and capitalism warns Latin America of impending U S geographical cultural and economic annexation and calls for recognition of the diversity of America's cultural voices Reinforcing Martí's hemispheric vision with essays by a wide range of scholars who investigate his analysis of the United States his significance as a Latino outsider and his analyses of Latin American cultural politics this volume explores the affinities between Martí's thought and current reexaminations of what it means to study America *José Martí's Our America* offers a new understanding of Martí's ambiguous and problematic relation with the United States and will engage scholars and students in American Latin American and Latino studies as well as those interested in cultural postcolonial gender and ethnic studies Contributors Jeffrey Belnap Raul Fernandez Ada Ferrer Susan Gillman George Lipsitz Oscar Martí David Noble Donald E Pease Beatrice Pita Brenda Gayle Plummer Susana Rotker José David Saldívar Rosaura Sánchez Enrico Mario Sant'Ana Doris Sommer Brook Thomas *Experiments with Truth* Hedley Twidle, 2019 Unusable pasts scandalous lives political betrayal confession and collaboration reading narrative non fiction across South Africa's unfinished transition Over the last decades South Africa has seen an outpouring of life writing and narrative non fiction Authors like Panashe Chigumadzi Jacob Dlamini Mark Gevisser Pumla Gobodo Madikizela Antjie Krog Sisonke Msimang Njabulo Ndebele Jonny Steinberg and Ivan Vladislavic have produced a compelling and often controversial body of work exploring the country's ongoing political and social transition with great ambition texture and risk *Experiments*

with Truth is the first book length account of non fiction in South African literature It reads the country s transition as refracted through an array of documentary modes that are simultaneously refashioned and blurred into each other long form analytic journalism and reportage experiments in oral history microhistory and archival reconstruction life writing memoir and the essay It traces the strange and ethically complex process by which real people places and events are shuffled patterned and plotted in long form prose narrative While holding in mind the imperatives of testimony and witness so important to the struggle for liberation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission the case studies here are increasingly drawn to a post TRC aesthetic works that engage with difficult inappropriate or unusable elements of the past and the unfinished project of social reconstruction in SouthAfrica The author examines non fictions that are speculative formally innovative and sometimes experimental rather than informational or narrowly journalistic that explore difficult subjects like collaboration complicity confession and have embedded within them their own reflections on the problems of narrating within a scene of unresolved difference In this way southern African materials are placed in a global context and in dialogue with other important non fictional traditions that have emerged at moments of social rupture and transition Hedley Twidle is a writer teacher and researcher based in the English Department at the University of Cape Town He specialises in twentieth century southern African and world literatures as well as creative non fiction and the environmental humanities His essay collection Firepool Experiences in an Abnormal World was published in 2017

**Conversations with Bharati Mukherjee** Bharati Mukherjee, 2009 The first naturalized citizen to win the National Book Critics Circle Award Bharati Mukherjee b 1940 born into a rigid hierarchy as a Bengali Brahmin and raised in the elite of Calcutta society joined the American masses by choice This journey from a privileged yet circumscribed life to one of free will and risk supplied the experiences she has turned into literature From her first interview originally published over three decades ago in her native tongue Bengali in the Calcutta journal Desh and appearing here for the first time in English to an in depth interview in 2007 granted specifically for this collection this volume provides a candid look at the woman who has been called the grande dame of diasporic Indian literature

**Making Black History** Dominique Haensell, 2021-10-04 This study proposes that rather than trying to discern the normative value of Afropolitanism as an identificatory concept politics ethics or aesthetics Afropolitanism may be best approached as a distinct historical and cultural moment that is a certain historical constellation that allows us to glimpse the shifting and multiple silhouettes which Africa as signifier as real and imagined locus embodies in the globalized yet predominantly Western cultural landscape of the 21st century As such Making Black History looks at contemporary fictions of the African or Black Diaspora that have been written and received in the moment of Afropolitanism Discursively this moment is very much part of a diasporic conversation that takes place in the US and is thus informed by various negotiations of blackness race class and cultural identity Yet rather than interpreting Afropolitan literatures merely as a rejection of racial solidarity as some commentators have they should be read as ambivalent responses to post racial discourses dominating the

first decade of the 21st century particularly in the US which oscillate between moments of intense hope and acute disappointment Please read our interview with Dominique Haensell here <https://blog.degruyter.com/de-gruyters/10th-open-access-book-anniversary-dominique-haensell-and-her-winning-title-making-black-history>

**Loose Ends** Russell Reising, 1996 In this study of American cultural production from the colonial era to the present Russell Reising takes up the loose ends of popular American narratives to craft a new theory of narrative closure In the range of works examined here from Phillis Wheatley's poetry to Herman Melville's *Israel Potter* from Henry James's *The Jolly Corner* to the Disney Studio's *Dumbo* Reising finds endings that violate all existing theories of closure and narratives that expose the often unarticulated issues that inspired these texts Reising suggests that these non-endings entirely refocus the narrative structures they appear to conclude accentuate the narrative stresses and ideological fissures that the texts seem to suppress and reveal shadow narratives that trail alongside the dominant story line He argues that unless the reader notices the ruptures in the closing moments of these works the social and historical moments in which the narrative and the reader are embedded will be missed This reading not only offers new interpretive possibilities but also uncovers startling affinities between the poetry of Phillis Wheatley and the fiction of Henry James between Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland* and Melville's least studied novel and between Emily Dickinson's poem *I Started Early Took My Dog* and Disney's animated classic *Pursuing the Implications of these failed moments of closure* Reising elaborates on topics ranging from the roots of domestic violence and mass murder in early American religious texts to the pornographic imperative of mid-century nature writing and from James's descent into naturalist and feminist fiction to *Dumbo's* explosive projection of commercial racial and political agendas for postwar U.S. culture

*Usable Pasts* Tad Tuleja, 1997-06 An eclectic collection of essays on creative use manipulation and invention of traditions by groups of many sizes and types ethnic regional religious organizational and national [Hayseeds, Moralizers, and Methodists](#) Robert Smith Bader, 1988 The tattered image of modern day Kansas and how it got that way is the subject of this pioneering and wonderfully entertaining book Robert Smith Bader traces the rise and fall of the state's reputation from the turn of the century when it was a national leader in the two most prominent sociopolitical movements of the era Progressivism and prohibition through the Jazz Age when Kansas came to epitomize strait-laced fundamentalist values H. L. Mencken proclaimed it the quintessential cow state chock full of hayseeds moralizers and Methodists to today's consensus view of Kansas as drab and boring The book concludes with a marvelous survey of recent popular culture and with a call for a reexamination of the state's historic strengths

*Stories in the Stepmother Tongue* Josip Novakovich, Robert Shapard, 2000 These stories by immigrant writers remind us that in a way we are all immigrants

**The Unusable Past** Russell J. Reising, 1983 [Feminist Theology/Christian Theology](#) Pamela Dickey Young, 1990 **Revolutionary Identity and the Literary Past** Robert Lee Jarrett, 1987 *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*, 2000 [H.L. Mencken Revisited](#) W. H. A. Williams, 1998 Historian Williams updates his 1997 study of American writer Mencken 1880-1956 in light of

subsequent scholarship and the publication of his diaries and memoirs in the 1990s He provides an overview of the iconoclast's life work shows how his ideas developed and changed over time appraises his contributions to American thought and letters and places him in the context of social critics Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR **Studio** ,1986

*Mormonism* Jan Shipps,1985 A highly sophisticated scholarly analysis of cultural and religious origins and development Shipps is not only a leading authority on Mormonism but a cultural historian of a very high order *Shakespeare's Strangers, Resistance, and State Power* Jung-Kook Paik,2007

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