

THE ASAL/HALSTEAD PRESS LITERARY STUDIES SERIES

A Career in Writing: Judah Waten and the Cultural Politics of a Literary Career by David Carter

A Russian-born, Jewish, Australian communist writer and cultural activist, Judah Waten participated in a complex of relationships with Australia and writing. Using Waten's writing career as a connecting thread, *A Career in Writing* examines questions of nationalism, modernity, realism, communism, minority writing and autobiography. It draws together recent work in narrative and genre theory in an argument that literature and literary careers should be understood as institutional, and it offers new perspectives on Australian literary politics and the ways it was possible to be an 'Australian writer' from the 1930s to the 1970s.

David Carter teaches literature and Australian studies at the University of Queensland.

ISBN 0 9587121 0 7

Jamming the Machinery: Contemporary Australian Women's Writing by Alison Bartlett

Jamming the Machinery celebrates the emergence in Australia of a range of contemporary women's writing which challenges conventional expectations of fiction. Alison Bartlett reflects on the implications of French feminist theory and its call for a writing practice which resists established patterns of representation and offers new versions of women's experience. Through her critical analyses of writing by Ania Walwicz, Margaret Coombs, Fiona Place, Inez Baranay, Susan Hawthorne, Sue Woolfe and Davida Allen, she outlines some of the complexities of contemporary feminist art. She blurs the divide between academic critic and writer by contributing her own fictional speculations and allowing each of the writers to speak through a series of interviews (Walwicz, Coombs, Place, Baranay, Hawthorne, Woolfe) and a letter (Allen). The book gives a sense of the energy behind contemporary women's writing in Australia. It is a critical book which breaks down the boundaries between reader and writer, and engages them in a shared exploration of what it means to be a contemporary Australian woman.

Alison Bartlett teaches literature and women's studies at the University of Southern Queensland.

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The English Men examines the introduction and consolidation of English and Australian Literature as subjects of study in Australian universities, and argues that they have been central to the maintenance of colonial cultural ties between Britain and Australia. Drawing on a wide range of documents, including personal letters and inaugural lectures by Australian professors of English, Leigh Dale examines the relationships between critical discourses and broader cultural contexts from the late nineteenth century to the mid 1970s.

Leigh Dale teaches Australian Literature and Australian Studies at the University of Queensland.

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Susan Lever teaches Australian Literature at the Australian Defence Force Academy, University of New South Wales.

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