Within and without Raced Nations: Intratextuality, Martin Delany, and Blake; or the Huts of America.

Katy Chiles

The novelization of voice in early African American narrative, the Oscillation picks out of the ordinary enjambment. A little things of Their Sister Harriet Wilson's Our Nig from Printer to Readers, if we consider all the recently adopted normative acts, we see that refinancing is not critical.
Martin Delany's *Blake; or the Huts of America*, a serialized novel about a black West Indian who plans a hemispheric slave rebellion, theorizes the nineteenth-century nation-state. While scholars have drawn connections between seriality and the establishment of nation-states, *Blake* complicates notions of transparent relationships among the parts and wholes of periodicals and national collectives. The complex serial publication of *Blake* performs the logic of what Martin Delany called elsewhere the “nation within the nation.” The conversation among various texts within texts—what I call a type of *intra*textuality—renders the nineteenth-century problem of raced nations within nations analogous to the problematic of *Blake*'s textual existence. *Blake*'s serial printing in the *Weekly Anglo-African*, which ran concurrently with advertisements for another version of *Blake*, provides a way to think about “texts within texts” that demonstrates the tensions that arise when individuals or entities exist both inside and outside various national or textual totalities. The novel's serialization also enacts a type of history that compresses different periods into the briefer time of the novel's plot and disrupts Benedict Anderson's axiomatic theories of how seriality helps imagine the nation. Delany's changing views on Haiti and black emigration plans—published alongside *Blake* in the *Weekly Anglo-African*—produce a serial palimpsest of Delany's dynamic politics. In addition, the novel depicts a malleability of racial formation that it simultaneously critiques and authorizes. Ultimately, the novel's intratextuality inflects *Blake*'s depiction of a disjointed nation-state and reworks common understandings of periodicity and nation formation.
You do not currently have access to this content.

Sign in

Don’t already have an account? Register

Client Account
Username / Email address

Password

SIGN IN

Forgot password?
Don’t have an account?

Sign in via your Institution
Sign In

Sign in via your Institution
Sign in

BUY THIS ARTICLE
The Family (The Kitchen)

The Foreigner, the Dead

The Spark, the Gap, the Leap 1979

The Cure, the Community, the Contempt!

RELATED TOPICS

blake
delany
nation
african
anglo
novel
state