Portable monuments: Literature, cultural memory, and the case of Jeanie Deans.


Ann Rigney

No cover image available

Issue Editors
Els Andringa
Margrit Schreier

ARTICLE NAVIGATION

Previous Article

Portable Monuments: Literature, Cultural Memory, and the Case of Jeanie Deans

Next Article

https://doi.org/10.1215/03335372-25-2-361

This site uses cookies. By continuing to use our website, you are agreeing to our privacy policy.

Accept
This article seeks to contribute to contemporary discussions on the workings of cultural memory and examines in particular the way in which literary texts can function as a social framework for memory. Through a detailed study of the genesis, composition, and long-term reception of Walter Scott's *The Heart of Midlothian* (1982 [1818]), I argue that literary texts play a variety of roles in the formation of cultural memory and that these roles are linked to their status as public discourse, to their fictional and poetical qualities, and to their longevity. This analysis of the multiple roles of literary texts in what I call “memorial dynamics” sheds light on the complex communicative processes by which images of the past are formed and transformed over time. It indicates the need to consider discontinuity as a feature of memorial dynamics and to recognize, for better or for worse, that fictionality and poeticity are an integral and not merely “inauthentic” feature of cultural memory.

© 2004 by the Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics

You do not currently have access to this content.

Sign in

Don't already have an account? Register
RELATED TOPICS

memory
scott
history
novel
jeanie
dean
cultural

RELATED BOOK CHAPTERS

“Job and the Bug”

The Chrysalis and the Caterpillar

The Wastrel and the Prostitute

The Press and the Revolution

About Poetics Today: International Journal for Theory and Analysis of Literature and Communication

Editorial Board