

A micro-ebook reformatted from

Symbiosis: a Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations

Volume 6.2

Christopher Gair

**Beyond Boundaries:
Cricket, Herman Melville,
and C. L. R. James's Cold War**

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

FOR GUIDANCE ON USE OF THIS EBOOK PLEASE SCROLL TO PAGE 2

PUBLICATION DATA

© Symbiosis 2002, 2007 all rights reserved

The Author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this Work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published in SYMBIOSIS, 6.2, October 2002, pp. pp.159–78

2nd electronic edition published in 2007 by Humanities-Ebooks LLP

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

Tirril Hall, Tirril, Penrith CA10 2JE

Essays published in Symbiosis are subsequently digitized for the benefit of the author (80%) and the Journal (20%)

READING OPTIONS

To use the toolbar this Ebook should be read in default view.

To navigate use the hyperlinked 'Bookmarks' or thumbnails at the left of the screen.

To search, click on the binocular symbol in the toolbar.

Use <CTRL+L> to enlarge the page to full screen.

LICENCE AND PERMISSIONS

This ebook is licensed for reading on a particular computer.

The original purchaser may license the same work for a second computer by applying to support@humanities-ebooks.co.uk with proof of purchase.

It is permissible to print a watermarked copy of the book for your own use.

ISSN: 1362-7902

A cumulative index of Symbiosis essays and reviews is online at

<http://www.symbiosisonline.org.uk>

Christopher Gair

Beyond Boundaries: Cricket, Herman Melville, and C. L. R. James's Cold War

Even at a moment when transnationalism appears to have become the new orthodoxy in American Studies, an essay linking a sport indelibly associated with British colonialism, an author at the very core of the American literary canon, and the Cold War may seem to be taking its title's (cricket inspired) metaphorical invocation of transgression too far. What does a piece that focuses much of its attention on a cricket match played in Australia in early 1933 hold of interest for readers of a journal dedicated to Anglo-American literary relations? The game can hardly be claimed to have made a major impact on the United States' sporting consciousness, and for many Americans serves as an exemplary reminder of the differences between British and American cultures: what can be the point of a sport in which one match can be declared drawn after several days' play, beyond illustrating the need for American games (basketball, football, baseball) that can be watched at a single sitting, and that guarantee a victor at the end of the afternoon or evening? And what possible relation can there be between a sporting contest featuring Australia and England, played out on the other side of the world nearly seventy years ago, and the future of American Studies as an academic discipline?

The answer lies in my title's reference to the Trinidadian writer and critic C. L. R. James, whose professional career stretched from the 1920s to the 1980s, and whose political and cultural interests refused to be tied down by disciplinary constraints. James is rapidly becoming a key figure in Transnational American Studies, being seen by critics such as Donald E. Pease as a pioneering practitioner of a methodology that would only emerge as a critical norm several