



Introduction: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures and Works

Caroline Reitz

Abstract. The executive editor of *Clues* provides an overview of the issue, including articles on John Dickson Carr; Agatha Christie; Arthur Conan Doyle in Dutch translation; Umberto Eco; a YA mystery series featuring Indigenous issues; island mysteries; Korean crime fiction; and noir's relationship with works by William Faulkner, David Goodis, and John D. MacDonald.

This volume of *Clues* continues the work of following familiar names, from Arthur Conan Doyle to John Dickson Carr, into unusual places (a Dutch newspaper and Jacobean revenge plays, respectively), as well as understudied crime fiction, from Korea to the Cree Nation.

Our second “Spotlight on” follows last year’s study of Chilean crime fiction: in this issue, we explore Korean crime fiction, which is understudied “both on and off the peninsula” but very widely read. Jooyeon Rhee’s “*Spotlight on... Crime Fiction in Korea: Transformation and Transnationality of the Genre*” begins in the context of Japanese colonization, takes us through the Cold War, and examines trends since national division under the Armistice Agreement in 1953. “The legacy of Japan’s colonization of Korea (1910–45) and the Korean War (1950–53),” Rhee writes, “affected the cultural landscape in Korea, paving the way for the emergence of a large volume of literature dealing with the physical and emotional damage caused by these traumatic historical events.” This is a body of literature shaped by censorship and impacted by the political events that dictated who could write and about what. It also explores how fiction “can react to historical trauma and crimes that were committed by people in the name of nation and ideology.” Scholarship on crime fiction is relatively new in South Korea but under wraps in the North due to its “transgressive nature.” We are

Caroline Reitz is associate professor in the Department of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice–CUNY and the CUNY Graduate Center. Her areas of interest include Victorian studies, theory of the novel, nationalism, feminist theory, crime, and empire.