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Poetry of the American Revolution

Speaker: A/P John Richardson

Date: Wednesday, 19th March 2008

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: AS5/05-09A

Abstract:

The eighteenth-century British tradition of martial writing favored the patriots of the American Revolution and disadvantaged the loyalists. Patriot poets could draw upon a rich supply of tropes, imagined situations and poetic devices, which were familiar and resonant to poet and reader, but the loyalists turned almost in vain to the martial tradition for help. In particular, conceptions of justified war as defensive, of the hero as a patriot defender, and of the enemy as a cruel invader, all adapted easily to the patriot cause and far less well to the loyalist.

About the Speaker:

John Richardson is a member of the Department of English Language and Literature and his research focuses on the eighteenth century.

ALL ARE WELCOME!