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All items appearing below can also be found in the online edition of RMMLA's peer-reviewed Journal, the *Rocky Mountain E-Review*, at www.rmmla.org

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ARTICLES

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Persian Miniatures as Textual Unconscious: Illustrations of *Layli va Majnun* in the 1431 Hermitage *Khamsa*

Nizami's love story Layli va Majnun is frequently depicted in medieval Islamic manuscripts. The poem operates on two simultaneous levels: the plane of earthly desire and the realm of spiritual pursuit of the Beloved. One particular illustrative sequence of the story, found in the 1431 VR-1000 Khamsa manuscript kept by the State Hermitage Museum, is more than a merely mimetic reflection of the text. Taking up American medievalist Stephen G. Nichols' conceptualization of the textual unconscious, this article examines the text/image relationship in VR-1000 to reveal how the images exceed, undermine, and ultimately allegorically reinforce the textual narrative.

Hildy Miller, Portland State University 133

Refiguring *The Birds* as Modern Female Gothic in the Kennedy Era

*This essay examines the Alfred Hitchcock cult film *The Birds*, situated in the transitional era of the Kennedy presidency, from the perspective of the enduring historic female Gothic in literature and film. The feminist reading expands John Hellman's historical critique by focusing specifically on the representation of women characters—situated in the Kennedy era, but also reflecting the underlying energy and restlessness of women throughout the "long 1950s," (1946-1964) which preceded the transition into second wave feminism. Melanie, Annie, Lydia, Cathy, and even some of the minor female characters reflect gender role tensions of the era. Far from victims of patriarchy brutally reasserting itself, most of the women, though partially thwarted, do exercise agency in their struggle to break free.*

Rafael Chirbes's *En la orilla*: Allegories of Cryptic Transgenerational Trauma

Rafael Chirbes's 2013 novel En la orilla is a paradigm of trans-generational trauma, focusing on the protagonist's relationship with his father following the Spanish Civil War. Two figures, the marshland and the calendar, are read allegorically to understand the complexities of trauma, a phenomenon that calls for articulation at the same time as it resists representation.

Making Mythology: The Role of Ancient Faith in Crafting a Unifying Narrative in *Teutonic Mythology* and *Children's and Household Tales*

Works by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm, with particular focus on Teutonic Mythology and Children's and Household Tales, were written to establish tangible objects, written histories, and thereby a Germanic identity, which existed outside of any particular geographical location. Recreating a Germanic paganism faith formed an essential cornerstone of both ancient and modern German society. In blending pagan and Christian elements and focusing on the cultural implications of ancient myths, the Grimms vivify ancient myth in order to revive a contemporary pagan religious significance to the tales, and therefore elements of ancient pagan faith itself into the daily lives of Germanic peoples.

STERLING KEYNOTE 2020

Since the RMMLA Annual Convention was not held in 2020 due to the Corona virus pandemic, the full text of David Caldwell's timely Sterling Keynote Address is included in this issue.

You Are Invited to a Masked Ball. P.S.: Do Not Wear a Mask

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