

FEMALE PERSPECTIVES

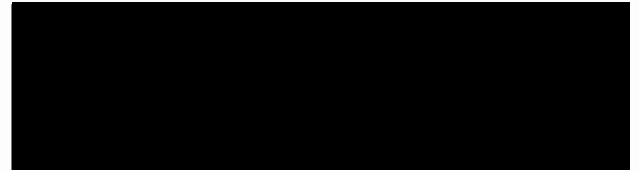
A STUDY OF THE COLONIAL TEXTS OF ADELAIDE BOWLER AND LUCY GRAY

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A dissertation submitted in May 2007 as fulfilment of the requirement
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Disclaimer

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degrees. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.



Margaret Vivers

1 May, 2007

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Abstract

This dissertation focuses on the unpublished written and pictorial texts of two middle-class colonial women, Adelaide Suttor (née Bowler) (1837–1920) from Bathurst, New South Wales, and Lucy Gray (née Waters) (1840–1879), originally from Ireland and England, but writing from Hughenden in north Queensland between 1868 and 1875. Taking an interdisciplinary approach the texts of these two women are examined and ways suggested by which women's life writing, and their paintings and drawings, might be more productively utilized in our quest for a greater understanding of the colonial situation. By focussing on only two women, influences such as their formative years, Victorian ideologies and individual circumstance can be examined more closely, as can the effects of expected audience and possible meanings inherent in deletions, irregularities, and silences within the texts. First, various characteristics that appear to be genre-specific are explored. The findings are then used as a foundation for further investigations which take place across genres. While certain differences in the language, structure and content of life-writing generated by the men and women under examination are sometimes revealed, the thesis is more concerned with how, by using women's texts as primary source material, historians might introduce extra 'colour and texture' to historical discourse, which generally prioritises source material produced by men.

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I dedicate this thesis to the memory of Sue Toohey. We shared an office and our thoughts, and her quiet strength and determination were an inspiration.

Abbreviations

JOL = John Oxley Library

BCA = Birr Castle Archives

UNE = The University of New England