

# Trap of Semiology : A Caricature of Columbus in Melville's "The Encantadas"

著者名(英)	Maki Ueshiba
journal or publication title	紀要
volume	VOLN1
page range	9
year	2008-10-01
URL	<a href="http://id.nii.ac.jp/1345/00003431/">http://id.nii.ac.jp/1345/00003431/</a>

Sky-Hawk, No.21, 41-54 (2005)

英文

### Trap of Semiology: A Caricature of Columbus in Melville's "The Encantadas"

Maki Ueshiba

#### Abstract

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1841, Herman Melville left Fairhaven in Massachusetts on a whaler, the *Acushnet*, as a common sailor. The ship passed around the Cape Horn reaching the South Pacific, then went north toward the Peruvian coast. "The Encantadas or Enchanted Isles" (1854) is not a documentary, but a fiction derived from Melville's experiences on Galapagos Isles during the fall in 1841. The first six sketches in this novella are narrated in documentary style broadly mimic Darwin's Theory of Evolution. For example, the puzzling list on p.140 appears to be statistical population of Albemarle island for readers. It contains "Man-haters" and "Devils" as the metaphors of something within this work. We should see the author's deconstructive resistance by them against the Theory of Evolution which had been gaining power in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Another point at issue is that a shift of narrator's viewpoint brings dramatic transformation of those meanings on the visual world. If we fail to appreciate the position of narrator's viewpoint in each Sketch, we could misunderstand the familiar diagram "E" in the "Sketch Third" as the diagram "ㄨ". And British and American flags on the mast of same enemy whaler indicate the narrator's trap. These puzzling shifts of the narrator's viewpoint will be referred to the semi-documentary style narrative in later sketches. Such tragic heroes as Dog-King, Hunilla and Oberlus might change their characters by the shifts of the narrator's viewpoint overall.