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LITERATURE

French

Following the Artist's Blueprint in Ronsard's *Les Sonnets pour Hélène*

Jean M. Fallon

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Abstract. This study seeks to examine Ronsard's final sonnet sequence, the 1584 *Sonnets pour Hélène*, as an exercise in theme and style, specifically as a poetic treatise on the writing of poetry itself. When we analyze the poems in the cycle, we discover a hidden architecture that emerges, permitting us to follow the author's blueprint as he develops his manifesto of poetic thought and theory. A group of sixteen sonnets which I call "tableau sonnets" comprises the architectural foundation for the *Hélène* sequence. Together these poems form a mini sonnet cycle within the larger sequence through which we can trace major developments in the entire work.

The Veil of Isis: Mallarmé's Poetry As a Rite of Initiation

D. Hampton Morris

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Abstract. During the nineteenth century, not a few writers were intrigued by Isis's mystic significance for literature. Among these was Stéphane Mallarmé, who was particularly fascinated by what her veiled figure represented, especially in poetry. This article indicates that much of Mallarmé's poetry can be considered as "rites of initiation" which prepare the reader for an individual revelation of the hidden mysteries of the universe; it concludes that even though exegesis of Mallarmé's poetry has made valuable contributions, it is the individual experience of the poetry which is actually the most revelatory, giving one the most satisfying appreciation of what the poet attempted to achieve.

Jean Genet at the Guthrie: Akalaitis's Taming of *The Screens*

Cynthia Running-Johnson

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Abstract. This article treats differences between Jean Genet's play *The Screens* and its staging by Joanne Akalaitis at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis (1989). *The Screens*, set in Algeria before and during the Franco-Algerian war, is characterized by ambiguities which give it a somewhat disturbing character, especially as far as the political perspective of the play is concerned. Akalaitis's production took a lighter and more politically focused view of Genet's script, thereby blunting the play's powerful edge. At the same time, however, the show was admirable in its coherence, energy and

sumptuousness. The article concludes with reflections upon the causes and implications of such directorial transformations.

Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light: AIDS and Literary Metaphor in Contemporary Gay French Fiction

Simon P. Sibelman

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Abstract. The literary legacy bequeathed by Proust, Gide and Genet established a degree of acceptability for the homosexual as protagonist. Contemporary French writers, as inheritors of that tradition, have in turn adapted the theme of homosexuality to reflect the realities of Gay Liberation. Their texts reflected an asceticism of form in which the "trick," the anonymous sexual act, suspended or subordinated traditional narrative forms while encouraging innovation. However, the advent of AIDS has required radically altered perceptions of gay life in order to respond to the mounting tragedy. This paper explores the complexities of the ontological character of AIDS as conceived in gay French prose fiction, exploring textually and contextually significant images arising from a variety of literary responses.

German

Sado-Masochistic Daughters; The Mother's Fault? The Mother-Daughter Relationships in Brigitte Schwaiger's *Wie kommt das Salz ins Meer* and Elfriede Jelinek's *Die Klavierspielerin*

Norgard Klages

40

Abstract. Feminist psychoanalysts have rejected Freud's interpretation of child development and described it as phallogocentric. They offer a new set of explanations that is supposed to deconstruct the dichotomy of Freud's thinking. It looks to woman's role in society and in the family—namely her mothering the child—to account for identity loss and the loss of ego boundaries in women. The focus has shifted from the direct accusation of the mother herself to the condemnation of the patriarchal society that imposes a role on her. This paper investigates how mothers are seen in autobiographical writings by Jelinek and Schwaiger, applying Chodorow's and Benjamin's theories for a psychoanalytic analysis of the mother-daughter-relationship and its effects on the development of sadistic and masochistic behavior.

Spanish American

Dos visiones de la mujer en *Lucía Jerez* de José Martí: la ideal amada inerte y la fuerte mujer fatal

Aida Beaupied

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Abstract. This essay analyzes the relation between what has been described as a critical preoccupation with literary discourse and the all-inclusive motif of transcendence. By studying the love triangle among the novel's main characters—Lucía Jerez, Juan Jerez, and Sol del Valle—this essay sets out to show a parallel between the transcendence achieved by Juan Jerez and that achieved by the narrator. Just as Juan Jerez's transcendence is symbol-

lized by his rupture with the world which Lucía and Sol del Valle represent, the narrator expresses his own desire to transcend by assuming a critical evaluation of literary discourse.

Houses, Boats, and Hot-Air Balloons: The Role of Place in García Márquez's *El amor en los tiempos del cólera*

R. A. Kerr

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Abstract. Examination of several specific locations in *El amor en los tiempos del cólera* reveals that place exercises an important controlling function in the novel. Characters' associations with certain places reveal aspects of their own personalities. Physical changes in places often mirror changes in characters who inhabit such places. Repeated, parallel, or contrastive events frequently occur at similar locations, creating effects that range from dramatic irony to the reinforcement of thematic concerns. Finally, the "poetization" of space in the novel creates surreal or self-conscious effects reminiscent of those observed in earlier works by the author.

LINGUISTICS

Una aproximación al vocabulario sociopolítico y religioso en el *Diccionario de la Academia*

Alfredo Torrejón

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Abstract. The present study assumes that the wording of definitions of sociopolitical and religious terms in the Spanish Academy's *Diccionario de la lengua castellana* sheds light on the social and linguistic attitudes that the Spanish elite has maintained towards several religious and sociopolitical movements during the time the *Diccionario* has been in circulation. The kinds of definitions that are examined are, in the religious sphere, those that relate to the several branches of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, oriental religions, and American Indian religions. In the sociopolitical arena, the author examines concepts such as freedom, democracy, tyranny, monarchy, socialism, communism, fascism, and others.

PEDAGOGY

Using Industry Profiles in Business French: A Survey of the Seventh Art

Brent A. Pitts

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Abstract. Based on classroom experience, this article suggests how the assignment of profiles of selected French industries not only broadens the scope of the Business French course but also challenges students to sharpen their language skills. Such assignments provide a kind of practical infrastructure for the course, and they have the added benefit of allowing students to choose corporations of personal or professional interest. The author illustrates the usefulness of this project in a survey of the French film industry.

Editor's Note

After a successful meeting of the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference at East Carolina University on 17-19 October 1991, approximately forty manuscripts were submitted for the second volume of *MIFLC Review*. Each essay received by the deadline was immediately sent to two specialists on the Editorial Board. In cases of significant disagreement between the first two readers, the manuscript was forwarded to a third reader to assure its author that his/her work received a thorough and fair evaluation. Under our present policy, one reader's response is not sufficient to warrant publication or rejection.

For each essay we choose readers who are specialists in the subject or methodology of the manuscript submitted. They are encouraged to look for well-argued scholarly articles, original interpretations, and sound and innovative critical analyses. Manuscripts prepared only for oral delivery and lacking proper documentation are, therefore, disqualified. Our goal is not to publish selected proceedings but rather scholarly studies based on the papers read at our annual meetings.

I was very pleased with the response from the members of the Editorial Board, and I am sure that in the majority of cases the authors benefited greatly from their thoughtfully written evaluations. In rereading our editors' critiques, I noticed some recurrent reasons for rejection which might be useful for the MIFLC members interested in submitting their work for consideration in the future. Among the most telling observations were the following: lack of organization; weak introductions and conclusions that were not justified by the rationale provided in the body of the paper; inappropriate scholarly documentation; format obviously intended for oral delivery but not for publication; verbose and obscure language; and lack of focus. In general, the successful integration of format and content as well as the legibility of the manuscript were decisive factors in accepting the article for publication.

Because our evaluation procedure was slightly modified in the preparation of this volume and in order to facilitate our review process, we have invited seven new members to serve on the Editorial Board. I am therefore very pleased to welcome Carmen Chaves Tesser, specialist in Luso-Brazilian literature, of the University of Georgia; Eric du Plessis, specialists in 19th and 20th century French literature, of Radford University; Eduardo González, specialist in Latin American and Colonial literature, of the Johns Hopkins University; Margo Milleret, specialist in Luso-Brazilian literature and Spanish-American theatre, of Vanderbilt University.