

Summaries of articles

Sumptuous and Perverse Giving.

A Historical Commentary on one of Rousseau's Rêveries

J. STAROBINSKI

By noting, from Seneca to Antonin Artaud, all the vibrating overtones of a page from Rousseau's 9th Rêverie, this article proposes neither a history nor a psychology of giving, nor gives an account of sociohistorical manifestations of charity. Its intention is more to emphasize, from Jean-Jacques Rousseau's text constituting a referable source, a major bifurcation in modern conscience; a bifurcation that would explain the divergent development of literary experience and contemporary social demands.

The Sagremor Character and the Composition of the Suites du Merlin

Cl. ROUSSEL

The study of the Sagremor character in the Suites du Merlin presents some interesting views on the composition of these texts that aim at bridging the gap in the Lancelot-Graal cycle. Sagremor has been endowed with a genealogy which turns out to be muddled and contradictory. A short biography aims to explain the fiery spirit, difficult to control, characteristic of him. An outstanding event in the biography seems to be a close copy of an episode appearing in several medieval narratives, including Philippe de Remy's La Manekine. But such borrowing proves in turn to be lacking in rigour and somewhat absurd. By wishing to bring out the character's entire past, the authors of the Suites have ended up by making him obscure and problematic. Such are the snares in writing.

The Poet's Entry into the Political Arena in Fifteenth Century Literature

J. BLANCHARD

At the end of the Middle Ages political power becomes a theme for poetic creation. Three authors, Jean Gerson, Alain Chartier and Christine de Pizan enter the political realm and address the Prince. The poet starts off by defining his place in the discourse

(e.g., *Christine de Pizan's* mutacion). *He is the Prince's alter and wants the obligations such alterity implies to be fully discharged.*

The poet's discourse bears truth by the very fact that it does not pertain to logos, but to experience. It seeks to question the Prince freely, well aware of the risks involved in such enquiry. The problematics that arise out of contrasting the poet's direct discourse with the evasive, the flatterer's marred speech, is the basis for the constitution of political discourse at the beginning of the fifteenth century. In an attempt to conciliate the absolute nature of royal power with the political counsel of the reformer, the poet weaves a fictional model by which the Prince is to be spurred into practising new wisdom. There looms the intellectual figure, at the onset of the fifteenth century, an ideologist who dares to delineate the new limits of political power.

The « Christianizing » of the Pattern of the Three Functional Orders: the Contribution of the School of Auxerre in the Second Half of the 9th Century

D. IOGNA-PRAT

*This article contributes to the analysis of the problem of the origins of the medieval pattern of the three functional orders. It throws a light on a passage from book II of the *Miracula sancti Germani* written by Heiric of Auxerre in the 870's. The passage is studied in the context of book II of the *Miracula* and is presented with an analysis of Heiric's vocabulary. It then traces back the long thread of textual dependancies leading to Heiric (and before him Haimo of Auxerre, Hrabanus Maurus, Isidore of Séville and Servius) and making him the heir of the pattern of Indo-European origin, formulated by the Roman annalists. Finally it attempts to show Heiric's contribution to the formulation of the medieval pattern of the three functional orders. Influenced by his masters Haimo, Hrabanus Maurus, but also by the neoplatonism conveyed in the work of John Scottus (*Eriugena*), he hellenized, christianized and monasticized the three-functional Indo-European pattern. As a conclusion, it suggests how the pattern formulated by Heiric survived among the Cluniacs at the turn of the eleventh century.*

King, Lords and Commons: Mixed Monarchy and Estates in Early Modern England

B. COTTRET

*In early modern England, the three estates underwent a drastic change in definition. The traditional division of the body politic—*oratores, bellatores, laboratores*—was gradually superseded by the *King-in-Parliament*. A mixed monarchy was deemed more perfect as it combined monarchy, aristocracy and democracy. How far did this polemical shift in emphasis correspond to an actual change in perception and representation? Using Maitland, as well as more recent analyses by Corinne C. Weston, M. Baridon or G. R. Elton, this article offers an anthropological approach to constitutional theory, from John Hooker to Bolingbroke and Blackstone.*

The Continuance of Giants

A. SCHNAPPER

Belief in giants originally inhabiting the entire earth (in pursuance of the old idea of nature's degeneration), or a part of it, is far from dying out, as is thought to be the case at the beginning of the 17th century. Grounded on the Bible and a great number of

classic authors, from Homer to Saint Augustin, and supported by the constant discovery of gigantic bones in the earth, the belief is maintained among many individuals right up to the end of the 18th century. Even though the true animal origin of these remains appeared obvious as from Antiquity, no scientific proof of the fact was to be had in the modern sense before Cuvier. For centuries, believers and sceptics debated without coming to any decision, giants being credited by many clergymen, trying to defend the documentary truth of the Scriptures all the more as Church authority was on the wane since the end of the 17th century.

Malthus, Ricardo and Deserted Villages in 18th Century Spain

R. HERR

Historians maintain that the reforms attempted by Charles III produced a prosperous peasant society while nineteenth century disentail increased social and political evils. This article identifies the Malthusian and Ricardian pressures (of population growth and landowners' exactions) bearing down on Old Regime rural communities. Using the case of the province of Salamanca, it shows that creating a society of small farmers perpetuate the "Malthusian trap", while disentail furthered the "Ricardian trap" by favoring large ownership. Disentail succeeded because it increased commercialization and agricultural income.

***Cereal Price Movement in Russia
from the 18th Century to the Beginning of the 20th Century***

B. MIRONOV

Between 1707 and 1914, whereas the general price index in Russia is six times greater, cereal prices increase tenfold. Ending in the Russian market being almost aligned on European prices, this movement is accompanied by a levelling of regional prices throughout the country, for the benefit, on the one hand, of zones closest to the markets, and on the other hand favouring the lowest price areas. Correlation analysis shows that price dynamics was determined by the evolution in money supply, the volume of exports, world market and grain export prices, production costs and extent of the crop. This indicates that even before the reforms in the 1860's, the principles of merchant production had pervaded Russian economy and society.