

BECKETT AND ANIMALS

The animals that appear in Samuel Beckett's work are diverse and unpredictable. They serve as victim and persecutor, companion and adversary, disconcerting observers and objects oblivious to the human gaze. Bringing together an international array of Beckett specialists, this is the first full-length study to explore the significance of the animals that populate Beckett's prose, drama and poetry. Essays theorize a broad spectrum of animal manifestations whilst focussing on the roles that distinct animal forms play within Beckett's work, including horses, sheep, cats, dogs, bees, insects and others. Contributors situate close readings within a larger literary and cultural context, drawing on thinkers ranging from Aristotle to Deleuze, Foucault and Agamben, and on authors such as Flaubert, Kafka and Coetzee. The result is an incisive and provocative collection that traverses disciplinary boundaries, revealing how Beckett's creatures challenge conventional notions of species identity and, ultimately, what it means to be human.

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Today/Aujourd'hui, No. 19, 2008); "No Body Is at Rest": The Legacy of Leibniz's Force in Beckett's Oeuvre' in Linda Ben-Zvi and Angela Moorjani (eds.), Beckett at 100: Revolving It All (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008); and 'Beckett's Faint Cries: Leibniz's Petites Perceptions in First Love and Malone Dies' (Samuel Beckett Today/ Aujourd'hui, No. 24, 2012).

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In the interstices of other Beckett activity, I have often planned to draw together some long-standing reflections on Beckett and animals. It was encouraging to find that there were many Beckett pursuants at home and abroad who were also convinced of the importance of the topic. I would like to thank all of my contributors, as well as interested colleagues and interlocutors associated with the Beckett International Foundation in Reading, especially Jim Knowlson, John Pilling and Mark Nixon. All of this enthusiasm would not, however, have seen the light of day without Dr Ray Ryan and his colleagues at Cambridge University Press, whose support and assistance I deeply appreciate. I am also most grateful to Mr Edward Beckett and the Beckett Estate for permission to publish doodles from the Mercier et Camier notebooks, as well as some other unpublished material. Thanks for permissions are similarly owed to the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin and to the Beckett International Foundation at the University of Reading. On the bestiary material specifically, I would like to acknowledge useful exchanges with Sarah Kay and Catherine Leglu, and also to thank the Society for French Studies and its then-president, Susan Harrow, for inviting me to present some of this material in a plenary session at its annual conference, resulting in some invaluable feedback. Finally, I must thank my husband Ray for his loving comradeship, and for his tolerance of Beckett-related crittertalk over many years.





Abbreviations

CP Collected Poems 1930–1978 (London: John Calder, 1986) **CSP** Collected Shorter Prose 1945-1980 (London: John Calder, **CSPL** Collected Shorter Plays of Samuel Beckett (London: Faber, **DFMW** Dream of Fair to Middling Women (Dublin: Black Cat, DIS Disjecta, ed. by Ruby Cohn (London: John Calder, 1983) EG Endgame (London: Faber, 1958) Fin de partie (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1957) **FDP** HD Happy Days/Oh les Beaux Jours, bilingual edition, ed. by James Knowlson (London: Faber, 1978) How It Is (London: John Calder, 1964) HII LDP Le Dépeupleur (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1970) The Letters of Samuel Beckett 1929-1940, ed. by Martha Letters I Dow Fehsenfeld and Lois More Overbeck (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009) Letters II The Letters of Samuel Beckett 1941-1956, ed. by George Craig, Martha Dow Fehsenfeld, Dan Gunn and Lois More Overbeck (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) L'Innommable (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1953) LI MC Mercier et Camier (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1970) MCa Mercier and Camier (London: Picador, 1988) ML Molloy (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1951 [1982 printing]) MLa Molloy (London: Faber, 2009) Malone Meurt (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1951) MM More Pricks Than Kicks (London: Calder and Boyars, 1970) **MPTK** MU Murphy (London: Picador, 1973)

Nohow On (London: Calder, 1992)

NO



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P	Proust, and Three Dialogues with Georges Duthuit (London:
	John Calder, 1965)
PFE	Pour finir encore, in Pour finir encore et autres foirades (Paris:
	Editions de Minuit, 1991), pp. 8–12
T	The Beckett Trilogy: Molloy, Malone Dies, The Unnamable
	(London: Picador, 1979)
TCD	Trinity College Dublin
UoR	University of Reading
W	Watt (London: John Calder, 1976)
WFG	Waiting for Godot (London: Faber, 2010)