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978-0-521-15526-7 - Queneau's Fiction: An Introductory Study

Christopher Shorley

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Queneau's fiction

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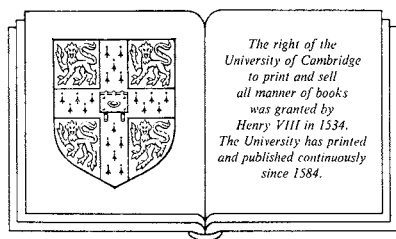
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Queneau's fiction
an introductory study

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Preface

Although in France and elsewhere in Europe Queneau's work is now widely respected, it has not, on the whole, enjoyed a comparable degree of appreciation in English-speaking countries. Instead it has tended to remain the preserve of a small band of enthusiastic initiates, thus sustaining an unjustified reputation for esotericism, even inaccessibility. What follows is an attempt to present Queneau to a wider anglophone readership, using established critical perspectives while avoiding, as far as possible, the obscurities of critical jargon. It is hoped thereby to identify particularly useful lines of approach to Queneau's fictional writings, and to suggest the considerable satisfactions and rewards they have to offer.

I take pleasure in recording my thanks to all who have helped in the various stages through which this book has passed, and particularly André Blavier, Jean Queval, Claude Rameil, Malcolm Bowie, Rhiannon Goldthorpe and Peter Hoy. Special thanks, also, to Carina Rourke, for typing the manuscript; and to my wife, for assistance far too extensive to detail here. My gratitude is also due to The Queen's University of Belfast, and to the British Academy, for help in financing research in France and Belgium.

Parts of this book have already appeared, in different form, in *French Studies*, *Temps Mêlés Documents Queneau* and *Les Amis de Valentin Brû*. I gratefully acknowledge permission from the respective editors to use this material.

Abbreviations

An alphabetical list of the principal works by Queneau mentioned in the text, together with dates of the editions used, the series to which they belong, where appropriate, and the abbreviations adopted.

In all cases the place of publication is Paris and, unless otherwise stated, the publisher is Gallimard.

Bâtons, chiffres et lettres (Coll. Idées) 1965 *Bâtons*

Bords: mathématiciens, précurseurs, encyclopédistes Editions Hermann 1966 *Bords*

Chêne et chien (Coll. Poésie) 1969 *Chêne et chien*

Le Chiendent 1968 *Chiendent*

Contes et propos 1981 *Contes*

Les Derniers Jours 1977 *Derniers Jours*

Le Dimanche de la vie 1966 *Dimanche*

Les Enfants du limon 1952 *Limon*

Entretiens avec Georges Charbonnier 1962 *Charbonnier*

Exercices de style (Coll. Soleil) 1964 *Exercices*

Les Fleurs bleues 1965 *Fleurs bleues*

Gueule de pierre 1934 *Gueule de pierre*

Une Histoire modèle 1966 *Histoire modèle*

Loin de Rueil 1966 *Rueil*

Odile 1969 *Odile*

Les Œuvres complètes de Sally Mara 1962 *Sally Mara*

Pierrot mon ami 1957 *Pierrot*

Un Rude Hiver 1968 *Rude Hiver*

Saint Glinglin 1961 *Glinglin*

Les Temps mêlés 1941 *Temps mêlés*

Le Vol d'Icare 1968 *Icare*

Le Voyage en Grèce 1973 *Voyage*

Zazie dans le métro 1961 *Zazie*