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0521642965 - Writing Marginality in Modern French Literature: From Loti to Genet

Edward J. Hughes

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## WRITING MARGINALITY IN MODERN FRENCH LITERATURE

*Writing Marginality in Modern French Literature* explores how cultural centres require the peripheral, the outlawed, and the deviant in order to define and bolster themselves. It analyses the hierarchies of cultural value which inform the work of six modern French writers: the exoticist Pierre Loti; Paul Gauguin, whose *Noa Noa* enacts European fantasies about Polynesia; Proust, who analyses such exemplary figures of exclusion and inclusion as the homosexual and the xenophobe; Montherlant, who claims to subvert colonialist values in *La Rose de sable*; Camus, who pleads an alienating detachment from the cultures of both metropolitan France and Algeria; and Jean Genet. Crucially Genet, typecast as France's moral pariah, charts Palestinian statelessness in his last work, *Un captif amoureux* (1986) and reflects ethically on the dispossession of the Other and the violence inherent in the West's marginalization of cultural difference.

EDWARD J. HUGHES is Reader in Modern French Literature at Royal Holloway at the University of London. He is the author of *Marcel Proust: a Study in the Quality of Awareness* (Cambridge, 1983) and *Albert Camus: 'Le Premier Homme' / 'La Peste'* (1995). His reviews appear regularly in *The Times Literary Supplement*.

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I have used available translations of Proust, Camus, and Genet, making only very occasional modifications to these, and have supplied double page references. The translations of material from Loti, Gauguin, Montherlant, and Camus's early essays are my own.

- AA* Paul Gauguin, *Avant et Après*, Paris: La Table Ronde, 1994.  
*Az* Pierre Loti, *Aziyadé*, Paris: GF-Flammarion, 1989.  
*CA* Jean Genet, *Un captif amoureux*, Paris: Gallimard (Folio), 1986.  
*Corr.* Marcel Proust, *Correspondance*, 21 vols., Philip Kolb (ed.), Paris: Plon, 1970–93.  
*CSB* Marcel Proust, *Contre Sainte-Beuve*, Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, 1971.  
*ED* Jean Genet, *L'Ennemi déclaré*, ed. Albert Dichy, Paris: Gallimard, 1991.  
*EK* Albert Camus, *Exile and the Kingdom*, trans. Justin O'Brien, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1989.  
*Ess.* Albert Camus, *Essais*, Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, 1965.  
*FM* Albert Camus, *The First Man*, trans. David Hapgood, London: Hamish Hamilton, 1995.  
*JV* Jean Genet, *Journal du voleur*, Paris: Gallimard (Folio): 1949.  
*LRS* Pierre Loti, *Le Roman d'un spahi*, Paris: Omnibus, 1989.  
*MC* Pierre Loti, *Madame Chrysanthème*, Paris: GF-Flammarion, 1990.  
*ML* Pierre Loti, *Le Mariage de Loti*, Paris: GF-Flammarion, 1991.  
*NCE* Roland Barthes, *New Critical Essays*, trans. Richard Howard, New York: Hill and Wang, 1980.  
*NN* Paul Gauguin and Charles Morice, *Noa Noa*, Paris: La Plume, 1901.  
*OC* Victor Segalen, *Œuvres Complètes*, Paris: Laffont, 1995.  
*PH* Albert Camus, *Le Premier Homme*, Paris: Gallimard, 1994.



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*Abbreviations*

- PL* Jean Genet, *Prisoner of Love*, trans. Barbara Bray, Wesleyan University Press, 1992.
- RS* Henry de Montherlant, *La Rose de sable*, Paris: Gallimard (Folio), 1968.
- RMP* Marcel Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1989.
- RTP* Marcel Proust, *À la recherche du temps perdu*, 4 vols., Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, 1987–89.
- TF* Albert Camus, *The Fall*, trans. Justin O'Brien, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1990.
- TRN* Albert Camus, *Théâtre, Récits, Nouvelles*, Paris: Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, 1962.