

Editor's Note

Initiales/Initials gives graduate students an opportunity to see their writings in print and to share the results of their work with others. The first two volumes, published in 1981 and 1982, were very well received by authors and readers alike. Volume Three contains seven articles in French literature and linguistics. Five of these are thesis chapters.

John Mattia questions the Saussurean exclusion of writing from linguistics, and recognizes the importance and relative autonomy of the written mode of language.

Deborah Bulmer presents her synthesis of an aesthetic theory based on notes and essays of Pierre Reverdy (1889-1960), a poet whose links with cubism are examined in her thesis.

The usual picture of profound oppositions between Romain Rolland (1866-1944) and Maurice Barrès (1862-1923) is complicated in the study of *George Nahrebecky*, who looks for similarities in personal histories and attitudes of the two authors.

Avard Bishop looks at Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) as a short story writer in *Le Mur* (1939), and emphasizes the creative rôle assigned to the reader, and Sartre's use of multiple protagonists as distinct, conflicting, yet confluent narrative sources.

Charles Baurin describes the work of a contemporary poet, Philippe Jaccottet (born in Switzerland in 1925). The text is a stylistic analysis of Jaccottet's collection *Airs* (1967), which, incidentally, provides an interesting contrast to Reverdy's conception of art and nature referred to in the second article.

Two shorter pieces written by outside graduate students conclude the volume: *Elizabeth Gardner*, a former Dalhousie student, shares with us her reflections on the pleasure of reading literary texts, and on the art of interpreting them.

Earlier stages of French literature are represented by *Claire Carlin's* article on La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680): The Californian Ph.D. student tries to detect a dramatic structure underlying *Réflexions ou Sentences et Maximes morales* (1665-1678).

The co-editors Roseann Runte and Hans R. Runte join me in thanking all those who sent their manuscripts, subscriptions, donations or words of encouragement. Our authors and readers will no doubt appreciate, as we do, the help of Yvonne M. Landry, whose precision typing gave the text the final form. Let us together look forward to the next triennium of *Initiales/Initials*.

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R. Kocourek