

## EDITOR'S NOTES

1987-1988: A year in which our first Ph.D. students passed the preliminary and comprehensive written and oral examinations, and entered the period of thesis preparation. A year, also, of great strength and potential at the Master's level, as can be judged from the articles of this volume. Finally, a year in which our graduate students joined faculty in preparing the first *Dalhousie Symposium on French Language and Linguistics*. Pierre M. Gérin, our first doctoral student in French Linguistics, was among the speakers invited, and other students contributed by preparing brief CVs and introducing individual participants. Let me thank again all those who helped: Anja Pearre, Nina Hopkins Butlin, Chris Elson, Peter Edwards, Christine Horne, Vasiliki Petrakos, Marie-Claude Rioux and Kathrin Stokes. Graduate students' participation will, as could be hoped, become a regular component of Departmental conferences, beginning with those scheduled for 26-27 September (*Contemporary Poetry*) and 13-14 October (*Linguistics*). Such an experience cannot but help prepare our young scholars for that inevitable moment when student becomes officially master.

VOLUME EIGHT. - Of the eight articles included in the volume of 1988, two are thesis chapters, three were presented in the course of the *Ninth and Tenth Series of Graduate Colloquia*, and three are term papers. A promise of complementarity between literary and linguistic views of language is only one aspect of the intriguing story of this volume:

Nicole Sers looks at Louis (Aloysius) Bertrand (1807-1841), master of the prose poem in his posthumous *Gaspard de la nuit* (1842), and examines the *I-Here-Now* of three pieces which she considers to be Bertrand's best.

Giving proof of a thorough acquaintance with French lexical resources, Vasiliki Petrakos enthusiastically endorses the Canadian attempts at enriching the French vocabulary by providing a full repertory of feminine-gender denominations of women's professions.

A careful reading of *La Peste* (1947), by Albert Camus (1913-1960), led H. Peter Edwards to the discovery of a glaring absence of women at the action level of the novel.

Nina Hopkins Butlin's essay is a subtle interpretation of *Leçon de choses* (1975), by the 1985 Nobel laureate Claude

Simon (1913--), the essential characteristic of which is seen as a substitution of verbal, textual substance for that of the natural world.

Kathrin Stokes observes the dialogue in *En attendant Godot* (1953) and finds that the usual mechanism of communication between the protagonists breaks down in the theatre of Samuel Beckett (1906--), whose characters communicate with the spectator rather than with one another.

Beverley Shaw analyses six poems of *Poèmes 1953-1968* ('Sur un des lits de l'amour'), by André Frénaud (1907--), shedding light on the various facettes of the author's refrain that there is no fulfilment sur les lits de l'amour.

What happens if an exceptional reality (that of twins) is fitted to the Procrustean bed of language structure (that of the personal pronouns)? This is the problem examined in Christopher Elson's essay on *Les météores* (1975) by Michel Tournier (1924--).

Finally, Ann Caza's article gives personal reflections on possible future principles and objectives of computer-assisted teaching of French as a second language.

Let me thank Michael Brophy, our first doctoral student in French Literature, for accepting to serve on our Editorial Committee in 1988.

And to Marie Pothier our warm thanks for a camera-ready copy of the manuscript of Volume Eight.

R. Kocourek

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