

T H E U N I V E R S I T Y

CHIMERES



VOLUME XXI . SPRING 1994

A JOURNAL OF FRENCH LITERATURE

O F K A N S A S

CHIMERES

A JOURNAL OF FRENCH LITERATURE



A nous deux maintenant!
Honoré de Balzac, *Le Père Goriot*

CHIMERES VOLUME XXI . SPRING 1994

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ONTENTS

Letter from the editor <i>Alain-Philippe Durand</i>	I
Carte Blanche <i>Allan H. Pasco</i>	III
Visuality and Sexual Difference in Maupassant's "Mademoiselle Fifi" <i>Ritt Deitz</i>	1
Thérèse à la lumière de Clara <i>Magalie D. Hanquier</i>	11
Trois études sur un passage du <i>Rouge et le noir</i>	29
Le reflet de Julien <i>Alain-Philippe Durand</i>	31
Jeu de miroir, cinématographie et théâtralité d'une scène stendhalienne <i>Murielle Rubègue</i>	37
Le miroir, du théâtral au romanesque <i>Olivier Tarnaud</i>	43
Volkswagen Blues: Redécouvrir l'histoire américaine <i>Paula Roberts</i>	49
Le "Sonnet en 'yx'": Un ptyx jamais n'abolira l'acte poétique <i>Marie Liénard</i>	67
Marcel Proust's A la recherche du temps perdu: A Search for Certainty by Jack Louis Jordan <i>Richard L. Meadows</i>	75
Call for papers	81

F**rom the desk of the editor**

Alain-Philippe Durand →

After five years of reflection and tremendous work, *Chimères* is finally back! This resurrection would not have been made possible without the help and the support of many people. On behalf of the editorial staff, I wish to express my gratitude to these individuals.

First, I want to thank the Student Graduate Council and the Department of French and Italian at the University of Kansas for their financial support. I would also like to thank the professors of French and Italian at the University of Kansas for their trust and continuing encouragement. Most of all, I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Allan H. Pasco whose great experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm have deeply benefited all of us at the journal. The constant availability, dedication, and advice of Ms. Caroline A. Jewers and Mr. John T. Booker are much appreciated as well.

My thanks, must also be expressed to three people: Emmanuelle Brégu who originally helped me to plan the re-birth of *Chimères*; Robert Cahoone whose knowledge of the administration and whose tireless efforts are indispensable to the success of our enterprise. Finally, through his patience and computer expertise, John Sopinski is giving new life to the journal.

Alain-Philippe Durand
Editor

C**arte blanche**

Allan H. Pasco →

The Profession and Graduate Studies

A good doctoral program in French should be a professionally viable apprenticeship for a wide range of professions, not only for teaching. This lesson was made brutally clear in the years when there were few college and university jobs and it was no longer true that a Ph.D. automatically opened the door to a teaching post in higher education. Outstanding programs continued to produce graduates that were in demand, though often only after clear-headed reappraisal of the goals of advanced degrees and some effort to reorient students. Instructors in these programs realized, occasionally to their surprise, that the excellent training they gave in French literature and language was equally fine preparation in research, in writing, and in editing, skills in demand by a variety of fields. Graduates had to learn that they were not merely trained to dig around in French topics but rather to do more generalized research, that their highly honed skills of writing and editing were not merely applicable in French studies but in communication in French and English as well, and that their hard-bought abilities in the classroom could extend to many other kinds of communication. Advanced classes could not be filled with trivial, futile, meaningless exercises; they must require work that is moving toward a place in the real world. Professors had to learn to do a better job by remembering that graduate education was not merely an extension of undergraduate study. They had to devise means of encouraging learning, of course, but also to provide down-to-earth training in the basic skills of the profession. The result, I think, has been better teachers and professors, as well as first class editors, researchers, and writers.

Chimères was begun in 1967 at the University of Kansas as an occasional journal by graduate students advised by Professor Kenneth White. It advanced the professional goals of the department and university, since students were encouraged to write not just for their teachers but for others, and it taught the

basic skills of publication itself. Although it has appeared irregularly, reflecting the presence of advanced students with sufficient commitment to raise the necessary funds, to elicit satisfactory manuscripts, and to produce and distribute the resultant issues, *Chimères* has provided a vehicle for outstanding work by graduate students and non-tenured Ph.D.'s from around the country.

This issue grows from a group of students that arrived at the University of Kansas in the fall of 1992. Some of the early members left, some lost interest, but a core of hard working, professionally oriented students remained. Their names are on the masthead. While continuing to excel in a demanding program, they sought subscriptions, raised financial backing, and elicited manuscripts from across the United States. Each submission was read by at least one specialist graduate student and at least once again by a reputed faculty member here or at other universities. We appreciate the willingness of these advisors to share knowledge and time. Finally, young professionals at the University of Kansas formatted and prepared photo-ready copy for the issue. I have no doubt that the experience will be worthwhile to the editorial board. Their dedication and professionalism have been impressive and bode well for their future. I trust *Chimère's* readers will find the articles and notes interesting and useful for their own pursuits.