

PMLA

*Publications of the
Modern Language Association
of America*

September 1987

Volume 102

Number 4

Directory

New from Princeton University Press

Dante, Poet of the Desert

History and Allegory in the *Divine Comedy*

Giuseppe Mazzotta

Reading the *Divine Comedy* as a dramatization of a coherent vision of universal history, Giuseppe Mazzotta constructs a theory of the composition of Dante's poem and how the poet intended it to be read. He finds that the crucial and explicit structure that sustains the poem is the biblical story of Exodus. This leads him to conclude that Dante's radical sense of history coincides with a poetics of exile.

"[This] is the most original and provocative book on Dante to come along in some time. . . . The book is saturated with flashes of insight and displays an impressive command of both Dante scholarship and the intellectual traditions in which the poem is lodged."

—Richard H. Lansing, *Speculum*

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Wilhelm Raabe

The Fiction of the Alternative Community

Jeffrey L. Sammons

The international reputation of Wilhelm Raabe (1831-1910) has been rapidly growing in recent years. Here an experienced scholar in German studies shares his excitement in discovering Raabe and argues persuasively that he is the major mid-nineteenth-century novelist in the German language between Goethe and Theodor Fontane. Jeffrey L. Sammons contends that Raabe is the most ingenious experimenter in narrative perspective in post-Romantic German literature and a German *Victorian* writer strongly influenced by Dickens and especially Thackeray.

"This is the first comprehensive study of Raabe in English and by far the best and most thorough in any language. Sammons' book is so well done and readable that the general reader, too, will be delighted by it."

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Robert F. Storey

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"[A] cogently written work, which traces with clarity and breadth the life of this elusive, wistful and haunting creature from *commedia dell'arte* times to the antics of the little Chaplinesque clown."

—Bettina L. Knapp, *The French Review*

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Princeton University Press 41 William Street Princeton, NJ 08540

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