



The Reception of Laurence Sterne in Europe (The Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe)

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The intellectual scope and cultural impact of British writers in Europe cannot be assessed without reference to their 'European' fortunes. This collection of 14 essays, prepared by an international team of scholars, critics and translators, records how Sterne's work has been received, translated and imitated in most European countries with great success. Among the topics discussed in this volume are questions arising from the serial nature of much of Sterne's writings and the various ways in which translators across Europe coped with the specific problems that the witty and ingenious Sternean text poses.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It is a tribute to the fascinating material to be found throughout this volume that one often wishes the book were longer...As should be clear, his volume is a gold-mine of information and a treasury of affectionate readings and creative misreadings of Laurence Sterne, often made in difficult political or personal circumstances, as well as a work of enormous value to a range of readers — not only Sterneans or those interested in the reception of British authors in Europe but also, for example, those concerned with translation *per se*."

Ian Campbell Ross, *The Shandean*, Autumn 2005

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"This collection of fourteen essays is part of the [series] "The Reception of British Authors in Europe."... the series is a good one, and if the other volumes are as well-conceived and interesting as this one on Sterne, they will offer a major contribution to literary study in the twenty-first century...The collection is organized geographically: two essays on the French reception, one each on Germany, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), Russia, Poland, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. A bonus chapter by W. G. Day discusses some of the material manifestations (painting, artifacts, graveyards) that accompanied the Sterne phenomenon in the first part of the nineteenth century...The virtues of the collection are, first, its attention to bibliographical detail concerning translations and imitations of Sterne; and, second, its abundant quotation of unfamiliar passages of analysis and evaluation, each of which is translated for the benefit of scholars whose Polish or Danish may not be quite up to their French and German. Each essay is allowed to tell its own unique story, and while these are sine experiences of Sterne shared across national boundaries- most interesting, Sterne's appearance again and again in liberation movements- the ultimate sense we are left with is that each country and each generation makes of Sterne what its morals and its great authors dictate."

The Scriblerian, Spring 2006, Vol. XXXVIII No. 2

The Reception of Laurence Sterne in Europe engages with Sterne's two bestselling novels in detail, while giving a sense of the scale and diversity of his reception. After the author's death in 1768, Sterne's friends and followers capitalized on his fame by collecting his letters and fabricating replies, by 'finding' autobiographies and sequels, or by writing parodies and eulogies for his characters. As a result Sterne's canon underwent an enormous posthumous expansion, in Britain and on the continent. Elinor Shaffer, the series editor of *The Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe*, points out that Sterne's reception makes particular claims on scholars, given that his works called forth 'new terminology, innovative progeny and concomitant critical theory' (p.vii)...This volume sheds light on possible new areas of study with every reading.

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