Remapping the rise of the European novel

Series:  
SVEC  
Volume:  
2007:10  

Volume Editors:  
Jenny Mander  

Publication Date:  
2007  

ISBN:  
978-0-7294-0916-2  

Fifty years on from Ian Watt’s pioneering study, *The Rise of the novel*, Jenny Mander brings together the work of bibliographers, literary scholars and socio-cultural historians to present a new European perspective on the development of the genre. *Remapping the rise of the European novel* investigates how prose fiction between 1500 and 1800 was simultaneously shaped by the development of the nation-state and by multiple crossings of geographical, cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Drawing on evidence from France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Russia, Greece, as well as England, authors argue for a more inclusive history that identifies origins in different times and places, and trace how they interact or diverge.

Through detailed case studies and bibliometric analyses, the authors explore the importance of continental and colonial travel in fashioning early-modern novelistic discourse, and examine how translation helps to disseminate ‘novel’ fictions. Discussion of popularity and pleasure – topics often excluded from traditional histories of the novel– sheds new light on the ways we think about the relationship between literary and social history.

List of figures and illustrations  
List of tables  

Acknowledgements  

Jenny Mander, Introduction
I. Plus ultra? Time, travel and translation

Andrew Hadfield, When was the first English novel and what does it tell us?

Margaret A. Doody, The representation of consciousness in the ancient novel

Diana de Armas Wilson, Of pilgrims and polyglots: Heliodorus, Cervantes and Defoe

B. W. Ife and R. T. C. Goodwin, ‘Many expert narrators’: history and fiction in the Spanish chronicles of the New World

Nandini Das, Feeding an appetite for ‘monstrous newfangledness’: exploration and errancy in Robert Greene's cony-catching tales

II. Bibliometrics, generic identity and translation

Angus Martin, Traffic in translations: French fiction and the European novel 1701-1750

James Raven, The material contours of the English novel 1750-1830

Anne J. Cruz, The pícaro meets Don Quixote: the Spanish picaresque and the origins of the modern novel

Alan Paterson, Translation in the formation of genre: Edmund Spenser and Gabriel Harvey testify

Trudi Darby, Translation and transculturation: the 1619 English translation of Persiles y Sigismunda

III. Novel and nation

Kate Williams, Passion in translation: translation and the development of the novel in early-eighteenth-century England

Nathalie Ferrand, The map of reading in la Romancie

Andrew Kahn, The rise of the Russian novel and the problem of romance

Mónica Bolufer, Poisonous plants or schools of virtue? The second ‘rise’ of the novel in eighteenth-century Spain

Ann Hallamore Caesar, History or prehistory? Recent revisions in the eighteenth-century novel in Italy

Roderick Beaton, The Greek novel and the rise of the European genre

IV. Popular pleasures

Ros Ballaster, Orienting the ‘English’ novel: the shaping genius of the eastern tale in eighteenth-century Britain
Lise Andries, Was the novel a popular genre in early modern France?

Karen O’Brien, Siblings or rivals: fiction and narrative history in eighteenth-century Britain

Eric Méchoulan, Civility and pleasure: a few hypotheses on the rise of the novel in the early modern period

John Richetti, The sex/gender system and the eighteenth-century English woman’s novel

Michael Minden, Elisa oder das Weib wie es sein sollte: two kinds of reading pleasure in the consumption of the eighteenth-century German novel

Summaries

List of works cited

Index

Pages:
355

Price Sterling (£):
75

Collaborators:
Lise Andries, CNRS, Paris; Ros Ballaster, Mansfield College, Oxford; Roderick Beaton, King’s College London; Mónica Bolufer, University of Valencia; Ann Hallamore Caesar, University of Warwick; Anne J. Cruz, University of Miami, FL; Trudi Darby, King’s College London; Nandini Das, University of Liverpool; Margaret A. Doody, University of Notre Dame, IN; Nathalie Ferrand, CNRS and Maison Française, Oxford; R.T.C. Goodwin, King’s College London; Andrew Hadfield, University of Sussex; B.W. Ife, King’s College London; Andrew Kahn, St Edmund Hall, Oxford; Jenny Mander, Newnham College, Cambridge; Angus Martin, University of Sydney; Eric Méchoulan, University of Montreal; Michael Minden, Jesus College, Cambridge; Karen O’Brien, University of Warwick; Alan Paterson, University of St Andrews; James Raven, University of Essex; John Richetti, University of Pennsylvania, PA; Kate Williams, Independent scholar; Diana de Armas Wilson, University of Denver, CO.

Philological quarterly

After reading this excellent book, scholars will feel that they have considerably broadened their knowledge of European literature.

Zeitschrift für französische Sprache und Literatur, 122/1

Jenny Mander sees her volume “only” as a kind of starting point on a voyage of discovery, providing several striking individual observations and raising a number of new questions. But it seems to me that one of its important conclusions is that translations may have played a larger role in the emergence of the modern European novel than previously thought.