

The Craft Of The Novel

The Rise of the Novel, Updated Edition Victims of the Book The Novels and Tales of Robert Louis Stevenson The Story of the Mind New Book List The Chautauquan Critical Theory and the Novel English Theories of the Novel: Eighteenth century That dowdy of a girl; or, The story of Gertrude Wynn's fortunes, by mrs. Georgie Sheldon The Book of Genesis The Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science and Art The Galaxy Chambers's Edinburgh journal, conducted by W. Chambers. [Continued as] Chambers's Journal of popular literature, science and arts Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science and Arts The Dial The Nation Andrews' American Queen Publishers' circular and booksellers' record The Bookman Current Opinion Ian Watt François Proulx Robert Louis Stevenson James Mark Baldwin General Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.) David Bruce Suchoff Walter F. Greiner Mrs. Georgie Sheldon François Lenormant William Conant Church Chambers's journal

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[Continued as] Chambers's Journal of popular literature, science and arts Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science and Arts The Dial The Nation Andrews' American Queen Publishers' circular and booksellers' record The Bookman Current Opinion *Ian Watt François Proulx Robert Louis Stevenson James Mark Baldwin General Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.) David Bruce Suchoff Walter F. Greiner Mrs. Georgie Sheldon François Lenormant William Conant Church Chambers's journal*

a classic description of the interworkings of social conditions changing attitudes and literary practices during the period when the novel emerged as the dominant literary form of the individualist era

victims of the book uncovers a long neglected but once widespread subgenre the fin de siècle novel of formation in France novels about and geared toward adolescent male readers were imbued with a deep worry over young Frenchmen's masculinity as evidenced by titles like *crise de jeunesse* youth in crisis 1897 *la crise virile* crisis of virility 1898 *la vie stérile* a sterile life 1892 and *la mortelle impuissance* deadly impotence 1903 in this book François Proulx examines a wide panorama of these novels many of which have rarely been studied as well as polemical essays pedagogical articles and medical treatises on the perceived threats posed by young Frenchmen's reading habits against this cultural backdrop he illuminates all that was at stake in representations of the male reader by prominent novelists of the period including Jules Vallès Paul Bourget Maurice Barrès André Gide and Marcel Proust in the final decades of the nineteenth century social commentators insistently characterized excessive reading as an emasculating illness that afflicted French youth fin de siècle writers responded to this pathologization of reading with a profusion of novels addressed to young male readers paradoxically proposing their own

novels as potential cures in the early twentieth century this corpus was critically revisited by a new generation of writers victims of the book shows how gide and proust in particular reworked the fin de si cle paradox to subvert cultural norms about literature and masculinity proposing instead a queer pact between writer and reader

using the methods of frankfurt school theorists walter benjamin and theodor adorno david suchoff offers new readings of dickens melville and kafka that underscore the political and social critiques inherent in their novels suchoff s aim is to redeem the critical power of mass culture in the modern novel and he argues that ideological battles fought in american literary criticism during the cold war decades have limited our current interpretations of mass culture s critical force in political fiction suchoff demonstrates how the works of these nineteenth and early twentieth century novelists were taken up into the cold war literary canon and made to fit the arguments of american liberal critics for subversive fiction and of new historicist critics for a contained modern novel applying benjamin s redemptive criticism and adorno s dialectical method suchoff s readings of dickens melville and kafka show how the political problems posed by mass culture and audience for each writer became part of the dialectically critical grain of their most important social novels he examines dickens s struggle with victorian taste and the relation of his work to advertising and other nonliterary forms melville s confrontations with popular ideologies of american expansion and race and kafka s concern with the popular yiddish theater and jewish political movements throughout suchoff reveals the continuing importance of commodity culture in the novel tradition and the concurrent development of cultural criticism critical theory and the novel provides a useful introduction to benjamin and adorno and their uses in practical criticism it is also an illuminating study of the historical origins of literary theory and cultural criticism and a contribution to the

expanding field of cultural studies

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