

Editorial

“Very few people know that Sartre also wrote a fairy tale,” commented Michel Rybalka when he suggested that we translate chapter IV, “Le conte de fées,” from Sartre’s unfinished novel “Une Défaite”, published as part of *Ecrits de jeunesse*. This story is at once an ironic self-portrait of the young man in his early twenties and, no less important, a first attempt to deal with such concepts as “being-for-others,” “existence” and “consciousness.” Even if the story is part of Sartre’s “juvenalia,” it shows a surprisingly sophisticated grasp of literary technique. Cosima’s role is much more than that of a typical interlocutor, she plays an active role in guiding the narrator along so that the story is transformed into a commentary about psychological interaction and the creative process.

Professor Emeritus Rybalka is now fairly well ensconced in Basque country and was the keynote speaker at the UK Sartre conference in London, where he spoke on “Spectres de Sartre.” He will also be so honored at the next Sartre Society of North America meeting at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario (which will take place September 15-17, 2000). As you will note in the Symposium section, other scholars are also interested in Sartre’s links with post-structuralism and postmodernity.

Our lead article is an elegant and fascinating exploration of Sartre’s historicity by Peter Caws. This is a reworked version of the address he gave earlier this year to the SSNA meeting in Los Angeles. Drawing together multiple sources and combining them into a seamless narrative, Caws stresses not only Sartre as *the* thinker of much of the twentieth century, but ends with the legacy of hope with which Sartre finally left us.

The next three articles form a kind of spontaneous symposium on the theme of “Sartre and ...” with the other being central figures of postmodernity. They study Sartre’s relations with Lacan, Barthes, and Derrida. Marie-Andrée Charbonneau focuses on the encounter between Sartre and Lacan and sets out to show that Lacan could not have written “Beyond the Reality Principle” without having first read Sartre’s *Imagination*. Steve Martinot explains that although

Sartre did not discuss post-structuralism, he “accedes” to it. In an illuminating reading Martinot shows the “movement from his own time of theorizing engagement to his later incorporation of post-structuralist thinking deep within his own, the latter reflecting in turn post-structuralism’s engagement in Sartre, its confrontation with Sartre as a part of its world.” Bruce Baugh focuses on Derrida’s article in the fiftieth anniversary issue of *Les Temps modernes* containing Derrida’s “startling tribute to Sartre.” Baugh points to the similarities between Sartrean consciousness and Derrida’s *différance*: it “has the same structure as Sartrean consciousness.” Baugh then shows Derrida “hunting Sartre and pursuing him as his double.” Finally he focuses on Derrida’s “reconciliation with Sartre and his gratitude towards him.”

The final article is by Rex Emerick, who takes on the critics of Sartre’s theory of the emotions. He defends Sartre’s view of the emotions as “self-delusional normative judgments that consciousness projects onto the world in order to affect itself by means of its body, i.e., affective dwelling.” Emerick also makes an important distinction between “emotion” and “feeling” and he points out that, unlike emotions, “feelings are adult intentions that follow the course of perception and respect the limits of finite knowledge.”

This issue also contains a nuanced review of of Haim and Rivca Gordon’s *Sartre and Evil: Guidelines for a Struggle*. As the book’s title indicates, it is a controversial effort to enlist Sartre’s thought on the side of the Gordons’ Manichean approach to politics. As we know, Sartre provides the basis for critiquing and transcending Manichean politics, but sometimes succumbs to the temptation to think in terms of good and evil. Elizabeth Bowman seeks to learn from the Gordons’ project in spite of its self-righteousness. Finally, we are pleased to present, as usual, the thorough and detailed Notice Board prepared by Michel Rybalka and Jean-Pierre Boulé.

We wish to thank Carole Keller for her editorial assistance.