THE POST-ROMANTIC ERA
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1. General


*La Lettre et l’œuvre: perspectives épistolaires sur la création littéraire et picturale au XIXe siècle*, ed. Pascal Auraix-Jonchière, Christian Croisille and Éric Francalanza, Clermont-Ferrand, Blaise-Pascal U.P., 278 pp., argues that, while epistolary writing finds itself marginalized in the redistribution of generic boundaries which the 19th c. ushers in, it nonetheless becomes central to new reflections on what defines an artist’s work. Relevant to our period are É. Francalanza, ‘De la Lettre à l’œuvre: approches épistolaires de la notion d’œuvre au XIXe siècle’ (5–18); C. Le Guillou, ‘Correspondance et création poétique chez Maurice Rollinat’ (107–18); C. Thomas, ‘L’Espagne de Gautier à travers sa correspondance et son récit de voyage’ (145–58); P.-J. Dufief, ‘“La Lettre ce silence qui dit tout”: la lettre et l’écriture de l’histoire chez les Goncourt’ (171–82); T. Poyet, ‘La Correspondance de Flaubert: un lieu pour concevoir la chose littéraire’ (221–32); L. Trovato, ‘Correspondances jarryques: entre méta- et co-textualité’ (233–58); and C. Matossian, ‘Proudhon et Courbet: du narcissisme à la mélancolie’ (259–74).

Miranda Gill, *Eccentricity and the Cultural Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Paris*, OUP, 328 pp., examines various forms of non-conformism as discussed in a wide array of sources such
as etiquette manuals, the press, literature and psychiatric treatises. Focusing on three key periods — the July Monarchy, post-1848 and the fin-de-siècle, G. charts the evolution of attitudes towards eccentricity: initially taken as a delightful, fashionable sign of modernity, it came to signify a murkily alluring Bohemia and finally a dangerous, crazed individuality which could no longer be tolerated. La Langue littéraire: une histoire de la prose en France de Gustave Flaubert à Claude Simon, ed. Gilles Philippe and Julien Piat, Fayard, 576 pp., takes a structural approach to literary discourse and, after chapters dealing with various grammatical categories, voice, periodicity, classicism and archaism and their evolving roles in literature, devotes a chapter each to Flaubert and Zola. La Revue des deux mondes par elle-même, ed. Thomas Loué, Mercure de France, 360 pp.


D. Bell, ‘The Jew as Model: Anti-Semitism, Aesthetics, and Epistemology in the Goncourt Brothers’ Manette Salomon’, MLN, 124:825–47, investigates the literary figure of the Jew in the context of mid-century anti-Semitism characterized by hesitation, in which the Jew was condemned as an incarnation of ambivalence while serving to uphold a ‘logic of difference’. L. Loth, ‘Journeying Identities: Mid-Nineteenth-Century Women’s Travel Writing in French Colonial Algeria’, Symposium, 63:107–26, considers two texts written by French women in mid 19th-c. Algeria, highlighting their capacity to exploit colonial literary space in order to question contemporary notions of prescribed femininity.