Presentation of Alain-Robbe-Grillet Collection
by
Raymond Gay-Crosier

I. Biography, Bibliography, Filmography: see enclosed article.

II. Historical context of two visits

In the 1970s and 1980s, Alain Robbe-Grillet, already known as a major representative of the so-called *Nouveau Roman*, the French New Novel, was a regular visiting professor at New York University. His 1963 essay *Pour un Nouveau Roman* had also made him this literary movement’s leading theorist for quite some time. As a faculty member of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures I was given the opportunity to invite him twice for a series of lectures at the University of Florida. During his one-week first stay in Gainesville, in late November/early December 1979, he also participated in a discussion and projection of his most recent film *Glissements progressifs du plaisir* (*Progressive Slidings towards Pleasure*, 1974). His presentations were open to the general public thanks to simultaneous translation. In this first of two stays, Robbe-Grillet was accompanied by his wife Catherine. My wife Ruth and I showed the visitors some regional points of interest (Crescent Beach and its surroundings, canoeing on the Ichetucknee River) where most of the enclosed pictures were taken.

A more elaborate visit was arranged for a shortened spring semester in March and April of 1982 during which Robbe-Grillet taught a course on film and novel in the French graduate program. Six of the ten enclosed letters, starting with the one dated January 15, 1981, deal with the preparation of his second appearance at the University of Florida, the selection of his films to be projected, the title (“Les Formes narratives contemporaines”) and structure of the seminar that he would offer, questions pertaining to the require IAP66 visa, and lodging preferences. Other discussion items include the title, type (16 or 30 mm) of films to be projected and how and where to obtain them. Several letters also refer either to his recent novel and film work and its respective reception. During his second stay in Gainesville, he was invited to give presentations (always with simultaneous translation) at Barry University (Miami, FL), the University of South Florida and the Alliance Française of Tampa. Finally, the Gainesville general public had a chance to hear him in a one-hour weekly live show called “Conner calling”, featured by WRUF, again with the help of simultaneous translation.
III. Composition of collection

11 letters addressed to Raymond Gay-Crosier, plus 1 course description

2. Letter dated November 6, 1979 on New York University letterhead.
3. Letter dated February 26, 1980 written in Mesnil au Grain, France (private address).
4. Letter without day or month but dated 1980 on New York University letterhead.
8. Course description of “Les Formes narratives contemporaines”, neither date nor address but follow-up to letter 7.

Program of Robbe-Grillet’s lecture and film series presented in November 1979 at the University of Florida.

Beyond discussing possible topics to be presented during the visits, some letters in 1981 deal with the organization of the 1982 Décade Albert Camus in Cerisy-la-Salle (France) for which Robbe-Grillet, living nearby, supported Gay-Crosier’s directorship. Out of friendship, he presented a talk at this ten-day conference published under the title “Monde trop plein, conscience vide” in the proceedings of the conference Albert Camus, œuvre fermée, œuvre ouverte? Paris, Gallimard, 1985, p. 215-227.

21 Prints of photographs

18 pictures taken in 1979 of Alain and Catherine Robbe-Grillet in Florida.

3 pictures of Michel Butor, another major representative of the French New Novel, taken in Cedar Key during his short visit at UF in 1992.

1 flash memory with 21 digitized versions of same plus copies of biography and presentation of collection

1 CD-RW with 21 digitized versions of same plus copies of biography and presentation of collection
Texts by Alain Robbe-Grillet, most with dedications to R. Gay-Crosier

Some dedications are more elaborate than others.


La Maison de rendez-vous. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1965 [2 copies, both with different dedications].


Translations and special volume dedicated to Robbe-Grillet


Article by R. Gay-Crosier [off-print]