

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

1. Letter dated September 30, 1979 on New York University letterhead.
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.
5. Letter dated January 15, 1981, written in Mesnil au Grain.
6. Letter dated July 1, 1981, written in Neuilly (other private address).
7. Letter dated August 25, 1981, written in Neuilly
8. Course description of “Les Formes narratives contemporaines”, neither date nor address but follow-up to letter 7.
9. Letter of October 17, 1981 with attached Biographical Information Sheet.
10. Letter of December 15, 1981, no address but probably written in Neuilly.
11. Letter of August 23, 1982, written in Neuilly.
12. Letter of April; 15, 1983, written in Mesnil au Grain.

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.

Les Gommès, suivi de “Clefs pour *Les Gommès* par Bruce Morrissette. Paris: Union Générale d'Éditions, série 10/18, 1962 [© Éditions de Minuit, 1953].

Les Gommès, J.S.Wood, ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, 1970 [with dedication].

La Jalousie. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1957 [with dedication].

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

Projet pour une révolution à New York. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1970 [with dedication].

Un Régicide. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1978 [with dedication].

Djinn. Un Trou rouge entre les pavés disjoints. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1981 [with dedication].

Le Rendez-vous. Textbook, coauthored with Yvonne Lenard. New York, Chicago, etc., Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1981 [signed by Robbe-Grillet].

Le Miroir qui revient. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1984 [with dedication].

Les Derniers jours de Corinthe. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 1994. This fictionalized autobiography contains references to the University of Florida and the city of Gainesville, p. 119-120.

Translations and special volume dedicated to Robbe-Grillet

La Belle Captive. Pictures by René Magritte. Ben Stoltzfus, transl. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1995 [Lausanne, Bibliothèque des Arts, © Cosmos Texts, Brussels, 1975].

The Target. Pictures by Jasper Johns. Transl. and essay by Ben Stoltzfus. Madison, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2006 [© “Souvenirs du triangle d'or”, Éditions de Minuit, 1978, Jasper Johns/Licensed by VAGA, New York].

Obliques / Robbe-Grillet. Special issue no. 16-17. François Jost, ed. Richly illustrated and an impressive array of collaborators.

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

“Une étrangeté peu commune: Camus et Robbe-Grillet”, *Albert Camus 16*, 1995, p. 149 – 165.