



SMALL WONDER

le petit fanzine 'pataphysique

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no 87-PE.
WIND

Special Raymond Queneau issue



A FEW SUMMARY REMARKS
RELATIVE TO THE AERODYNAMIC
PROPERTIES OF ADDITION.



In all the attempts that have so far been made to prove that $2 + 2 = 4$, no one has ever yet taken into account the velocity of the wind.

The addition of whole numbers is only, in fact, possible in airs that are light enough to ensure that once you've put the first 2 down it stays where it is until you've had a chance to put the second 2, then the little waai you sit on to think things over, and finally the answer. Then the wind can blow, but two and two have made four.

If the wind starts to rise, though, there's your first number flat on the ground. And if you persevere, the same thing happens to the second. And what's the value, then, of

$$2 + 2 ?$$

Mathematics in its present state of development isn't capable of telling us.

If the wind gets really boisterous, the first figure flies away, then the little cross, and so on. But let's suppose that the wind falls after the little cross has disappeared; in that case we might be induced to write the absurdity $2 = 4$.

Things don't only go with the wind, they come with it too. The figure 1, which is a specially light number and which a slight breeze is enough to dislodge, can thus drop into a sum where it has no business to be, without the calculator even knowing it's there. This is what the Russian mathematician Dostociewsky had an intuition of when he was brave enough to reveal the fact that he had a weakness for $2 + 2 = 5$.

The rules of decimal notation likewise prove that the Hindus must probably have formulated our axiom for themselves, more or less unconsciously. A zero rolls around very easily. It's sensitive to the slightest breath of wind. Consequently we ignore it when it's on the left of a number: $02 = 2$, because the zero always screams before the end of the operation. It only becomes a significant figure when it's on the right, because then the preceding figures can hang on to it and stop it flying away. Thus we have $20 = 2$, so long as the wind isn't blowing at more than a few yards per second.

We shall now draw a few practical conclusions from these considerations; the moment you anticipate some atmospheric disturbance it's a good thing to give your addition an aerodynamic form. You are likewise advised to write from right to left and to start as near the edge of the paper as possible. Then if the wind does dislodge the operation in progress, you can nearly always catch it before it reaches the margin. Thus you will obtain, even in an equinoctial gale, results like this :

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

Raymond QUENEAU
Member of the corps of Satraps
of the
Collège de Pataphysique,
Member of the Mathematical
Society of France.

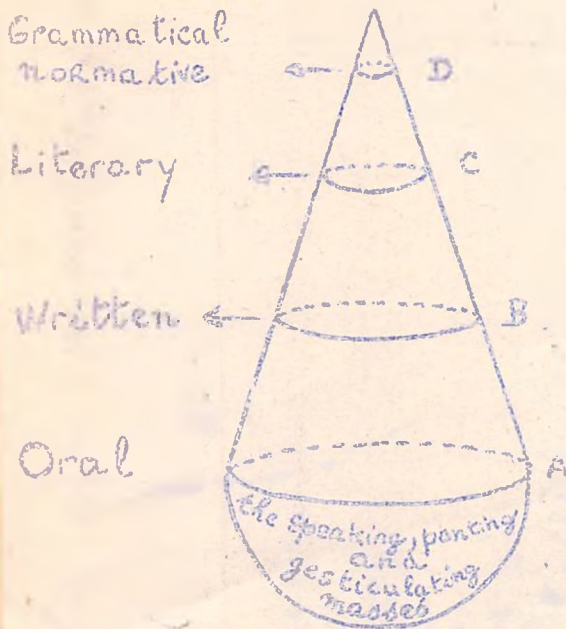


Following his Tr. Exposition at the Sorbonne on the 6th of Pédale 82 PE., the Grand-Conservator of the Order of the Grande Gidouille, Member of several Learned-or-not Societies, has been good enough, by means of the following T. Diagrams, to enlighten us about his conception of language and linguistics in their mutual relationship: from academic and immutable language to literature proper (or improper), to the simple bit of writing or to hack-writing, cack-handed-writing and even gimerackkerouak-writing, up to spoken language and talkage, the whole raised, invigorated, transmitted--- but also shaken (and sometimes ruined) by the tremendous phenomenon of the surrounding and slowly shifting verbal reality.

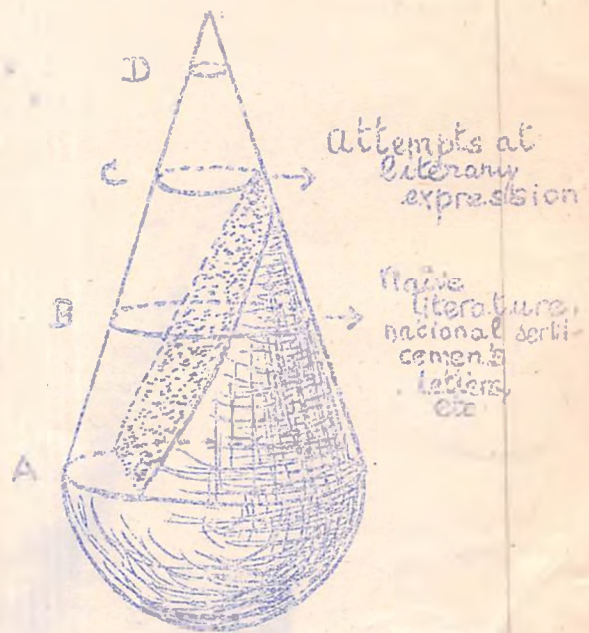
It is in fact only that basic hemisphere that is fully real, the other languages being, in various degrees, abstractions.

- J.-Hugues Sainmont -
Collège de Pataphysique

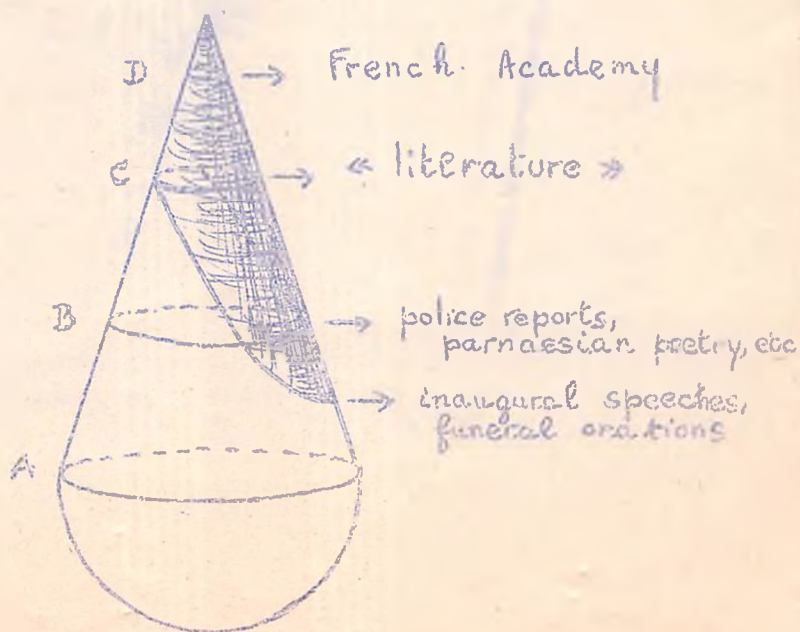
RAYMOND QUENEAU DESCRIBES THE STATICS & DYNAMICS



I. General diagram of the various conditions of the language.

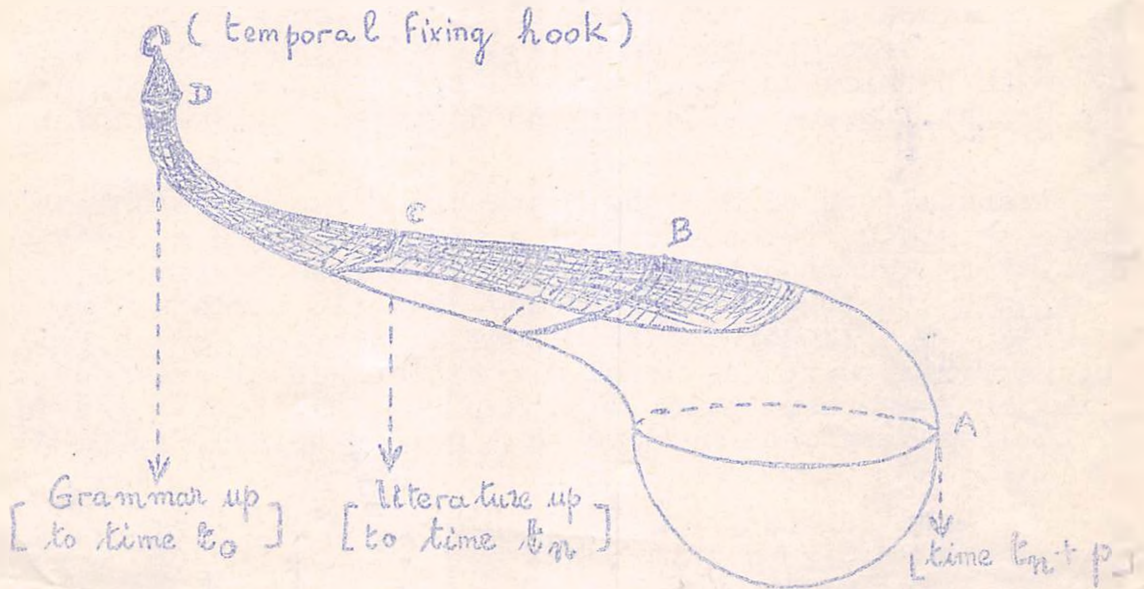


II. Common aspect of a (developed) language-plus-writing.

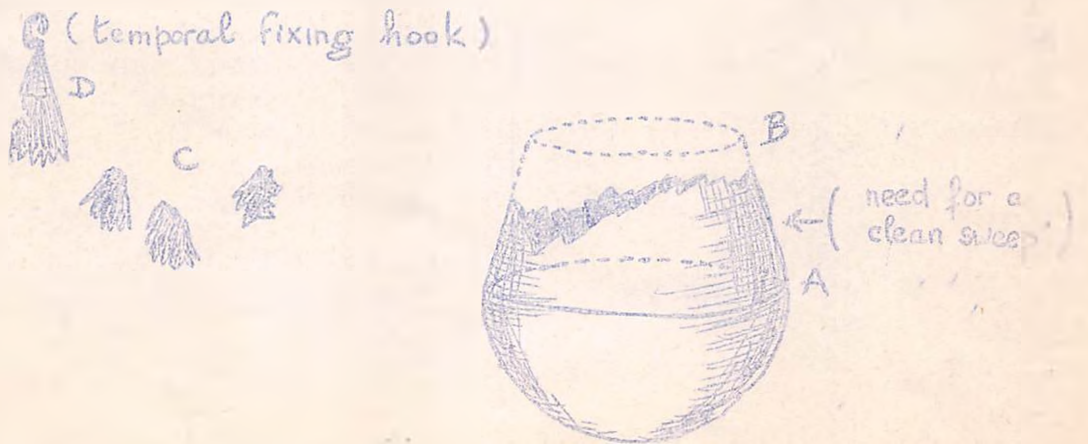


III. (Developed) language-plus-writing losing its grip.

OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE



IV. Diagram III in space-time.



Dead language (L) with fixed grammar, and literary debris, some of it in free fall.

Living language (L') with ruined superstructure consisting of the dead language L.

V. State of languages after rupture between levels B & C.

"Quelques remarques sommaires relatives aux propriétés aérodynamiques de l'addition", originally appeared in the first issue of the Cahiers du Collège de Pataphysique, on Clinamen 15, 77 P.E. (vulgarly April 1950). "Raymond Queneau décrit pour le collège la statique et la dynamique du Français", first appeared in the issue No.19 (Clinamen 19, 82 P.E. of the same Cahiers du Collège de Pataphysique. Both are reprinted with permission, and translated into English by Her Sommaty Barbara Wright, Supreme Definitor and Regentess of Shakespearian Zoology.

Other translations of Raymond Queneau's works by Regentess Wright: Exercises in Style ("the story of a minor brawl in a Paris bus, told in 99 ways"), Gaberbocchus Press (42a Formosa Street, London W.9.), 1958. Zazie (a novel), The Bodley Head (10 Earlham Street, London W.C.2.), 1960--the latter due to appear in America in the Fall, published by Harper's, with the usual minor American alterations. A Fish's Life, in the Evergreen Review #13, May '60, New York. And The Trojan Horse, published by Gaberbocchus (but out of print), 1954. ↯



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What is the College of 'Pataphysics ?

PATAPHYSICS

THE vastest and most profound of Sciences, that which indeed contains all the others within itself, whether they want it or not, Pataphysics or the **science of imaginary solutions** was illustrated by Alfred Jarry in the admirable person of Doctor Faustroll. The **Exploits and Opinions of Doctor Faustroll, Pataphysician**, written in 1898 and first published in 1911 (after Jarry's death), contain both the Principles and the Purposes of Pataphysics, science of the particular, science of the exception (it being clearly understood, of course, that the world contains nothing except exceptions, and that a « rule » is precisely an exception to the exception ; as for the universe, Faustroll defined it as « that which is the exception to oneself »).

This Science, to which Jarry dedicated his life, is practised unwittingly by all mankind. Human beings could more easily dispense with breathing than with Pataphysics. We find Pataphysics in the Exact and Inexact Sciences (though nobody dares admit it), in the Fine Arts and the Foul Arts, in every kind of Literary Activity and Inactivity. Open the newspaper, turn on the radio or television, speak : Pataphysics !

Pataphysics is the very substance of this world

THE COLLEGE

THE College of Pataphysics was founded to study these most important and serious of all problems: the only ones that are important and serious. Let there be no mistake : it is not a question, as some simple minds who take Jarry for a satirist seem to think, of denouncing human activities and cosmic reality ; it is not a question of promoting a mocking pessimism or a corrosive nihilism. On the contrary. It is a question of discovering the perfect harmony in all things, and through this harmony the profound concordance between men's minds (or, equally, the ersatz which takes the place of mind). It is a question for a few people of doing consciously what all the others do unconsciously.

The College of Pataphysics addresses itself, and can only address itself, to a minority.

Its activities have an ambiguous character. The superficial observer is amused, even delighted : he imagines he has come across a group of cruel practical jokers, cynical or subtle irony, collections of pungent curiosities, merciless exposures of pretence. Is he perhaps mistaken ?

A closer look and a more prolonged acquaintance with these activities will enable the observer to perceive that they correspond to a general viewpoint and an entirely new psychology. Beyond laughter, and even beyond smiling perhaps, Jarry was imperturbable.

PUBLICATIONS

IN any case, the results are there. For twelve years now, the **Cahiers du Collège** (replaced after 28 issues by the **Dossiers**) have presented in their pages a great number of unpublished texts by Alfred Jarry, and many studies of his life and work : it is the first time that such an enterprise has been undertaken systematically. In addition, Valéry, Gide, Fargue, Satie, Charles Cros, Apollinaire, Pierre Louys, Lacenaire, James Joyce, and from more recent times Jacques Rigaut, Cravan, Antonin Artaud, Max Jacob, René Daumal, or Dignitaries of the College such as Raymond Queneau, Jacques Prévert, René Clair, Boris Vian, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, Henri Jeanson, Jean Ferry, Michel Leiris, Joan Miro, Pascal Pia, Jean Dubuffet, Paul-Emile Victor, Jean Lescuré, Francis Ponge, Siné, Roger Grenier, etc. have revealed in original texts and illustrations their deliberate or undeliberate pataphysical aspects. So too have Martin Luther, General Boulanger, Paul Claudel and many others. The **Cahiers** were the first to publish a play by Ionesco, followed by three other plays from the pen of this Dignitary. They have devoted important comprehensive studies to Alphonse Allais, Rabelais, the Symbolist Era, Rimbaud, Morals, Ubu, Faustroll, Julien Torma, each of which has made a fresh approach to its subject.

Finally, their Epiphanies (or texts gleaned from the press and from books) are now celebrated. Their **contrepétories** (spoonerisms), all entirely original, are much followed. Their illustrations are carefully chosen and often unusual.

The College has now begun to publish in languages other than French. The Proveditors responsible for the administration of the College in Germany, England, North and South America, have already organized lectures, conferences and dramatic productions, as well as undertaking publishing activities. It is hoped and expected that Representatives of the College at Rome, in the East Indies, in Australia, in the U.R.S.S., in Formosa, and at Addis-Ababa, will soon be following in this fruitful path.

PRIVILEGES

PROPERLY enrolled Members of the College are entitled each year to receive four **Dossiers** and, also, four **Internal Publications** which are not available for sale to the public. The collection formed by these Publications is already of extraordinary interest (original texts and illustrations by Jarry, Allais Daumal, Pierre Bonnard, Queneau, Vian, René Clair, Dubuffet, etc.) in constantly changing typography and format : triangular, trapezoidal, hexagonal, pentagonal, printed in gold on black, etc., etc...

In addition, the said Members have the right to wear the **Insignia** of the College by day as well as by night, to participate in its **Assizes** and **Private Manifestations**, to make use of the **Pataphysical Calendar**, etc. They have the opportunity, depending on their merits (pataphysically speaking) or their state of seniority, to be received into the Hierarchy, to become members of the **Ordre de la Grande Gidouille** and to be honoured by the College at their respective Obsequies. Finally, they have the Privilege of paying Phynancial fees to the College.

The Phynance for Enrolment into the College is \$7 (£2.10.0), at the honorifically normal rate ; it entitles the successful applicant to receive 4 quarterly issues of the Dossiers and 4 Internal Publications ; application should be made to the General Proveditor of Phynances : M. Georges Petitfaux, 4, avenue Anatole-France, Choisy-le-Roi (Seine) France, by cheque or money order made out in his name. Add 30c. (2s.) for the Lapel Badge of the College, and 60c. (4s.) for the Pataphysical Calendar.

Applicants desiring to receive all the Publications of the College still available should add a further Phynance of \$21 (£7.7.0).

A Heroic Phynance of \$ 9 (£3.3.0) is established for those few applicants deemed worthy of receiving copies of the 4 Dossiers on special glossy paper (numbered and limited to 66 copies) and the Internal Publications on special paper.

