



The birth of modern bureaucracy

Balzac and the “duped public”

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Considérant - Revue du droit imaginé](#)
2024, n° 6. varia

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Abstract: If the law holds a special place in Balzac’s work, this is through the description of human relationships that it limits or develops. It explains and even drives plot. It is a law of interpersonal relations: of property, inheritance debt, marriage, and contracts. However, from 1837, Balzac described bureaucracy in very contemporary terms, opening the way to a sociology of organizations: the birth of the administrative system is described through its actors.

Pages: 149 to 157

Journal: [Journal of Imagined Law](#)

CLIL theme: 3260 -- DROIT -- Droit général

EAN: 9782406165958

ISBN: 978-2-406-16595-8

ISSN: 2729-2177

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-16595-8.p.0149

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 03-27-2024

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: bureaucracy, administration, Balzac, nineteenth-century literature, public service, caricature

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