



## Anatole France and Renan, or literature at the risk of scholarship

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Études Renaniennes Littérature - Philosophie - Histoire des Religions](#) 2021, n° 121. Ernest Renan : Comment se construit une mémoire ? II - Réceptions

Author: Métayer (Guillaume)

Abstract: Renan's overwhelming model poses for France the problem of the dangerous liaisons between literature and erudition which he solves by transforming Renan into a character, thus founding the Francian type of the old scholar, and by imitating the Renanian gesture of resourcing erudition in nature via the epiphanies of naivety (childhood, animal, puppets, folklore, hagiographies, history as memory), a gesture of continuity which was rejected by the adepts of political break in literature.

Pages: 185 to 204

Journal: [Renan Studies](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406126294

ISBN: 978-2-406-12629-4

ISSN: 2540-3303

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-12629-4.p.0185

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 02-02-2022

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: Anatole France, Ernest Renan, scholarship, irony, naivety, hagiography, folklore, childhood, animal, puppets

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