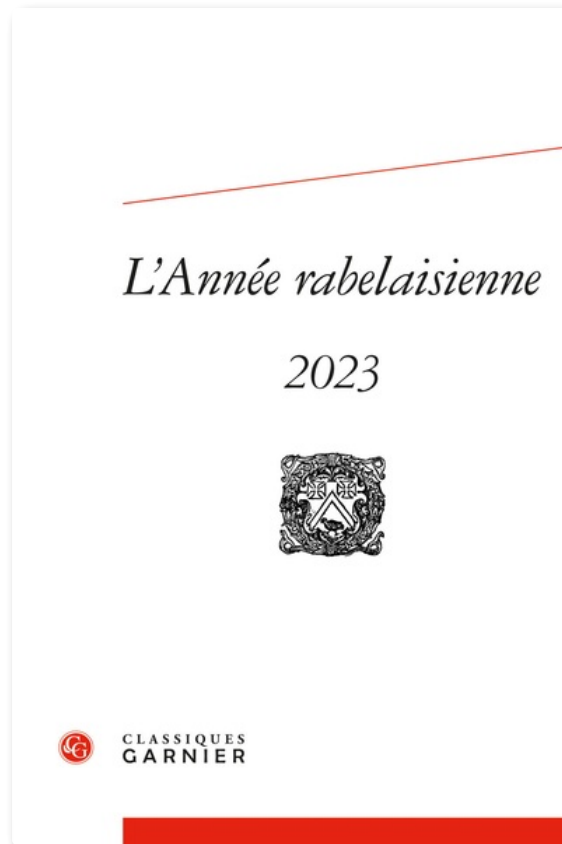




Laughing in the monkey's face

Cratylism and verbal invention in the *Quart Livre* (Rabelais) and *Leben Fibels* (Jean Paul)

Publication type: Journal article

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Abstract: In *Leben Fibels*, Adam is opposed to the monkey as the correct nomination of the world since it is the wrong, erratic, or absurd use of language. The *Quart Livre* upends this perspective and mocks the conviction that a transparent nomination—cratyllic—of the world is possible, which is a foolish singerie. It is, however, the object of a secret nostalgia that invites us to distinguish between *cratylism of conviction*, which is ridiculed, and *cratylism of invention*, the ludic instrument of the former's critique which it transcends.

Pages: 107 to 129

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