



Pierrot sceptique, an elusive pantomime

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Abstract: The pantomime *Pierrot sceptique* is the only “dramatic” production and the only text written collaboratively by Huysmans. His friendship with Léon Hennique, dating from *La République des lettres* (1876), lasted until after the foundation of the Académie Goncourt in 1903. The “pantomime” genre is ambiguous, between a lengthy stage direction and the short story form. Through mime, the latter presents the romantic follies of a Pierrot who is alternately joyful and violent; the action stumbles into an absurd and sometimes disturbing comedy, and the style itself is heartfelt.

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