



“The poet who believes in his fable”

Madness and fantasy in Nerval’s “Jacques Cazotte”

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Abstract: What kind of madness is the eccentricity of the poet who “believes in his fable”? Fantasy and humour are perhaps what makes it possible to transform life into a work of art and the anguish of death into a “dream hatched from thought”. The poetics of the author of *Ollivier* and *Le Diable amoureux* is considered here as a key to the reading of Nerval’s poetics in *Les Illuminés* and is related to the particular forms of Nervalian identification.

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