



Historicism and Beyond

Balzac Seen by a Foreign Critic, Ernst Robert Curtius

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Abstract: Several critics, including Ferdinand Brunetière, have turned their attention to Balzac's realism, especially his interest in the details of the social and historical reality of his time. The German critic Ernst Robert Curtius, however, pointed to elements in Balzac's work that surpass this strictly historical context, in particular the energy, passion, power, and knowledge seen as universal aspects of the human condition.

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