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Salem Press Announces *Critical Insights:* *Gustave Flaubert*

Critical Insights: Gustave Flaubert, edited by Tom Hubbard, a visiting professor at the Universities of Budapest (ELTE), Connecticut, and Grenoble, and a Writer in Residence at the Château de Lavigny in Switzerland, explores the pioneer of literary realism and one of the founders of modern fiction. Gustave Flaubert became widely known throughout the twentieth century, having many admirers and even disciples. Today, Flaubert's works-in particular *Madame Bovary* and the *Trois contes* (1877)-are studied in schools and universities and not always in the French and Modern Languages departments. As a major figure in Western literature and culture, he is also studied, in translation, as a part of survey courses in literature and humanities. The main chapters consist of four studies, followed by a series of more detailed critical and often close readings.

Starting with **Critical Contexts**, Editor, Tom Hubbard presents Gustave Flaubert's life in relation to the social and historical matrix of the mid-nineteenth century. He then follows with another essay about the criticism that he received for his work. Today Flaubert is acknowledged as one of the "greats" and it can come as a shock to discover how his work was the target of so much negative criticism in his own day. Priscilla Meyer follows with a shrewd, compellingly detailed comparison of the Russian novelist Lev Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* (1877) and Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*. The two novels are often discussed together in view of their common theme of adultery, but beyond that there are the subtle artistries that mark them as two of the greatest works of fiction from the latter half of the nineteenth century. Lastly, Beryl F. Schlossman addresses herself to Flaubert's second novel, *Salammbô* (1862), which has as its setting ancient Carthage, though some critics (as Professor Schlossman remarks) have seen it is a kind of Condition-of-France novel in disguise. Professor Schlossman's chapter is more wide-ranging than that, both culturally and geopolitically, not least by also taking into account Flaubert's travel writings. She offers a multiplicity of perspectives, which include postcolonial theory, anthropology, gender, race, textual interpretation, and verbal art.

Critical Readings moves the volume from literary and cultural history towards close readings of specific texts. Germaine Greer begins by examining a piece of writing that is part autobiography and part fiction-that was written long before he developed his notion of "impersonality" and his mature aim to keep himself out of his work. Vaheed Ramazani leads the reader through a labyrinth of ironies in *Madame Bovary*, ironies emanating from aspects of narrative voice, perspective, and style. Élodie Laügt considers *Madame Bovary* as mediated into other languages

and cultural forms and draws on the work of such theorists as Jacques Rancière. There follow three chapters on *L'Éducation sentimentale*. Leah Anderst begins by providing a particularly good point of view and distinguishing the narrative technique of the 1869 novel from that of its 1845 namesake. Professor Le Calvez then shows concerns with how time is represented in the novel, with flashbacks, memory, repetition, and parallelism. Of English-language writers, Joseph Conrad matches Flaubert in terms of structural and thematic subtlety, as well as in deployment of irony. Mark Conroy offers penetrating comparisons of *Madame Bovary* and *L'Éducation sentimentale* with Conrad's *Lord Jim* and *Nostramo*. Other essays include:

- “Schizophrenia, Revolution, and *Tres contes*” by Kathryn Oliver Mills
- “Un coeur simple:” An Uneventful Narrative” by Michael Sayeau
- “Flaubert and the Art of Caricature” by Michael Tilby
- “Testament to Disaster: Philosophical Perspectives on *Bouvard et Pèuchet*” by Elizabeth Rottenburg
- “Flaubert and Modernism: The Meaning of a Book about Nothing” by Anthony J. Cascardi

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Gustave Flaubert* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Gustave Flaubert's Life**, a list of **Works by Gustave Flaubert**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Gustave Flaubert* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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