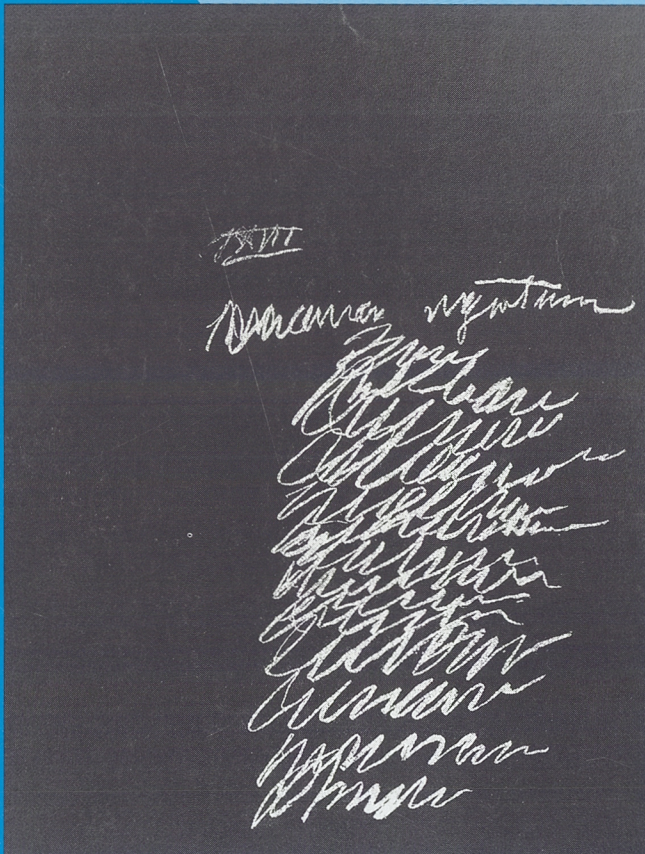


PMILA

Publications of the
■
Modern Language
■
Association
■
of America
■



1 9 9 4

OCTOBER

VOLUME 109 ■ NUMBER 5

**“Words,
words,
words...”**

Empire of Words

The Reign of the OED
John Willinsky

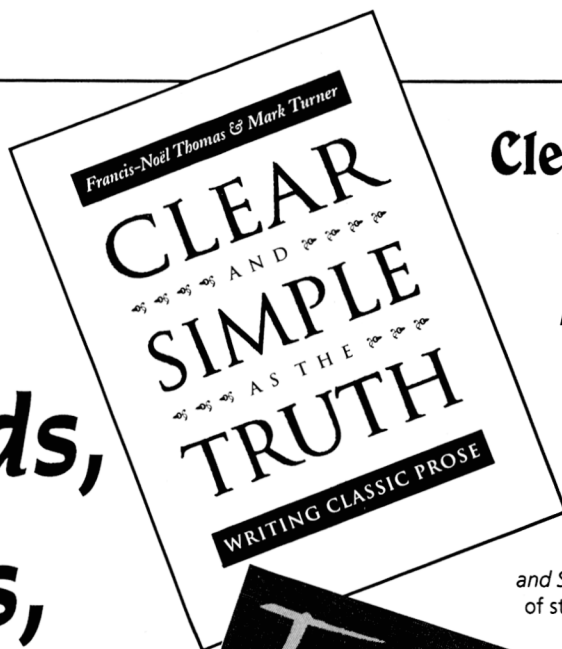
Perhaps no other dictionary has done more to standardize the English language than the formidable twenty-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*.

In a fascinating study, John Willinsky challenges the authority of this imperial dictionary, revealing many of its inherent prejudices and questioning the assumptions of its ongoing revision. He sheds considerable light on how the OED continues to shape the English language through the sometimes idiosyncratic, often biased selection of citations by hired readers and impassioned friends of the language.

Anyone who is fascinated with words and language will find Willinsky's tour through the OED a delightful and stimulating experience.

Cloth: \$22.95 ISBN 0-691-03719-1

Due December 1994



Clear and Simple as the Truth

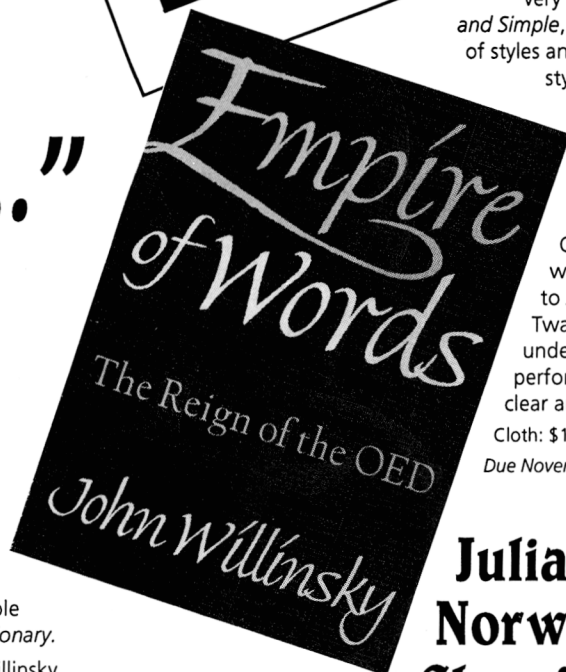
Writing Classic Prose
**Francis-Noël Thomas
and Mark Turner**

Everyone talks about style, but no one explains it. The authors of this book do; and in doing so, they provoke the reader to consider style, not as an elegant accessory of effective prose, but as its very heart. In the first half of *Clear and Simple*, the authors introduce a range of styles and contrast them to classic style, which is at home.

The second half of the book is a tour of examples—the exquisite and the execrable—showing what has worked and what hasn't. Classic prose is found everywhere: from Thomas Jefferson to Junichiro Tanizaki, from Mark Twain to the observations of an undergraduate. Here are many fine performances in classic style, each clear and simple as the truth.

Cloth: \$19.95 ISBN 0-691-03667-5

Due November 1994



Julian of Norwich's Showings

From Vision to Book
Denise Nowakowski Baker

The first woman known to have written in English, the fourteenth-century mystic Julian of Norwich has inspired generations of Christians with her reflections on the “motherhood” of Jesus, and her assurance that, despite evil, “all shall be well.” In this book, Denise Baker reconsiders Julian not only as an eloquent and profound visionary but also as an evolving, sophisticated theologian of great originality. Focusing on Julian's *Book of Showings*, in which the author records a series of revelations she received during a critical illness in May 1373, Baker provides the first historical assessment of Julian's significance as a writer and thinker.

Cloth: \$29.95 ISBN 0-691-03631-4

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

AVAILABLE AT FINE BOOKSTORES OR DIRECTLY FROM THE PUBLISHER: 609-883-1759

October 1994

PMILA

Publications of the
Modern Language Association
of America

Volume 109, Number 5

Published six times a year by the association

The Modern Language Association of America

Officers for the Year 1994

President: PATRICIA MEYER SPACKS, *University of Virginia*
First Vice President: SANDER L. GILMAN, *University of Chicago*
Second Vice President: SANDRA M. GILBERT, *University of California, Davis*
Executive Director: PHYLLIS FRANKLIN

Executive Council

For the term ending 31 December 1994

STEPHEN GREENBLATT, *University of California, Berkeley*
MICHAEL HOLQUIST, *Yale University*
JACK ZIPES, *University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

For the term ending 31 December 1995

MARTHA BANTA, *University of California, Los Angeles*
MARIANNE HIRSCH, *Dartmouth College*
NAOMI SCHOR, *Duke University*
NANCY A. WALKER, *Vanderbilt University*

For the term ending 31 December 1996

LINDA HUTCHEON, *University of Toronto, Saint George Campus*
SUSAN KIRKPATRICK, *University of California, San Diego*
SUSAN RUBIN SULEIMAN, *Harvard University*

For the term ending 31 December 1997

PETER BROOKS, *Yale University*
ANDREA M. LUNSFORD, *Ohio State University, Columbus*
SYLVIA MOLLOY, *New York University*
SUSAN NOAKES, *University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Trustees of Invested Funds

CAROLYN G. HEILBRUN, *New York, New York*
HUGH O'NEILL, *New York, New York*
MALCOLM B. SMITH (Managing Trustee), *New York, New York*

PMLA (ISSN 0030-8129) is published six times a year, in January, March, May, September, October, and November, by the Modern Language Association of America. Membership in the association is open to persons who are professionally interested in the modern languages and literatures. Annual dues, which include subscription to *PMLA*, are based on members' incomes and are graduated as follows: student members (four years maximum), \$20; new regular members (first year), \$35; regular members (income under \$15,000), \$25; regular members (income \$15,000–\$20,000), \$40; regular members (income \$20,000–\$30,000), \$50; regular members (income \$30,000–\$40,000), \$65; regular members (income \$40,000–\$50,000), \$75; regular members (income \$50,000–\$60,000), \$85; regular members (income \$60,000–\$70,000), \$95; regular members (income \$70,000–\$80,000), \$105; regular members (income over \$80,000), \$125; foreign members, same as regular members (use the American-dollar equivalent to ascertain the dues category). Membership applications are available on request.

The subscription price of *PMLA* for libraries and other institutions is \$108. A subscription including a bound volume at the end of the year is \$243, domestic and foreign. Agents deduct 4% as their fee. Single copies of the January, March, May, and October issues may be obtained for \$12 each; the September (Directory) issue for \$50; the November (Program) issue for \$35.

Issues for the current year are available from the Member and Customer Services Office of the association (212 614-6377). Claims for undelivered issues will be honored if they are received within one year of the publication date; thereafter the single-issue price will be charged.

For information about the availability of back issues, inquire of Periodical Service Company, Germantown, NY 12526; 914 941-4404. Early and current volumes may be obtained on microfilm from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Purchase of current volumes on film is restricted to subscribers of the journal.

The office of publication and editorial offices are located at 10 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003-6981; 212 475-9500.

All communications including notices of changes of address should be sent to the Member and Customer Services Office of the association. If a change of address also involves a change of institutional affiliation, that office should be informed of this fact at the same time.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing office.

© 1994 by The Modern Language Association of America. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 12-32040. United States Postal Service Number 449-660.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *PMLA*, Member and Customer Services Office, Modern Language Association of America, 10 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003-6981.

Publications of the Modern Language Association

Published six times a year Indexes: Vols. 1–50, 1935; 51–60, 1945; 51–79, 1964

Editor: DOMNA C. STANTON, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
Managing Editor: JUDY GOULDING
Assistant Editors: ERIN TROSTLE and ERIC WIRTH
Editorial Assistants: JOHN D. GOLBACH and JAMES PONIEWOZIK
Advertising Manager and Administrative Assistant: CYNTHIA R. PORT
Administrative Assistant: XENI FRAGAKIS

Editorial Board

CARLOS J. ALONSO, 1996, *Emory University*
LAWRENCE BUELL, 1996, *Harvard University*
VALERIE D. GREENBERG, 1995, *Tulane University*
COPPELIA KAHN, 1996, *Brown University*
PETER RABINOWITZ, 1995, *Hamilton College*
HERBERT F. TUCKER, 1995, *University of Virginia*

Advisory Committee

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH, 1997, *Harvard University*
NINA BAYM, 1995, *University of Illinois, Urbana*
CHARLES BERNHEIMER, 1997, *University of Pennsylvania*
JOHN BEVERLEY, 1996, *University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh*
JOSEPH BOONE, 1997, *University of Southern California*
RICHARD J. DELLAMORA, 1995, *Champlain College, Trent University*
ELIN DIAMOND, 1997, *Rutgers University, New Brunswick*
JOANNE F. DIEHL, 1997, *Bowdoin College*
LAURIE EDSON, 1996, *San Diego State University*
GAIL FINNEY, 1995, *University of California, Davis*
SUZANNE FLEISCHMAN, 1995, *University of California, Berkeley*
JANE A. GALLOP, 1995, *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*
SUSAN GUBAR, 1997, *Indiana University, Bloomington*
JEAN E. HOWARD, 1997, *Columbia University*
KATHRYN HUME, 1997, *Penn State University, University Park*
LAWRENCE D. KRITZMAN, 1996, *Dartmouth College*
H. MARSHALL LEICESTER, JR., 1997, *University of California, Santa Cruz*
JOSEPH F. LOEWENSTEIN, 1996, *Washington University*
GREGORY L. LUCENTE, 1995, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
STEVEN MAILLOUX, 1996, *University of California, Irvine*
RICHARD MARIUS, 1996, *Harvard University*
MICHAEL McKEON, 1997, *Rutgers University, New Brunswick*
ANNE MELLOR, 1997, *University of California, Los Angeles*
ADRIENNE MUNICH, 1996, *State University of New York, Stony Brook*
RUTH PERRY, 1995, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
SANDY PETREY, 1996, *State University of New York, Stony Brook*
ERIC RENTSCHLER, 1995, *University of California, Irvine*
STEPHANIE SANDLER, 1995, *Amherst College*
DEBORA SHUGER, 1996, *University of California, Los Angeles*
FRANK TROMMLER, 1995, *University of Pennsylvania*
PATRICIA YAEGER, 1996, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
MARGARITA ZAMORA, 1996, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

A Statement of Editorial Policy

PMLA welcomes essays of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature. As the publication of a large and heterogeneous association, the journal is receptive to a variety of topics, whether general or specific, and to all scholarly methods and theoretical perspectives. The ideal *PMLA* essay exemplifies the best of its kind, whatever the kind; addresses a significant problem; draws out clearly the implications of its findings; and engages the attention of its audience through a concise, readable presentation. Manuscripts in languages other than English are accepted for review but must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English (generally of 1,000–1,500 words) and must be translated into English if they are recommended to the Editorial Board. Articles of fewer than 2,500 words or more than 9,000 words are not considered for publication. The word count includes notes but excludes works-cited lists and translations, which should accompany foreign language quotations. The MLA urges its contributors to be sensitive to the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.

Only members of the association may submit articles to *PMLA*. Each article submitted is sent to at least one consultant reader and one member of the Advisory Committee. Articles recommended by these readers are then sent to the members of the Editorial Board, who meet periodically with the editor to make final decisions. Until a final decision is reached, the author's name is not made known to consultant readers, to members of the Advisory Committee and the Editorial Board, or to the editor. Because the submission of an article simultaneously to more than one refereed journal can result in duplication of the demanding task of reviewing the manuscript, it is *PMLA*'s policy not to review articles that are under consideration by other journals. An article found to have been submitted elsewhere will not be published in *PMLA* even if it has already been accepted for publication by the Editorial Board.

Submissions, prepared according to *The MLA Style Manual*, should be sent in duplicate and addressed to the Managing Editor, *PMLA*, Modern Language Association, 10 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003-6981. With each submission please include a self-addressed envelope and enough postage for both copies to be returned. Authors' names should not appear on manuscripts; instead, a cover sheet, with the author's name and address and the title of the article, should accompany each manuscript. Authors should not refer to themselves in the first person in the submitted text or notes if such references would identify them; any necessary references to the author's previous work, for example, should be in the third person.

Criticism in Translation

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals for translations. Articles, as well as chapters or sections of books that can function as independent units, will be considered. The originals may be in any language. Two types of proposals are welcome: (1) significant scholarship from earlier periods that has not lost its forcefulness and whose retrieval in English in *PMLA* would be a noteworthy event for a broad body of readers or (2) contemporary work of sufficient weight and potential influence to merit the attention of the field as a whole.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should first ascertain that no previous English translation exists. The proposer should then provide the managing editor with the following materials: (1) a photocopy of the original essay, (2) an extended summary of the entire essay in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style, that will be published with the essay if the essay is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the translation is accepted for publication, the proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, if the proposer wishes to serve as translator of the essay or to designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member), a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted; otherwise the Editorial Board will select a translator.

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The Editorial Board will approve or decline the proposals, evaluate the quality of the translations, and cooperate with the proposers and translators.

Contents

Special Topic	934
Forthcoming in <i>PMLA</i>	934
Guest Columns. Two Scholars Reflect on Their Careers	
The Making of a University Professor, USA— 1936–84 <i>Germaine Brée</i>	935
Where Have I Been, and Where Are “We” Now, in This Profession? <i>Wayne Booth</i>	941
Money, Desire, and History in Eduardo Mendoza’s <i>City of Marvels</i> <i>Joan Ramon Resina</i>	951
The Bonds of Patrimony: Cervantes and the New World <i>James D. Fernández</i>	969
History, Postmodernism, and Louise Erdrich’s <i>Tracks</i> <i>Nancy J. Peterson</i>	982
Choosing the Right Card: Madness, Gambling, and the Imagination in Pushkin’s “The Queen of Spades” <i>Gary Rosenshield</i>	995
Conversations with Bakhtin <i>Sergey Bocharov</i>	1009
Forum	1025
Forthcoming Meetings and Conferences of General Interest	1036
Index of Advertisers	1037
Professional Notes and Comment	1056
Announcements	1056
Journal Notes	1062
Meeting of the MLA Executive Council	1064
Abstracts	1101
Contents of Volume 109 (1994)	1103

Cover illustration: Screenprint by Cy Twombly, from 8 odi di Oràzìo, 1968. Photograph courtesy of Sotheby’s and reproduced by permission of the artist and Leo Castelli Gallery.