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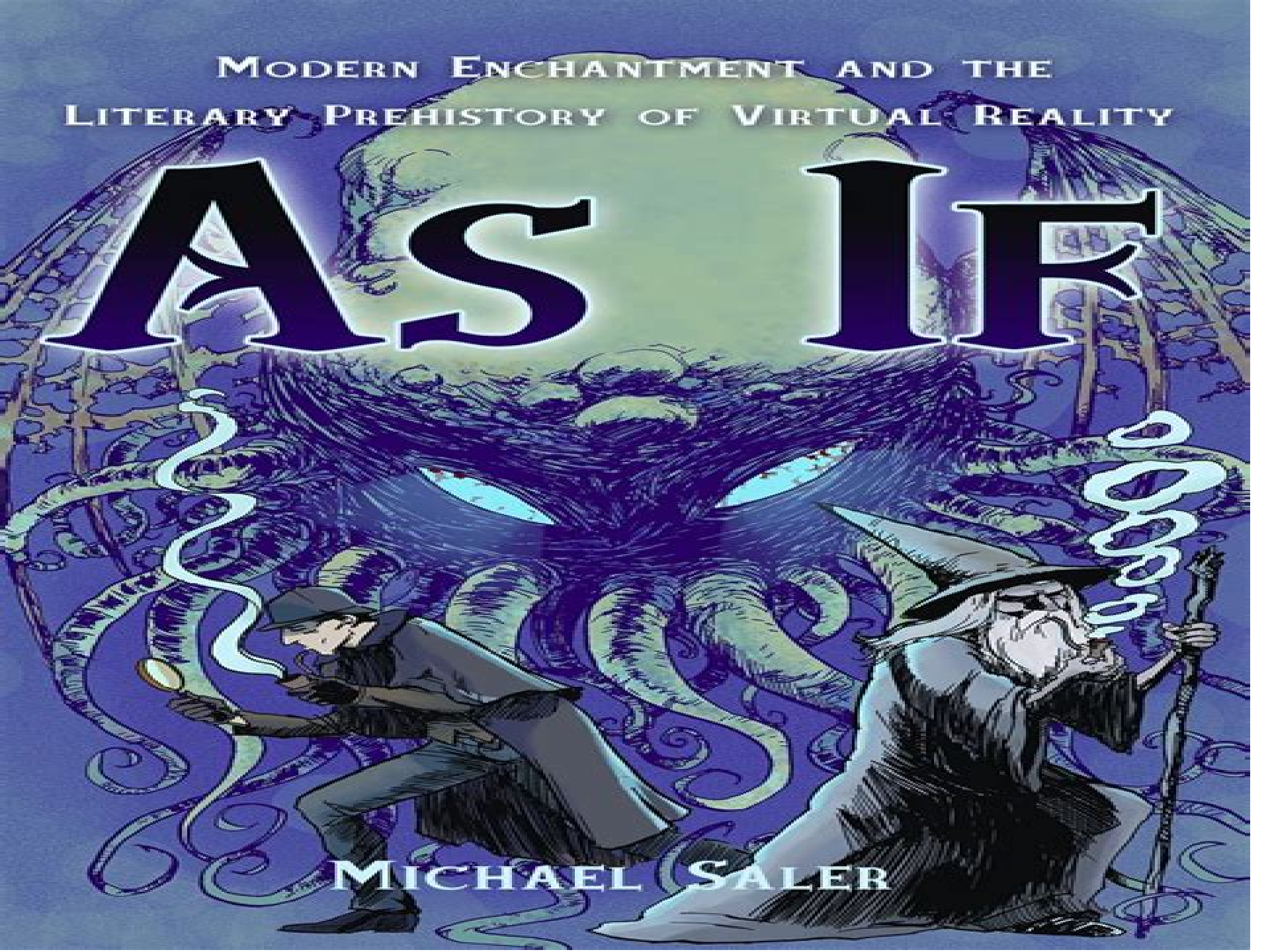
MODERN ENCHANTMENT AND THE
LITERARY PREHISTORY OF VIRTUAL REALITY

MICHAEL SALER

As If Modern Enchantment And The Literary Prehistory Of Virtual Reality

Áine Madden

As If Modern Enchantment And The Literary Prehistory Of Virtual Reality:

    As If Michael Saler,2011-12-29 A history of imaginary worlds from the late nineteenth century to the present from Arthur Conan Doyle s Sherlock Holmes to the virtual worlds of computer games   <u>As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality</u> Michael Saler,2011-12-08 Many people throughout the world inhabit imaginary worlds communally and persistently parsing Harry Potter and exploring online universes These activities might seem irresponsibly escapist but history tells another story Beginning in the late nineteenth century when Sherlock Holmes became the world s first virtual reality character readers began to colonize imaginary worlds debating serious issues and viewing reality in provisional as if terms rather than through essentialist just so perspectives From Lovecraft s Cthulhu Mythos and Tolkien s Middle earth to the World of Warcraft and Second Life As If provides a cultural history that reveals how we can remain enchanted but not deluded in an age where fantasy and reality increasingly intertwine   <u>Importing Faith</u> Glyn J. Ackerley,2015-10-23 Many twenty first century evangelical charismatics in Britain are looking for a faith that works They want to experience the miraculous in terms of healings and God sent financial provision Many have left the mainstream churches to join independent charismatic churches led by those who are perceived to have special insights into faith and to teach principles that will help believers experience the miraculous But all is not rosy in this promised paradise and when people are not healed or they remain poor they are often told that it is because they did not have enough faith or are too negative This study seeks to discover the origin of the principles that are taught by some charismatic leaders Ackerley identifies them as the same ideas that are taught by the positive confession health wealth and prosperity movement originating in the United States The origins of the ideas are traced back to New Thought metaphysics and its background philosophies of subjective idealism and American pragmatism These principles were imported into the UK through contact between British leaders and those influenced and trained by American word of faith teachers The author seeks to explain the persuasiveness of such teachers through examining case studies He suggests their miracles may well have social and psychological explanations rather than divine origins   *Revisiting Imaginary Worlds* Mark Wolf,2016-12-08 The concept of world and the practice of world creation have been with us since antiquity but they are now achieving unequalled prominence In this timely anthology of subcreation studies an international roster of contributors come together to examine the rise and structure of worlds the practice of world building and the audience s reception of imaginary worlds Including essays written by world builders A K Dewdney and Alex McDowell and offering critical analyses of popular worlds such as those of Oz The Lord of the Rings Star Trek Star Wars Battlestar Galactica and Minecraft Revisiting Imaginary Worlds provides readers with a broad and interdisciplinary overview of the issues and concepts involved in imaginary worlds across media platforms   **Expanding Austenland** Áine Madden,2024-01-13 Expanding Austenland The Pride and Prejudice Fanfiction Archive explores Jane Austen s reception in popular culture through an exploration of the ever expanding terrain

of online fanfiction professionally published profic texts and other intertextual reworkings inspired by the author s most popular novel Pride and Prejudice The book argues that given its pervasiveness Pride and Prejudice could be usefully considered not as a single novel but as an entire archive of interrelated texts or as a portal that opens a virtual world for readers to expand and explore By examining the Pride and Prejudice archive of interrelated texts this book analyses the process through which an individual novel can develop a virtual life or afterlife The evolving world that is opened by Pride and Prejudice and extended and enriched through fanfiction is conceptualised in the monograph as Austenland *The Dangerous Art of Text Mining* Jo Guldi,2023-10-05 Shows how text mining the art of counting words over time spurs insights into politics culture and historical change Victorian Cultures of Liminality Amina Alyal,Susan Anderson,2018-07-27 This volume is unique in its focus on cross fertilisation in the arts on very specific exploration of liminal spaces and on the representation of marginal figures in writing The essays here grew out of the Borders and Margins colloquium held at Leeds Trinity University UK in April 2010 which was the fourth in a series of colloquia This collection moreover contributes to a growing area of scholarship which explores Anglo French interactions and exchanges In choosing the term liminality the editors are aware of its nuanced implications allowing suggestions both of the initial and the transitional The contributors here are academics from the fields of literature history and art history and their essays cover art history literature cultural history the arts and faith Altogether this collection evokes a sense of temporal shift in that changes in values and focus are uncovered as the nineteenth century progresses Some have an ekphrastic quality showing how pictures can have a narrative and how pictures as well as texts can be encoded with moral and social interpretations Close scrutiny is applied to different kinds of texts fiction and non fiction and the purposes for which they were produced This book will appeal to scholars and academics interested in a wide range of cross categorisational transactions in nineteenth century Britain It will be of interest to scholars of Victorian culture and English nineteenth century literature and art particularly in terms of genre as well as to academics interested in the development of social personal and national identities **Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage** Benjamin Poore,2017-08-24 This book investigates the development of Sherlock Holmes adaptations in British theatre since the turn of the millennium Sherlock Holmes has become a cultural phenomenon all over again in the twenty first century as a result of the television series Sherlock and Elementary and films like Mr Holmes and the Guy Ritchie franchise starring Robert Downey Jr In the light of these new interpretations British theatre has produced timely and topical responses to developments in the screen Sherlocks stories Moreover stage Sherlocks of the last three decades have often anticipated the knowing metafictional tropes employed by screen adaptations This study traces the recent history of Sherlock Holmes in the theatre about which very little has been written for an academic readership It argues that the world of Sherlock Holmes is conveyed in theatre by a variety of games that activate new modes of audience engagement Teaching Gender Samuel Rutherford,2025-03-17 In Britain in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries universities were one of many

institutional state structures wherein gender difference the male breadwinner ideal and heterosexuality were central to a conception of citizenship But while the state could enforce these norms through the parameters it set on the extension franchise or the distribution of welfare benefits individual women and men also played active roles in creating and renegotiating them through the messy interactions of everyday life Teaching Gender immerses the reader in lecture theatres University Senate meetings student unions nightclubs and halls of residence to show how individuals efforts to find workable paradigms for relating to one another across gender lines took shape within specific institutional political and financial constraints and in the context of a historical moment when anxiety accrued around non normative genders and sexualities as symptomatic of wider social and political instability Drawing on extensive research in the archives of ten colleges and universities across England and Scotland Samuel Rutherford shows that the nationalization and centralization of higher education at the turn of the twentieth century resulted incidentally in coeducation over the protest of feminist activists who supported gender segregation that students negotiation of cross gender interaction in coeducational universities ultimately led them to identify heterosexuality as a seemingly less fraught paradigm than more gender neutral conceptions of corporate life and that single sex men s and women s colleges though increasingly marginal became important sites for the theorization of life paths and identities outside the heterosexual norm Through detailed recovery both of political and financial decision making and of the experiences and emotions of faculty students administrators donors and national politicians Rutherford paints a vivid and resonant picture of the university campus as a key site for the transmission of norms around gender and sexuality   Contesting Earth's History in Transatlantic Literary Culture, 1860-1935 Richard Fallon,2025-02-14 By the mid nineteenth century geologists and palaeontologists had reconstructed an authoritative narrative of Earth s deep history from the planet s molten origins to the rise of humanity Many figures in transatlantic science across subsequent decades however had problems with this narrative it was too secular inhuman and evolutionary or controlled too exclusively by elite scientists Speaking from palaeoscience s unevenly professionalized and controversy racked borders Christian fundamentalists charismatic psychics and respected scholars alike voiced their objections Until now no study has brought their work together for detailed comparative analysis Spanning from the 1860s to the interwar decades Contesting Earth s History examines the fascinating stories of five significant examples of fringe or borderline palaeoscience old and young earth creationism hollow earth theory clairvoyant time travel and sunken continent catastrophism Innovatively combining methods from literary studies with the history of science this book attends not just to the conceptual content of these strange sciences but also to their proponents communication of truth claims through diverse genres ranging from the scientific textbook and the technical monograph to the lost world romance and the epic poem By paying close attention to the hitherto overlooked textual forms and literary strategies of these works of pseudoscience this volume throws into relief the variant conceptions of audience evidence and method that jostled and competed in wider scientific culture during this period It also demonstrates

that for all their diversity authors of borderline palaeoscience shared the desire to shift the balance of power creating textual spaces where exclusive hierarchies of scientific expertise could be levelled away These conjurors of lost worlds often captivated wide audiences and many of their bizarre astonishing and iconoclastic ideas remain with us to this day Some even inspired early science fiction by the likes of H P Lovecraft and Edgar Rice Burroughs Hijacking geologists and palaeontologists longstanding effort at making the prehistoric past visible authors on the borderlines of palaeoscience asserted their right to scientific authority and encouraged readers to gaze into time s abyss with bold new eyes

Extraction Ecologies and the Literature of the Long Exhaustion Elizabeth Carolyn Miller,2021-10-12 How literature of the British imperial world contended with the social and environmental consequences of industrial mining The 1830s to the 1930s saw the rise of large scale industrial mining in the British imperial world Elizabeth Carolyn Miller examines how literature of this era reckoned with a new vision of civilization where humans are dependent on finite nonrenewable stores of earthly resources and traces how the threatening horizon of resource exhaustion worked its way into narrative form Britain was the first nation to transition to industry based on fossil fuels which put its novelists and other writers in the remarkable position of mediating the emergence of extraction based life Miller looks at works like Hard Times The Mill on the Floss and Sons and Lovers showing how the provincial realist novel s longstanding reliance on marriage and inheritance plots transforms against the backdrop of exhaustion to withhold the promise of reproductive futurity She explores how adventure stories like Treasure Island and Heart of Darkness reorient fictional space toward the resource frontier And she shows how utopian and fantasy works like Sultana s Dream The Time Machine and The Hobbit offer imaginative ways of envisioning energy beyond extractivism This illuminating book reveals how an era marked by violent mineral resource rushes gave rise to literary forms and genres that extend extractivism as a mode of environmental understanding   Shakespeare and the Comedy of Enchantment Kent Cartwright,2021 Shakespeare and the Comedy of Enchantment argues that enchantment constitutes a key emotional and intellectual dimension of Shakespeare s comedies It thus makes a new claim about the rejuvenating value of comedy for individuals and society Shakespeare s comedies orchestrate ongoing encounters between the rational and the mysterious between doubt and fascination with feelings moved by elements of enchantment that also seem a little ridiculous In such a drama lines of causality become complex and even satisfying endings leave certain matters incomplete and contingent openings for scrutiny and thought In addressing enchantment the book takes exception to the modernist vision of a deterministic disenchanted world As Shakespeare s action advances comic mysteries accrue uncanny coincidences magical sympathies inexplicable repetitions psychic influences and puzzlements about the meaning of events all of whose numinous effects linger ambiguously after reason has apparently answered the play s questions Separate chapters explore the devices tropes and motifs of enchantment magical clowns who alter the action through stop time interludes structural repetitions that suggest mysteriously converging even opaquely

providential destinies locales that oppose magical and protean forces to regulatory and quotidian values desires thoughts and utterances that manifest comically monstrous events characters who return from the dead facilitated by the desires of the living play endings crossed by harmony and dissonance with moments of wonder that make possible the mysterious action of forgiveness Wonder and wondering in Shakespeare s and other comedies it emerges become the conditions for new possibilities Chapters refer extensively to early modern history Renaissance and modern theories of comedy treatises on magical science and contemporaneous Italian and Tudor comedy   **Magician of Sound** Jessie Fillerup,2021-04-20 French composer Maurice Ravel was described by critics as a magician conjurer and illusionist Scholars have been aware of this historical curiosity but none so far have explained why Ravel attracted such critiques or what they might tell us about how to interpret his music Magician of Sound examines Ravel s music through the lens of illusory experience considering how timbre orchestral effects figure ground relationships and impressions of motion and stasis might be experienced as if they were conjuring tricks Applying concepts from music theory psychology philosophy and the history of magic Jessie Fillerup develops an approach to musical illusion that newly illuminates Ravel s fascination with machines and creates compelling links between his music and other forms of aesthetic illusion from painting and poetry to fiction and phantasmagoria Fillerup analyzes scenes of enchantment and illusory effects in Ravel s most popular works including Bol ro La Valse Daphnis et Chlo and Rapsodie espagnole relating his methods and musical effects to the practice of theatrical conjurers Drawing on a rich well of primary sources Magician of Sound provides a new interdisciplinary framework for interpreting this enigmatic composer linking magic and music   The Cambridge Companion to William Morris Marcus Waithe,2024-05-23 In his short life William Morris 1834 96 combined the roles of poet author painter designer translator lecturer political activist journalist weaver bookmaker and businessman This volume draws together influential voices from different disciplines who have participated in the recent critical political and curatorial revival of his work with essays exploring the contemporary resonance of his exceptional legacy As a critic of capitalism his thinking has thrived in these years of financial crisis as a theorist of work and craftsmanship his legacy interacts with a more recent ethics of making that questions the values of off shored production and as a protector of landscape and buildings Morris s concern with what is precious strikes a chord in our age of environmental crisis At the same time a careful and scholarly approach observes the particularity of Morris s context in a way that confounds the false friends of hasty historical reception and reveals unexpected connections   A Companion to the Biopic Deborah Cartmell,Ashley D. Polasek,2020-01-15 The most comprehensive reference text of theoretical and historical discourse on the biopic film The biopic often viewed as the most reviled of all film genres traces its origins to the early silent era over a century ago Receiving little critical attention biopics are regularly dismissed as superficial formulaic and disrespectful of history Film critics literary scholars and historians tend to believe that biopics should be artistic yet accurate true to life representations of their subjects Moviegoing audiences however do not seem to

hold similar views biopics continue to be popular commercially viable films Even the genre s most ardent detractors will admit that these films are often very watchable particularly due to the performance of the lead actor It is increasingly common for stars of biographical films to garner critical praise and awards driving a growing interest in scholarship in the genre A Companion to the Biopic is the first global and authoritative reference on the subject Offering theoretical historical thematic and performance based approaches this unique volume brings together the work of top scholars to discuss the coverage of the lives of authors politicians royalty criminals and pop stars through the biopic film Chapters explore evolving attitudes and divergent perspectives on the genre with topics such as the connections between biopics and literary melodramas the influence financial concerns have on aesthetic social or moral principles the merger of historical narratives with Hollywood biographies stereotypes and criticisms of the biopic genre and more This volume Provides a systematic in depth analysis of the biopic and considers how the choice of historical subject reflects contemporary issues Places emphasis on films that portray race and gender issues Explores the uneven boundaries of the genre by addressing what is and is not a biopic as well as the ways in which films simultaneously embrace and defy historical authenticity Examines the distinction between reality and the real in biographical films Offers a chronological survey of biopics from the beginning of the 20th century A Companion to the Biopic is a valuable resource for researchers scholars and students of history film studies and English literature as well as those in disciplines that examine interpretations of historical figures   The Future of Humans and Emotional Machines Elena Giannoulis,2025-07-18 This book explores human machine interaction in Japan providing a new focus on how and in what form people build affective bonds to new technologies To gain insights into the feelings identities fears and desires of people in our contemporary society this book brings together perspectives from Japanese studies cultural and literary studies anthropology robotics philosophy and game studies Through these lenses it reveals how narratives about machines are not merely reflections of technological capabilities but when it comes to emotional attachment are deeply embedded in cultural practices and social values In addition to discussions by leading scholars in the field from around the world this book includes two original literary contributions by award winning Japanese authors Y ko Tawada and Kei ichir Hirano as well as interviews with Japanese roboticists providing readers with the rare opportunity to learn about the motivations and inspirations behind technological advances in human machine interaction Shedding light on the mutual influence of academics producers and artists in the field of the attachment to new technologies and encouraging a dialogue between them this book will be a valuable resource for scholars and students of Japanese studies cultural and literary studies and anthropology The Open Access version of this book available at http www taylorfrancis com has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4 0 license   American Enchantment Michelle Sizemore,2018 American Enchantment presents a new understanding of the social order after the American Revolution one that enacts the concept of enchantment as a unique way of describing and coalescing popular power and

social affiliation   **Rethinking Lessing's Laocoon** Michael Squire,Avi Lifschitz,2017 Gotthold Ephraim Lessing first published Laokoon oder uber die Grenzen der Mahlerey und Poesie Laocoon or on the Limits of Painting and Poetry in 1766 Over the last 250 years Lessing s essay has exerted an incalculable influence on western critical thinking Not only has it directed the history of post Enlightenment aesthetics it has also shaped the very practices of poetry and painting in a myriad of different ways In this anthology of specially commissioned chapters comprising the first ever edited book on the Laocoon in English a range of leading critical voices has been brought together to reassess Lessing s essay on its 250th anniversary Combining perspectives from multiple disciplines including classics intellectual history philosophy aesthetics media studies comparative literature and art history the book explores the Laocoon from a plethora of critical angles Chapters discuss Lessing s interpretation of ancient art and poetry the cultural backdrops of the eighteenth century and the validity of the Laocoon s observations in the fields of aesthetics semiotics and philosophy The volume shows how the Laocoon exploits Greek and Roman models to sketch the proper spatial and temporal limits Grenzen of what Lessing called poetry and painting at the same time it demonstrates how Lessing s essay is embedded within Enlightenment theories of art perception and historical interpretation as well as within nascent eighteenth century ideas about the scientific study of Classical antiquity Altertumswissenschaft To engage critically with the Laocoon and to make sense of its legacy over the last 250 years consequently involves excavating various classical presences by looking back to the Graeco Roman past the volume demonstrates Lessing forged a whole new tradition of modern aesthetics   Analog Game Studies: Volume III Evan Torner,Aaron Trammell,Emma Leigh Waldron,2019-02-05 Analog Game Studies is a bi monthy journal for the research and critique of analog games We define analog games broadly and include work on tabletop and live action role playing games board games card games pervasive games game like performances carnival games experimental games and more Analog Game Studies was founded to reserve a space for scholarship on analog games in the wider field of game studies

   Eighteenth-century Fiction and the Reinvention of Wonder Sarah Tindal Kareem,2014 A footprint materializes mysteriously on a deserted shore a giant helmet falls from the sky a traveler awakens to find his horse dangling from a church steeple Eighteenth century British fiction brims with moments such as these in which the prosaic rubs up against the marvelous While it is a truism that the period s literature is distinguished by its realism and air of probability Eighteenth Century Fiction and the Reinvention of Wonder argues that wonder is integral to rather than antithetical to the developing techniques of novelistic fiction Positioning its reader on the cusp between recognition and estrangement between faith and doubt modern fiction hinges upon wonder Eighteenth Century Fiction and the Reinvention of Wonder s chapters unfold its new account of British fiction s rise through surprising new readings of classic early novels from Daniel Defoe s Robinson Crusoe to Jane Austen s Northanger Abbey as well as bringing to attention lesser known works most notably Rudolf Raspe s Baron Munchausen s Narrative of His Marvellous Travels In this bold new account the eighteenth century bears witness not

to the world s disenchantment but rather to wonder s re location from the supernatural realm to the empirical world providing a re evaluation not only of how we look back at the Enlightenment but also of how we read today

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In some sort of inundated with monitors and the cacophony of instant conversation, the profound power and mental resonance of verbal beauty often fade into obscurity, eclipsed by the regular barrage of noise and distractions. Yet, situated within the musical pages of **As If Modern Enchantment And The Literary Prehistory Of Virtual Reality**, a charming function of fictional brilliance that pulses with fresh emotions, lies an remarkable journey waiting to be embarked upon. Penned by a virtuoso wordsmith, this mesmerizing opus guides readers on a mental odyssey, delicately revealing the latent possible and profound impact stuck within the elaborate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative analysis, we will embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is main subjects, dissect its fascinating writing model, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impression it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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