

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

German C341: German Fiction and German History

COURSE CODE : GERMC341

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 30-APR-03

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

C 341

German Fiction and German History (the novels of Grimmelshausen)

Time allowed: TWO hours.

Answer TWO questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

1. EITHER (a) 'Grimmelshausen's novels are historical novels in the sense that they are intended to be read as reflections on the Thirty Years War and its impact on Germany and Germans.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
- OR (b) 'Grimmelshausen understands himself very much as a German author who sees it as an essential function of his novels to uphold "German" values in a world in which they are threatened.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
- OR (c) 'Grimmelshausen defends the horror, crudity, and obscenity that feature prominently in his novels on the grounds of his commitment to telling the truth.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
2. EITHER (a) 'The narrating self in Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* displays a detached, even hostile attitude towards the narrated self.' Discuss.
- OR (b) 'Although the hermits in Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* claim to offer a true understanding of the world, it is impossible to regard them uncritically as authority figures.' Discuss.
3. EITHER (a) 'In Grimmelshausen's *Courasche* the narrator's persistent attempts to prejudice the reader against the heroine are an abject failure.' Discuss.
- OR (b) 'Grimmelshausen's *Springinsfeld* reverses the confessional perspective of his *Simplicissimus*.' Discuss.
- OR (c) 'The fact that *Courasche* and *Springinsfeld* are allowed to dictate their own stories and to mock *Simplicissimus* means that his view of them is challenged and relativized.' Discuss.

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