

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 : 19-MAY-04

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

GERMC 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. 'Grimmelshausen's novels are historical novels in the sense that they are fictions which seek to interpret the impact of the Thirty Years War on Germans and Germany.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
2. 'The hermit Simplicissimus who writes his life story on a desert island is too addicted to comedy and coarse humour to be as hostile to the worldly escapades of his youth as he pretends.' Discuss.
3. 'The claim of the author-narrator of Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* to be telling the truth about his experiences is intended to identify him as a satirist.' Discuss.
4. Assess the importance of the 'Beau Alman' episode in Book IV of Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* for an understanding of the novel as a whole.
5. 'Like Simplicissimus, Courasche and Springinsfeld are not so much villains as victims of their society and their time.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
6. 'The comedy in Grimmelshausen's *Courasche* derives from the fact that the heroine is a woman who revels in the opportunities presented to her to play the part of a man.' Discuss.
7. 'Grimmelshausen's Springinsfeld is the opposite of his Simplicissimus in that when he tells the story of his life he displays no sense of guilt or remorse; he remains a radically secular and sinful figure.' Discuss.
8. 'The fact that Courasche and Springinsfeld tell their stories in a way which is so critical of Simplicissimus means that the reader comes to treat Simplicissimus's own account of himself with scepticism.' Discuss.

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