

CYNTHIA CHASE

Departments of English and
Comparative Literature
Cornell University

EDUCATION:

Princeton University, B.A. summa cum laude in English, 1975
Yale University, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 1981

EMPLOYMENT:

Assistant Professor of English, Cornell University, 1980-7
Butler Visiting Professor, SUNY Buffalo, Department of English, Spring 1985.
Associate Professor of English, Cornell, 1987-93
Professor of English, Cornell, 1994-

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Decomposing Figures: Rhetorical Readings in The Romantic Tradition (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986).

Romanticism, ed. C. Chase. Longmans Critical Readers (London: Longman, 1992).

(Selected) Articles:

"The Decomposition of the Elephants: Double-Reading Daniel Deronda," *PMLA* 93:2 (March 1978), 215-27.

"Oedipal Textuality: Reading Freud's Reading of Oedipus," *Diacritics* 9:1 (Spring 1979), 54-68.

"The Ring of Gyges and the Coat of Darkness: Reading Rousseau with Wordsworth," in *Romanticism and Language*, ed. Arden Reed (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), 50-85.

"Viewless Wings: Intertextual Interpretation of Keats's 'Ode to a Nightingale,'" in *Lyric Poetry: Beyond New Criticism*, ed. Chaviva Hosek and Patricia Parker (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985), 208-25.

"Primary Narcissism and the Giving of Figure: Kristeva with Hertz and de Man," in *Abjection, Melancholia, and Love: The Work of Julia Kristeva*, ed. John Fletcher and Andrew Benjamin, Warwick Studies in Philosophy and Literature (London: Routledge, 1990), 124-36.

"Monument and Inscription: Wordsworth's 'Rude Embryo' and the Remaining of History," in *Romantic Revolutions*, ed. K. Johnston et al. (Bloomington: Indiana

"Translating Romanticism: Literary Theory as the Criticism of Aesthetics in the Work of Paul de Man," *Textual Practice* 4:3 (1990), 349-75.

"Deconstruction as the Possibility of Justice: The Critical Function of the Concept of Democracy," *Cardozo Law Review*, 11:5-6 (July-Aug. 1990), 1719-22.

"The Decomposition of the Elephants: Double-Reading Daniel Deronda," reprinted in *George Eliot*, Longman Critical Readers, ed. K.M. Newton (London: Longman, 1991).

"Paul de Man," *Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory*, ed. M. Groden et al. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins

University Press, 1993).

"Reading Disavowal: Psychoanalysis and the Construction of History," *Image, Word, and Self*, ed. Maria Letizia Proietti (New York: Peter Lang, 1993).

"Oedipal Textuality: Reading Freud's Reading of Oedipus," reprinted in *Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism*, Longman Critical Reader, ed. Maud Ellmann (London: Longman, 1993).

"Literary Theory as the Criticism of Aesthetics: De Man, Blanchot, and Romantic Allegories of Cognition," in *Critical Encounters*, ed. Cathy Caruth and Deborah Esch (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1995).

"Metaphor and Knot (Philosophy's Problem)," *Meaning, Frame and Metaphor*, ed. Michael Burke and Joyce Goggin (Amsterdam: ASCA Press, 2002).

"Double-Take: Reading de Man and Derrida Writing on Tropes," in *Legacies of Paul de Man*, ed. Marc Redfield. Fordham University Press, 2009

"Half-Life of a Stumbling Block: Paul de Man's Earliest Reading of Hölderlin's 'Der Rhein.'" *Diacritics*, 2013. Vol. 41.1:80-113.

"Hölderlin Lecteur: De Man Avant Derrida." *Le Tour Critique* No. 3 (2014) *Psychanalyse et déconstruction*.

"Antigone's 'Choice for the Destiny of Niobe': Hölderlin's 'Remarks on Antigone' in the Writings of Paul de Man. *Philia & Filia (Philosophy, Literature and Arts/ Filosofia, Literatura e Artes*. v 4, n.1 (2013), 105-121.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Committee, MLA Division on Comparative Studies in Romanticism and the Nineteenth Century, 1985-90; Member, Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association, 1984-7

Editorial Board, *Diacritics*, 1981-2000; Co-Editor, Special Issues of *Diacritics* "Cherchez la femme" (Feminist issue) 12:2 (Summer 1982) ; "Wordsworth and the Production of Poetry," 17:4 (Winter, 1987); two issues on Walter Benjamin, in 1992 and 1993; Editor, special issue of *Diacritics* on Paul de Man, 20:3 (Fall 1990); Reader of essays submitted for *PMLA*, *Diacritics*, *European Legacy* (2007-13), and other journals; reader of various tenure dossiers (outside of Cornell)

Organizer of Seminar on Literature and Opera, American Comparative Literature Association, 2016

Evaluation of candidate for chaired professorship at Boston University (November 2016)

(Selected) Lectures

"Wordsworth and 'the destiny of Niobe'" International Conference on Romanticism

"Half-Life of a Stumbling Block" American Comparative Literature Association, April 2012

"Hölderlin Lecteur: De Man Avant Derrida." Collège International de Philosophie. Paris, June 2013

"Stepping Through an Aperture to the Future: Johann Friedrich Struensee (1737-1772)" Twelfth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities. June 2014, Madrid, Spain.

“The Voice of the Tenor in the Company of Women” “Stadt der Frauen” [“City of Women”]
Conference at Munich Opera Festival, June 27, 2015

“Andrea Chénier—Incredible but True?” American Comparative Literature Association, March 19, 2016

WORK IN PROGRESS:

“‘Incredibile, ma vero’: Andrea Chénier and the Credibility of Opera.” Chapter one of book in progress,
Composing Figures: How Literary Heroes are Reinvented in Operas

Chapter two of book in progress (*Composing Figures*). “‘Why awaken me?’: Translation in Massenet’s
Werther and in Goethe’s *The Sorrows of Young Werther*”

“Literary Language in the Libretto.” Paper for seminar on “Literature and the Interarts,” American
Comparative Literature Association (Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017)

“The Tenor as Poet and Translator: Performing the ‘Lied d’Ossian’ in Massenet’s *Werther*”