



Selected Writings

Guillaume Apollinaire, Roger Shattuck

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When Guillaume Apollinaire died in 1918 at the age of thirty-eight, as the result of a war wound, he was already known as one of the most original and important poets of his time. He had led migration of Bohemian Paris across the city from Montmartre to Montparnasse, he had helped formulate the principles of Cubism, having written one of the first books on the subject, and coined the word 'Surrealist'; and he had demonstrated in his own work those innovations we have come to associate with the most vital investigations of the avenir - garde.

Selected Writings Details

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Mitch says

This selection is a great one, it's the first Apollinaire book I read, and it got me hooked! A bit of everything here, especially Zone & Calligrammes, and some criticism, which from this guy, was amazing! Masterpiece.

knig says

Here I was, and there Guillaume Apollinaire. And his poetry.

‘But....you’re awful’, I told him. ‘I’ve never read worse’. And when not even a Glass or two made it even more delectable, I realised I would have to learn French. As you do. On a lazy Saturday afternoon. There is, apparently, an entire cosmos contained merely within the sound structure of his poems. Just not in English. Still, acquiring the entire French in an afternoon is a tall order. How to skin this cat? To the rescue, a minor favourite of mine, Poulenc:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwOi1...>

OK, now we’re talking.(Umm, singing). I hear it! I hear the sound: the (not so) foolish man who built his house on sound. More!

Et les enfants s’en vont devant
Les autres suivent en rêvant
Chaque arbre fruitier se résigne
Quand de très loin ils lui font signe

Now, all I have to do is figure out the phonetic transcription so I can ride the sound wave. No problem, apparently there is an International Phonetic Alphabet to prop me up here. Quickly, then.....maybe not so quickly actually.....what the deuces, its like learning a second language! Just the letter A has over ten phonetic transcriptions! What! Am I to abandon Le French and learn Phonetic now? Dilemma, dilemma, I only have the one afternoon, demmit. Thats it, only going to concentrate on them ‘ont’ s and ‘ents’, I think. For the purposes.

So. Here we go: the Englishman’s version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEaMr...>

This isn’t how a frog Frenchman would say it, but actually, that’s irrelevant. As long as the same ‘o’ is maintained, so is the audio consistency of those devants, revants and enfants, which is what matters. Phew.

Look at me now. Here I am, and there Guillaume Apollinaire. And his poetry.

‘You’re a bit of alright’, I tell him.

K. says

lamb shank

Carolyn says

to assist with my pictogram poems

Maria says

Throws you into an unfamiliar dream-like world which constantly presses you for interpretation, but refuses you a very solid one.

Antonio Delgado says

When poetry meets photography, cinema, dreams, machines, then we have Apollinaire.

Danielle says

I love this cover.

Dead Beat Poet says

mind bending and brain expanding

Matthew says

One can't really go wrong with Apollinaire, although I would've liked to see more of his fiction and criticism in this volume.

M. J. says

Brother bought me for Christmas.

Open Books says

It would be hard to find a character more fascinating than Guillaume Apollinaire. A man who ate orange without peeling it, who placed bets on who'll eat every dish from the restaurant's menu (during one dinner, of course) and who was accused of stealing Mona Lisa. A part of the magical era of Montmartre/Montparnasse.

But this book proves it was not only about an engaging personality - he was also an exceptional writer. Certainly one of the most innovative poets of his time (or rather of all times). To add to this, his prose was also ridiculously entertaining, just like his non-fiction (even if he didn't always get his facts right).

Tony Iantosca says

Yeah we're tied, ok.

S says

New York: New Directions, 1971

Tosh says

Also as an update I found some film footage of the great poet as well as him reading one of his poems. Go to:

<http://tamtambooks-tosh.blogspot.com/>

Apollinaire is the ultimate early 20th Century French poet. Meaning that he's totally modern and so into his times and city -Paris. This is an excellent collecton of his work, where one would want to go deep into the world and one can basically smell the era through his writing.

Robert Ross says

This man is fascinating and amazing and now I have to learn more French in order to understand him
