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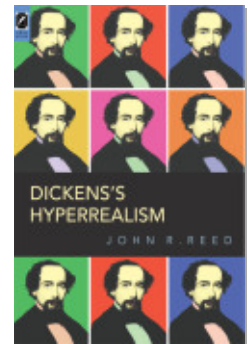
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INDEX

- Abrams, Meyer, 2
Ackerman, Jennifer, 89
Ainsworth, W. H., 55
Alter, Robert, 93
Arabian Nights, The, 9, 81
Atwood, Margaret, 28
Austen, Jane, 1
- Bal, Mieke, 34
Barthes, Roland, 6, 86, 107n5, 118n18
Baumgarten, Murray, 118n20
Bennett, Arnold: *Anna of the Five Towns*,
12
Benveniste, Emile, 27, 112n15
Boltzman, Ludwig, 117n8
Brattin, Joel, 113n4
Bronte, Emily, 12, 23ff.; *Wuthering
Heights*, 19ff.
Brooke-Rose, Christine, 26ff.
Brooks, Peter, 3ff., 116n4
Browning, Robert, 2, 105
Buck, Anne, 61ff.
Bulwer-Lytton, Edward, 9ff., 55
Bunyan, John: *Pilgrim's Progress*, 69, 79, 82
- Calvino, Italo: *Invisible Cities*, 18
- Campbell, Jeremy, 89, 116n4
Camus, Albert, 26
Carlisle, Janice, 110n3, 111n3
Carlyle, Thomas, 34, 111n13, 118n19
Casparis, Christian Paul, 26ff., 38
Chancellor, E. Beresford, 110n10
Chandler, Raymond, 25
Chatman, Seymour, 29, 112n17
Childers, Joseph W., 12, 108n5
Choul, Jean-Claude, 117n7
Coetzee, J. M., 28, 112n20
Cohn, Dorrit, 28, 33
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 2
Collins, Wilkie, 26ff., 81, 103, 106, 111n7,
119n23; *Moonstone, The*, 29, 111n8;
Woman in White, The, 29ff., 111n8
Cotsell, Michael, 113n3, 113n6, 114n15,
118n13, 118n16
Culler, Jonathan, 108n5
Cunnington, C. Willett and Phillis, 61
- Damrosch, Leopold, Jr., 111n5
Darwin, Charles, 28
Davis, Lennard J., 17ff.
Dawson, Gerald, 108n5
description, 15–36, 109n8, 110n12
diary writing, 30ff., 111n9

- Dickens, Charles: and intentions, 12, 24ff.; patterns of imagery, 7, 49, 63, 68ff., 80ff., 90ff., 118n15; and Romanticism, 2; and social conditions, 12, 16, 24; on truth as moral truth, 9; values realism, 1
- works: *Barnaby Rudge*, 10; *Bleak House*, 9, 33ff., 48, 57, 81ff., 90ff., 113n3, 114n12, 117nn11–12; *Chimes*, *The*, 13; *Christmas Carol*, A, 64ff., 76ff.; *David Copperfield*, 36, 39, 46ff., 111n12, 113n7; *Dombey and Son*, 7ff., 44, 58, 78ff., 107n3, 111n4, 111n12; 22; *Great Expectations*, 49–52, 62ff.; *Hard Times*, 2, 4ff., 9, 16, 66ff., 80ff., 116n4; *Little Dorrit*, 62,73; *Martin Chuzzlewit*, 48ff.; *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The*, 33–41, 112n20, 112n22; *Old Curiosity Shop*, *The*, 2, 20, 44, 110n14, 114n13; *Oliver Twist*, 11–24, 44, 54–70, 108n2; *Our Mutual Friend*, 6ff., 33ff., 44, 48, 63ff., 85–104, 113n3, 116n2, 118nn15–17, 119n22; *Pickwick Papers*, *The*, 57, 73ff., 114n15; *Sketches by Boz*, 1, 43, 57, 60ff., 75, 77ff., 83ff.; *Tale of Two Cities*, A, 10,111n13; *Uncommercial Traveller*, *The*, 9, 82ff.
- Disraeli, Benjamin: *Coningsby*, 23
- Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan, 25, 28
- Eagleton, Terry, 108n5
- Eco, Umberto, 1, 4, 108n4, 116n4, 117n9, 118n21
- Edgecombe, Rodney Stenning, 71ff.
- Eigner, Edward, 139ff., 57
- Fabricant, Carole, 109n9
- Fielding, Henry, 44
- first-person narration, 25ff.
- Fleishman, Suzanne, 112n15
- focalization, 34ff.
- Ford, George, 8, 12, 71
- Forster, John, 1, 9
- Fowles, John, 28
- Franklin, J. Jeffrey, 6
- Furst, Lilian, 2ff., 52
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg, 22
- Gallagher, Catherine, 17
- Gaskell, Elizabeth: *Sylvia's Lovers*, 7ff.; *Wives and Daughters*, 107n6
- Genette, Gérard, 13, 21, 28, 34, 112n17, 112n20
- Glavin, John, 6
- Goodridge, Frank, 19
- Gordon, Elizabeth Hope, 43, 113n1
- Graham, Kenneth, 116n3
- Grillo, Virgil, 82
- Hamon, Phillipe, 22
- Hardy, Thomas, 14, 18ff., 23ff.; *Far From the Madding Crowd*, 60ff.; *Jude the Obscure*, 19ff.
- Hawes, Donald, 1
- Hecimovich, Gregg A., 116n2
- Horning, Alice, 117n7
- Horton, Susan, 77ff., 115n1
- Humpherys, Anne, 15ff.
- Husserl, Edmund, 2
- Irwin, Michael, 109n6
- Iser, Wolfgang, 22ff.
- Jaffe, Audrey, 108n1
- Jahn, Manfred, 112n17
- Jakobson, Roman, 58, 115n3, 115n7, 178n10
- James, Henry, 85, 116n1
- Jann, Rosemary, 111n7
- Johns, Juliet, 60
- Joyce, James: *Ulysses*, 6
- Kay, Lily E., 89ff.
- Kearns, Katherine, 60, 66ff., 115n6
- Kermode, Frank, 49, 111n10
- Kinglake, A. W.: *Eothen*, 14

- Kingsley, Charles: *Alton Locke*, 15
 Kittler, Friedrich, 116n4, 117n9
 Kucich, John, 77
- Lacan, Jaques, 116n4
 Larkin, Maurice, 107n4
 Lerner, Laurence, 107n6
 Lettis, Richard, 52ff., 57, 113nn7–8, 113n10, 115n3
 Levine, George, 103, 116n3
 Lewes, G. H., 1, 8
 Lloyd, Tom, 90, 114n14, 117n11
 Lonoff, Sue, 111n6
 Lopes, José Manuel, 18, 110n12
 Lukács, George, 3, 107n3
- Mann, Thomas: *Doctor Faustus*, 58
 Marryat, Captain Frederick, 44
 Martens, Lorna, 33, 110n2, 111n8
 Masson, David, 8, 107n1
 Maxwell, Richard, 109n10
 Mayhew, Henry, 15ff.
 McMaster, Juliet, 114n13, 114n16, 114n1
 Meckier, Jerome, 56ff.
 metaphysical novel, 9ff.
 Metz, Nancy Aycok, 115n5, 119n22
 Meyer, Leonard B., 116n4
 Miller, J. Hillis, 43ff., 57ff., 69, 75, 78ff., 83ff., 113n2, 114n12, 115n4, 115n7, 115n2, 118n14
 Millgate, Jane, 107n2
 Morson, Gary Saul, 38ff., 112n22
 Musselwhite, David, 57
- names, 42–53, 113n1, 113nn3–5, 113–14nn8–17
 Newcome, Mildred, 82
 Newman, John Henry: *Callista*, 110n2
 Norris, Christopher, 108n5
- personification, 71–84
 Phelan, James, 108n1, 112n20, 117n9
 place in literature, 12ff., 17, 20ff., 52
 Plato, 105
- Powell, S. D., 113n1, 113n7, 113n9
 Prince, Gerald, 27
 Proust, Marcel: *Remembrance of Things Past*, 43ff., 113n2
 providential narrative, 28ff., 40ff., 103, 106, 111n5, 119n23
- Quirk, Randolph, 111n4
- Ragussis, Michael, 48ff.
 Ramspeck, Beth Sutton, 110n14
 realism, 1ff., 26, 42ff., 52, 56ff., 59ff., 69ff., 70ff., 85ff., 103ff., 105ff., 107n6, 115n6, 114n17, 116n4, 116n3
 Reed, John R., 116n5
 Resnais, Alain, 111n14
 Richardson, Samuel: *Clarissa*, 26
 Rimmon-Kenan, Shlomith, 27, 112n16
 Robbe-Grillet, Alain, 26, 111n14
 Robbins, Bruce, 59
 Romano, John, 57, 117n6, 119n23
 Ronen, Ruth, 109n8
 Rorty, Richard, 21
- Said, Edward, 14
 Schwarzbach, F. S., 109n7
 Scott, Sir Walter, 1, 60, 107n2; *Bride of Lammemoor*, *The*, 1; *Rob Roy*, 25
 Searle, John, 20ff., 110n15
 Shaw, Harry E., 5ff., 59ff.
 Stern, J. P., 1
 Sternberg, Meir, 117n9
 Stevenson, R. L.: *Treasure Island*, 25; *Kidnapped*, 25
 Stewart, Garrett, 44ff., 75ff., 93
 Stone, Harry, 46, 113nn3–4, 113n11, 114n17
 Sturgess, Philip J. M., 27
 Sucksmith, Harvey Peter, 72
 Suleiman, Susan Rubin, 117n7
 Swift, Jonathan: *Gulliver's Travels*, 18, 109n9
- Tennyson, Alfred, 2

- Thackeray, William Makepeace, 8, 107n1;
 Barry Lyndon, 25; *From Cornhill to
 Cairo*, 14
- Thoms, Peter, 29
- Todorov, Tzvetan, 111n7
- Van Ghent, Dorothy, 72
- Vargish, Thomas, 111n5
- Villanueva, Dario, 2, 105ff.
- Wagner, Richard, 58, 103
- waistcoats, 54ff., 61ff.
- Ward, Mrs. Humphry, 110n14
- Watt, Ian, 52
- Watt, W. C., 88
- Wells, H. G.: *Island of Dr. Moreau, The*, 18,
 110n11; *Time Machine, The*, 12
- Williams, Ioan, 3ff.
- Williams, Raymond, 14ff., 17, 72
- Winks, Robin W., 112n21
- Woolf, Virginia: "Mr. Bennett and Mrs.
 Brown," 58ff.
- Wordsworth, William, 2
- Zola, Emile, 18



“Dickens’s Hyperrealism is a beautifully researched, intelligent, and well-written book, clearly identifying specific topics for each chapter, and skillfully dealing with each, as a contribution to the overarching claim that Dickens’s kind of fiction is not realism but ‘hyperrealism.’ Reed’s scholarship is sound, extensive, and well-documented, and the organization is clear and appropriate.”

***—Paul Schlicke, honorary senior lecturer
at the University of Aberdeen***

In *Dickens’s Hyperrealism*, John R. Reed examines certain features of Dickens’s style to demonstrate that the Inimitable consciously resisted what came to be known as realism in the genre of the novel. Dickens used some techniques associated with realism, such as description and metonymy, to subvert the purposes usually associated with it. Reed argues that Dickens used such devices as personification and present-tense narration, which are anathema to the realist approach. He asserts that Dickens preferred a heightened reality, not realism. And, unlike the realism which seeks to mask authorial control of how readers read his novels, Dickens wanted to demonstrate, first openly, and later in his career more subtly, his command over his narratives.

This book opens a new avenue for investigating Dickens’s mastery of his art and his awareness of its literary context. In addition, it reopens the whole issue of realism as a definition and examines the variety of genres that coexisted in the Victorian period.

John R. Reed is Distinguished Professor of English at Wayne State University.

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