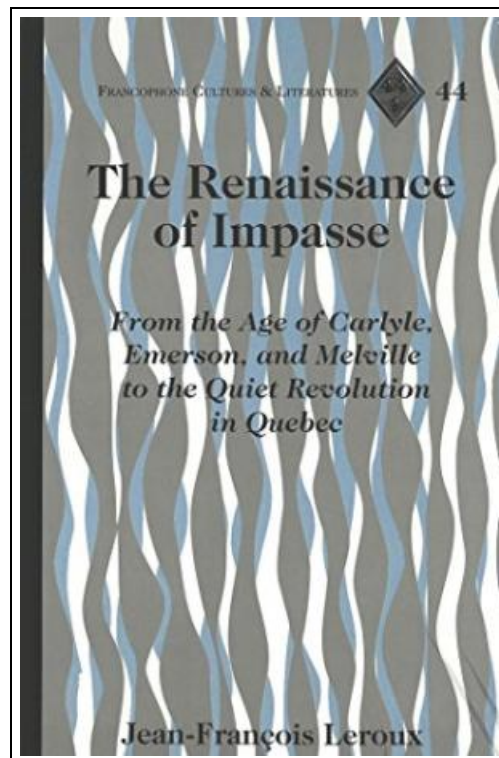


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New York, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, Oxford, Wien, 2004. XV, 142 pp., 2004. Book Condition: New. In his 1963 debut essay for the militant Quebec journal, *Parti pris*, André Brochu invoked the figure of the sixteenth-century skeptic Michel de Montaigne in the name of what Ralph Waldo Emerson, responding to the same over a century earlier, had called, «an original relation to the universe». «Écrire», wrote Brochu, «c'est redéfinir la relation originelle de l'homme à l'univers, c'est, comme écrit magnifiquement Montaigne, ?faire l'homme?». By tracing the idealism of nineteenth-century American and twentieth-century Quebec writers back to Montaigne and his rejection of Aristotelian and Scholastic reason, *The Renaissance of Impasse* offers an alternate history to that found in much (post)Romantic criticism, wherein modern skepticism tends to be identified with, and so in a sense confined to, the project of Enlightenment reason. Key works from Thomas Carlyle, Emerson and Herman Melville to Hubert Aquin, Réjean Ducharme and Victory-Lévy Beaulieu serve to define and to refine the sense of an impasse ? personal, social, spiritual, historical, and political ? that accompanies the «modern» drive to renaissance.



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