Abstract

Margaret Yourcenar is shown as a fiction writer who uses methods of historical research in the construction of all of her work. She poses historical problems and shapes working hypotheses about her topics through study of present day historiography as well as the study of primary sources. She knows the advances and inadequacies of both, taking them as her starting point for a thorough search of new primary sources in the best manner of contemporary historians, i.e., sources other than the written traces—sculpture, for example. Time and setting have the same transcendence for her as for the historian. In addition, the paper shows Yourcenar's mastery of the advances of historical method in the variegated construction of her novels and short stories, going from the phonological stratum to the polyphonic structure.

Keywords

Yourcenar, literature and history, historical method.