
In a paper I delivered not long after the appearance of the first iteration of Abiola Irele's critical edition of Aime Cesaire's Cahier d'un retour au pays natal (Ibadan, Nigeria: New Horn Press, 1994), I noted that, for better or for worse, the paratexts surrounding recent editions of Cesaire's poem had grown to such proportions that they now dwarfed the text itself. Mireille Rosello's critical edition and translation of the Cahier (Notebook of a return to my native land [Newcastle upon Tyne: Bloodaxe Books, 1995]), which had also recently been published, contains, like Irele's text, about three pages of "paratext" for every page of "text." I suggested that the sheer mass of the critical apparatus in English in these editions signaled the institutionalization of the Cahier in anglophone universities, since, unlike purely critical texts, they at least ostensibly had the publication of the poem as their starting point and were aimed at students. For some, the institutionalization ushered in by such editions comes at...

Access from your library

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation


Gale Document Number: GALE|A93988415

Cahier d'un retour au pays natal (1939), variously translated as Notebook of a Return to My Native Land, Return to My Native Land, or Journal of a Homecoming, is a book-length poem by Martinican writer Aimé Césaire, considered his masterwork, that mixes poetry and prose to express his thoughts on the cultural identity of black Africans in a colonial setting. Aimé Césaire, N. Gregson Davis, Irele. Originally published in 1939, Aimé Césaire's Cahier d'un retour au pays natal is a landmark of modern French poetry and a founding text of the Négritude movement. This bilingual edition features a new authoritative translation, revised introduction, and extensive commentary, making it a magisterial edition of Césaire's surrealist masterpiece. retour au pays natal au concours Mon parti pris est le suivant Cahier d'un Cahier d'un retour au Pays Natal, Approche Ethnostylistique. 270 Pages-2010-1.04 MB-108 Downloads-French.