

Judas dans les Lettres belges francophones

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Abstract: Belgian French-language literary works in which the character of Judas appears, for the most part plays and novellas, merit some attention. They are numerous and diverse, and the literary mastery of some of the authors, such as Maurice Maeterlinck and Alexis Curvers, makes them worth taking the time to read them. The multiplicity of possible interpretations makes it difficult, of course, to offer just one, unique portrayal of the biblical traitor as well as to measure how such portrayals are received in Francophone Belgium. Certain minor playwrights have preferred to remain faithful to the Judas found in the medieval Passions, Ghelderode projects his own misogyny and rejection of bourgeois materialism onto the accursed apostle, while Juan d'Oultremont offers a most disorienting reading. And the list goes on. Perhaps this very lack of "coherence" could, ultimately, be considered to constitute the defining characteristic of this corpus.

Keywords: Judas, belgian literature, contemporary literature, christian myth.