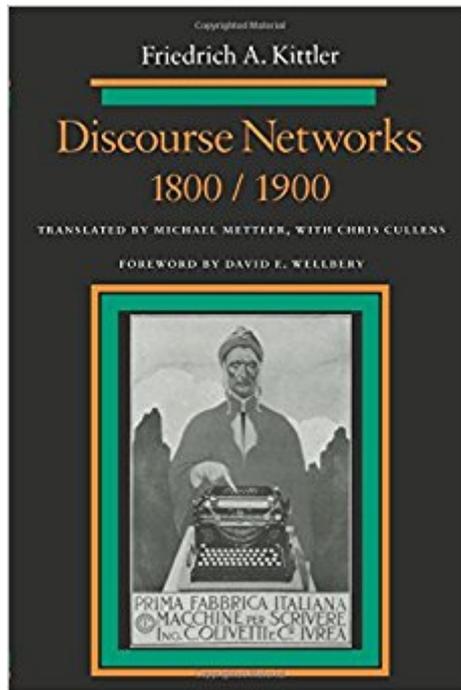


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Discourse Networks, 1800/1900



Synopsis

This is a highly original book about the connections between historical moment, social structure, technology, communication systems, and what is said and thought using these systems - notably literature. The author focuses on the differences between 'discourse networks' in 1800 and in 1900, in the process developing a new analysis of the shift from romanticism to modernism. The work might be classified as a German equivalent to the New Historicism that is currently of great interest among American literary scholars, both in the intellectual influences to which Kittler responds and in his concern to ground literature in the most concrete details of historical reality. The artful structure of the book begins with Goethe's Faust and ends with Valery's Faust. In the 1800 section, the author discusses how language was learned, the emergence of the modern university, the associated beginning of the interpretation of contemporary literature, and the canonization of literature. Among the writers and works Kittler analyzes in addition to Goethe's Faust are Schlegel, Hegel, E. T. A. Hoffman's 'The Golden Pot', and Goethe's Tasso.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kittler's first book put German media theory on the map. I recently reread it in October 2013 and found it better than ever. No doubt Discourse Networks remains neglected because Anglophone readers will find it difficult to access Kittler's German-centric. To read the first chapter, you need to have read Goethe's Faust, Part One (Oxford World's Classics) (Pt. 1). Just to read the second chapter, you need to have read or be willing to read along with Kittler's book Michel Foucault's

"Fantasy of the Library" Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews read Anton Reiser: A Psychological Novel (Penguin Classics), E.T.A. Hoffmann's The Golden Pot and Other Tales: A New Translation by Ritchie Robertson (Oxford World's Classics), Tieck's DER RUNENBERG, and Henry Von Ofterdingen: A Novel by Novalis.

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