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Kant and the Platypus: Essays on Language and Cognition ( ISBN 0-15-601159-X) is a book by Umberto Eco which was published in Italian as Kant e l'ornitorinco in 1997. An English edition, translated by Alastair McEwen, appeared in

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1999. The book develops some aspects of Eco's A Theory of Semiotics which came out in 1976.

Kant and the Platypus - Wikipedia

5.0 out of 5 stars Kant and the Platypus: Essays on Language. Reviewed in the United States on December 7, 2017. Verified Purchase. Interesting. Helpful. 0 Comment Report abuse John Michael Crawford. 2.0 out of 5 stars Two Stars. Reviewed in the United States on November 14, 2017 ...

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Umberto Eco: Kant and the Platypus: Essays on Language and Cognition, New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1999, 464pp. \$28.00. I. The title gives due advertisement of Eco ' s trademarks: high themes, arcane learning, strange corners of philosophy and history and natural history, large intellectual vistas, above all a sense of play.

One of the more tiresome strategies of prominent ...

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Kant and the platypus : essays on language and cognition. [Umberto Eco] -- "In these essays, Umberto Eco explores in depth such subjects as perception, the relationship between language and experience, and iconism that he only touched on in A Theory of Semiotics.

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"Eco wittily and enchantingly develops themes often touched on in his previous works, but he delves deeper into their complex nature . . . this collection can be read with pleasure by those unversed in semiotic theory." --Times Literary Supplement

See:

“ Impishly witty and ingeniously irreverent ” essays on topics from cell phones to librarians, by the author of The Name of the Rose and Foucault ' s Pendulum (The Atlantic Monthly). A cosmopolitan curmudgeon the Los Angeles Times called “ the Andy Rooney of academia ” —known for both nonfiction and novels that have become blockbuster New York Times bestsellers—Umberto Eco takes readers on “ a delightful romp through the absurdities of modern life ” (Publishers Weekly) as he journeys around the world and into his own wildly adventurous mind. From the mundane details of getting around on Amtrak or in the back of a cab, to reflections on computer jargon and soccer fans, to more important issues like the effects of mass media and consumer civilization—not to mention the challenges of trying to refrigerate an expensive piece of fish at an English hotel—this renowned writer, semiotician, and philosopher provides “ an uncanny combination of the profound and the profane ” (San Francisco Chronicle). “ Eco entertains with his clever reflections and with his unique persona. ” —Kirkus Reviews Translated from the Italian by William Weaver

Hitherto, there has been no book that attempted to sum up the breadth of Umberto Eco ' s work and its importance for the study of semiotics, communication and cognition. There have been anthologies and overviews of Eco ' s work

within Eco Studies; sometimes, works in semiotics have used aspects of Eco ' s work. Yet, thus far, there has been no overview of the work of Eco in the breadth of semiotics. This volume is a contribution to both semiotics and Eco studies. The 40 scholars who participate in the volume come from a variety of disciplines but have all chosen to work with a favorite quotation from Eco that they find particularly illustrative of the issues that his work raises. Some of the scholars have worked exegetically placing the quotation within a tradition, others have determined the (epistemic) value of the quotation and offered a critique, while still others have seen the quotation as a starting point for conceptual developments within a field of application. However, each article within this volume points toward the relevance of Eco -- for contemporary studies concerning semiotics, communication and cognition.

In this prescient essay collection, the acclaimed author of Foucault ' s Pendulum examines the cultural trends and perils at the dawn of the 21st century. In the last decade of the 20th century, Umberto Eco saw an urgent need to embrace tolerance and multiculturalism in the face of our world ' s ever-increasing interconnectivity. At a talk delivered during the first Gulf War, he points out the absurdity of armed conflict in a globalized economy where the flow of information is unstoppable and the enemy is always behind the lines. Elsewhere, he questions the influence of the news media and identifies its contribution to our collective disillusionment with politics. In a deeply personal essay, Eco recalls his boyhood experience of Italy ' s liberation from fascism. He then analyzes the universal elements of fascism, including the " cult of tradition " and a " suspicion of intellectual life. " And finally, in an open letter to an Italian cardinal, Eco reflects on a question underlying all the reflections in the book: What does it mean to be moral or ethical when one doesn't believe in God? " At just 111 pages, Five Moral Pieces packs a philosophical wallop surprising in such a slender book. Or maybe not so surprising. Eco's prose here is beautiful. " —January Magazine

Parodies of literary and academic writers include a version of "Lolita" with an older woman, an inside account of heavenly bureaucracy, and the story of Columbus' landing as if done by television news

A " scintillating collection " of essays on Disneyland, medieval times, and much more, from the author of Foucault ' s Pendulum (Los Angeles Times). Collected here are some of Umberto Eco ' s finest popular essays, recording the incisive and surprisingly entertaining observations of his restless intellectual mind. As the author puts it in the preface to the second edition: " In these pages, I try to interpret and to help others interpret some ' signs. ' These signs are not only words, or images; they can also be forms of social behavior, political acts, artificial landscapes. " From Disneyland to holography and wax museums, Eco explores America ' s obsession with artificial reality, suggesting that the craft of forgery has in certain cases exceeded reality itself. He examines Western culture ' s enduring fascination with the middle ages, proposing that our most pressing modern concerns began in that time. He delves into an array of topics, from sports to media to what he calls the crisis of reason. Throughout these travels—both physical and mental—Eco displays the same wit, learning, and lively intelligence that delighted readers of The Name of the Rose and Foucault ' s Pendulum. Translated by William Weaver

How we create and organize knowledge is the theme of this major achievement by Umberto Eco. Demonstrating once again his inimitable ability to bridge ancient, medieval, and modern modes of thought, he offers here a brilliant illustration of his longstanding argument that problems of interpretation can be solved only in historical context.

A collection of timely essays by the internationally acclaimed and bestselling essayist, philosopher, literary critic and author of The Name of the Rose and The Prague Cemetery. Inventing the Enemy covers a wide range of topics on which Umberto Eco has written and lectured over the last ten years, from the discussion of ideas that have inspired his earlier novels - exploring lost islands, mythical realms, and the medieval world in the process - to a disquisition on the theme that runs through his most recent novel, The Prague Cemetery, that every country needs an enemy, and if it doesn't have one, must invent it. Eco's lively new collection examines topics as diverse as St Thomas Aquinas's notions about the soul of an unborn child, indignant reviews of James Joyce's Ulysses by fascist journalists of the 1920s and 1930s, censorship, violence and Wikileaks. These are essays full of passion, curiosity, and obsessions by one of the world's most esteemed scholars and critically acclaimed, bestselling novelists.

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