

CONTENTS

Preface	
Introduction	3
1 The Comic as a Literary Quality	10
2 Description of the Comic as a General Feature in Literature	22
3 Comic Ethos: The Classical View	49
4 The Romantic Theory of the Comic	80
5 The Modern Comic Ethos: Bergson's <i>Laughter</i>	111
6 Modern Comic Ethos Continued: Freud	131
7 Twentieth-Century Theorists: Maumon, Cornford, Frye	152
8 Nietzschean Values in Comic Writing	174
9 After Barthes: Death of the Comic?	204
10 Conclusions and Continuing Issues	242
Selected Bibliography	255
Index of Names and Titles	263
Subject Index	266