

Contents

Prefatory Note	11
1 Introduction	13
2 <i>Portrait d'un inconnu</i>	20
(1) The opening section	20
(2) Figures of authority	24
(3) The painting of the title	31
(4) The narrator's project	40
(5) 'Mon futur gendre: Louis Dumontet'	48
(6) The status of the narrator	52
3 <i>Vous les entendez?</i>	57
(1) The narrator suppressed	57
(2) 'Mais quoi tout? Il ne s'est rien passé'	67
(3) The paths of tropisms	71
(a) age versus youth	72
(b) art versus life	76
(4) 'Une sorte de père Goriot moderne'	82
(5) Conclusion: stylistic maturity	88
Select Bibliography	92