

# Contents

Acknowledgments, vii

Note on the Text, ix

List of Abbreviations, xi

Introduction, 3

1 Mastering History, 21

2 Questioning Destiny, 39

3 Cause and Effect, 66

4 Traps and Machinations, 87

5 A Challenge to Chance: The Poetics of the Oulipo, 108

6 Perec's Constraints: Combination, Coincidence, Clinamen, 132

7 Labyrinths and Puzzles, 157

8 Ordering the Infraordinary, 190

Conclusion, 225

Notes, 229

Works Cited, 275

Index, 295