

remarkably, created these comic strips when he was between fifteen and twenty-two years old, for Charles Philipons *Journal pour Rire* (The Laughter Journal), virtually dominating its seven-year (1848-55) history. He also did three fairly long, separately published albums, which show him at his very best. They are consistently funny, often ludicrous, and illustrate a graphic inventiveness unmatched until the twentieth century. In these graphic stories, Dor parodies an ancient fable, the discomforts of life in the country, the perils of artistic ambition, the absurdities of mountaineering and travel, as well as the antics of schoolboys. This book provides a context for Dors caricatures, focusing on his comic strips in the *Journal pour Rire*, the character of the journal, and the three comic strip albums he created while he worked there. Kunzles analysis reveals Dors debts to his predecessors, Tpffer, Cham, and Nadar. None of Dors *Journal* strips has ever been republished. Some of the albums were republished, reduced and incomplete, in German and French. This edition includes facsimiles of the twelve most significant comic strips and the first translation into English of the captions.

Besides efficiently translating the captions, Kunzle describes Dors dozen comics and their cultural context with scholarly precision in an excellent introduction. Ray Olson, *Booklist* The twelve graphic narratives gathered in the volume published by the University Press of Mississippi reveal a true artist and the power of his blossoming imagination. . . . David Kunzles book is precious on several grounds. First, because it brings together a scattered body of work and shows its historical significance. Second, because it makes available a series of translated and carefully annotated texts to Anglophone readers. . . . The surfer who browses through Dors images will not experience the unquestionable benefits [found in this book]: a well-reasoned selection of works that are introduced and annotated with great competence and energy, not to mention humor. Philippe Kaenel, *European Comic Art* David Kunzle has given us a fabulous treasure in this new volume. It contains both Gustave Dors vibrant, youthful comics (accompanied by Kunzles wonderful English translation from the original French text) and a brilliant essay by Kunzle on Dors comic strips. This book joins Kunzles two recent volumes on Rodolphe Tpffer (also published by University Press of Mississippi), which provide the gold standard for knowledge about nineteenth-century comics. This new volume picks up where those two books left off by tracing a very important and exciting part of Tpffers enormous legacy in comics. Together, these three works show indisputably that the comics art form has a long, inventive, and illustrious history in nineteenth-century Europe. Comics lovers and scholars will be absolutely delighted to read this new, landmark book. Mark McKinney, professor of French, Miami University (Ohio), and author of *The Colonial Heritage of French Comics* About the Author David Kunzle, Los Angeles, California, is distinguished professor (emeritus) of art history at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the author of *Father of the Comic Strip: Rodolphe Tpffer and Rodolphe Tpffer: The Complete Comic Strips*, both published by University Press of Mississippi