

COMPTES RENDUS

RODIS-LEWIS, GENEVIÈVE. *Descartes: His Life and Thought.* Translated by Jane Marie-Todd. Cornell University Press, 1998. 264 Pp. ISBN 0-8014-3372-x. \$39.95.

"Mme Rodis-Lewis is one of the twentieth-century masters of the history of philosophy. The life of Descartes has been one of her life-long passions, and this book represents the culmination of her many year of investigation. Her new biography corrects many long-held errors, and sets out a clearer picture than we have ever before had of a figure instrumental in the creation of the modern philosophical and scientific world. This is an important book by a serious historian of philosophy that very much deserves to be read." Daniel Garber, University of Chicago.

Winner of the Grand Prix of the Académie Française for lifetime scholarly achievement, Geneviève Rodis-Lewis is uniquely qualified to celebrate René Descartes. This major intellectual biography illuminates the personal and historical events of Descartes's life, from his birth and early years in France to his death in Sweden, his burial, and the fate of his remains.

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GENETTE, GÉRARD. *The Work of Art: Immanence and Transcendence.* Translated by G.M. Gosgarian. Cornell University Press, 1997, 256 Pp. ISBN 0-8014-8272-0. \$16.95.

"Genette's exploration of the ontology of art builds a bridge between poststructuralist and analytic work on the theory of the arts. I see Genette's move in the direction of a sophisticated fusion of continental and analytic sources as a high promising event." Paisley Livingston, McGill University.

Gérard Genette situates art within the broad realm of human practices, extending from the fine arts of music, painting, sculpture, and literature to humbler but no less fertile fields such as haute couture and the culinary arts. His discussion touches on a rich array of examples and