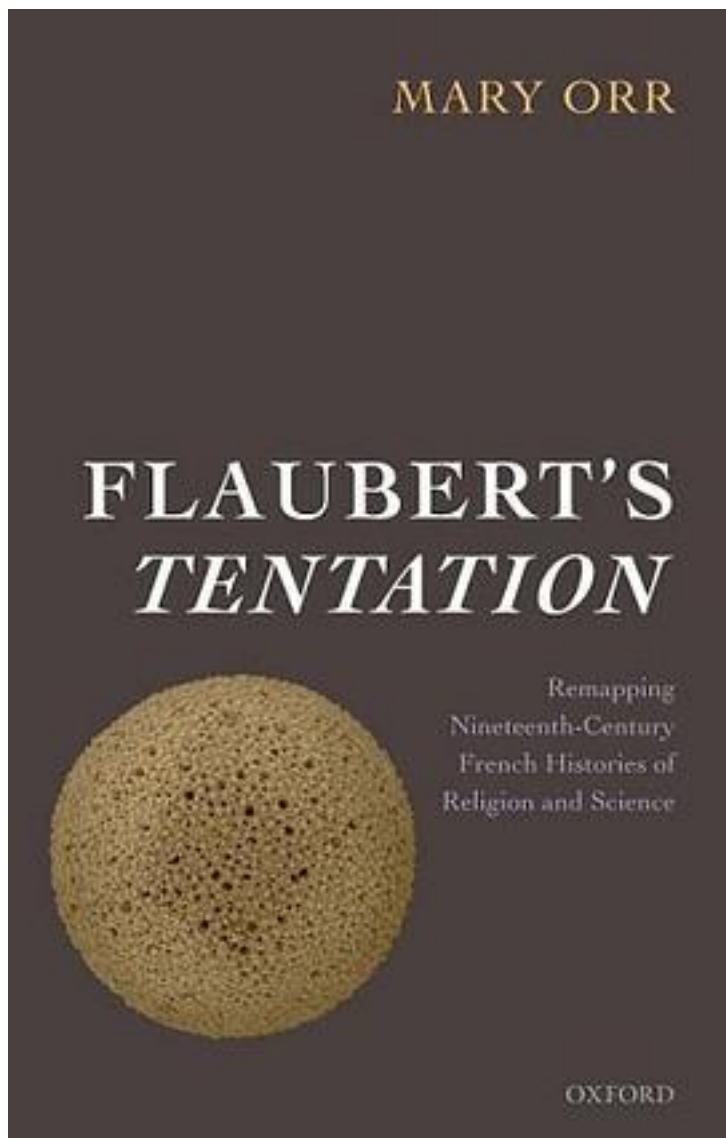


Flaubert's Tentation



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This book studies in English of Flaubert's least well - known masterpiece, the final version of his *Tentation de saint Antoine* (1874). Thanks to Foucault, the work has the reputation of being an arcane and erudite ‘fantastic library’ or, thanks to genetic criticism, of being a ‘narrative’ of Flaubert's personal aesthetic (*l'oeuvre de toute [s]a vie*). By presuming instead no necessary knowledge to read the text, its versions or its intertexts, this book sets out to offer new readings of the seven tableaux which comprise it, and new ways of interpreting the work as a whole. By arguing that Flaubert was imagining his own epoch through the eyes of a visionary saint in the 4th - century AD, the dialogues between religion and science that are the dynamic of the work (and the two parts of this study) are elucidated for the first time. Moreover, by also arguing for the meticulous accuracy and imaginative representations of the science of the work, this book proposes in the ‘remapping’ analogy of its title that Flaubert's *Tentation* is a paradigm of 19th - century French, and indeed European, ‘literary science’. For 19th - century French and Flaubert specialists, as well as for curious new readers of the *Tentation*, this book thus challenges received critical wisdom on a number of fronts. It is through his unlikely protagonist - visionary, Antoine, that Flaubert's ‘realism’, ‘anti - clericalism’, and ‘orientalism’ can be given new airings. Through the religious and scientific dialogues of Flaubert's 1874 text this book argues that his ‘temptation’ was to write a *vita* of his times.

作者介绍:

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