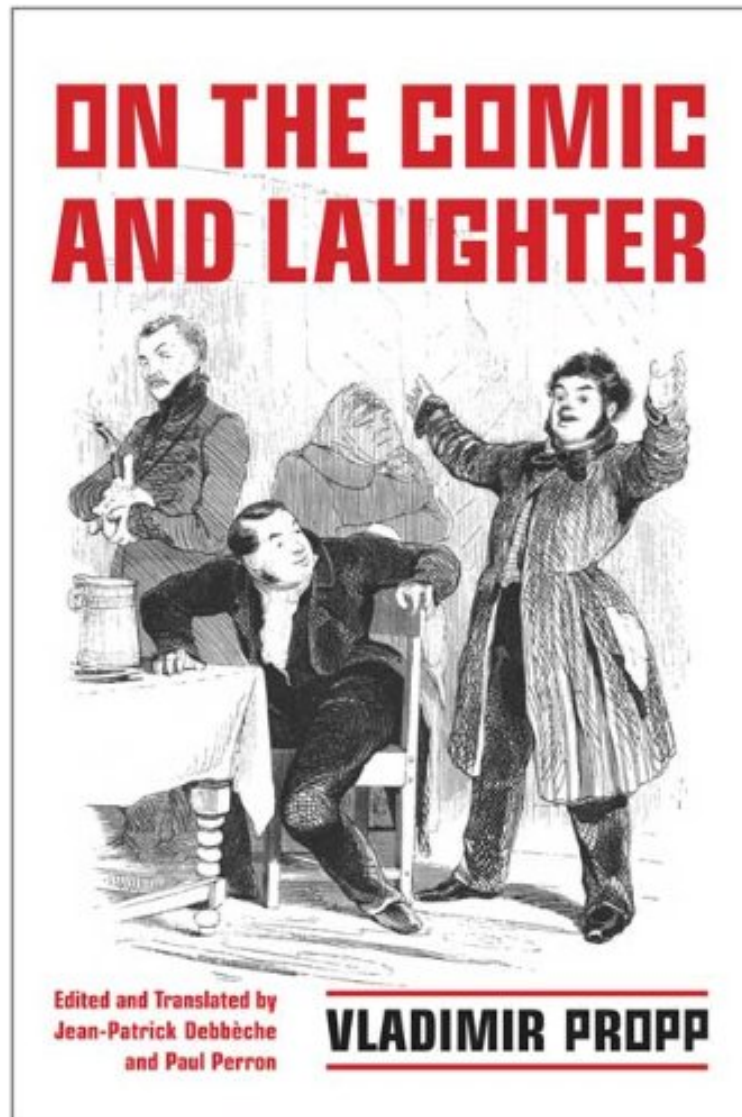


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## On the Comic and Laughter (Toronto Studies in Semiotics and Communication)

*Vladimir Propp*

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An extensive investigation of the forms and functions of the comic, this lively and engaging English critical edition will be welcomed by those interested in laughter, comedy, folklore, Russian literature, and specific authors such as Gogol, Pushkin, Chekhov, Rabelais, Molière, and Shakespeare. The direct, humorous, and provocative style of this work, which tackles the subject of humour with a vast array of vivid examples encountered on every page, will certainly appeal to the contemporary reader. Vladimir Propp takes various forms of laughter in literature and real life and addresses questions such as the comic of similarity, the comic of difference, parody, duping, incongruity, lying, ritual laughter, and carnival laughter. The author of the widely acclaimed *Morphology of the Folktale* has written an original, comprehensive, and exciting study on how humour works, and on everything you wanted to know about the genre, in a clear, approachable, and insightful manner.

'Since the publication of *Morphology of the Folktale*, Vladimir Propp has been well known to folklorists, medievalists, and literary scholars. In *The Comic and Laughter*, readers will easily recognize Propp through his comprehensive knowledge of the material and his ability to rise above a collection of facts. This translation of *The Comic and Laughter* will attract all those who wish to explore the nature of humor and its reflection in literature.' (Anatoly Liberman, Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota) About the Author The late Vladimir Propp (1895-1970) was a literary critic and folklore specialist. Jean-Patrick Debbèche has a PhD in Semiotics and French Literature and is a researcher at the University of Toronto. Paul Perron is former Chair of the Department of French Studies at the University of Toronto and Principal emeritus of University College.