



Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts

2007 Schachterle Prize

*For the best essay by an untenured scholar
Awarded in memory of the parents of Lance Schachterle*

Presented to

Henning Schmidgen

"The Donder's Machine:
Matter, Signs, and Time in a Physiological Experiment, ca. 1865"

Configurations (volume 13: issue 2)

In his essay "The Donder's Machine: Matter, Signs, and Time in a Physiological Experiment, ca. 1865," Henning Schmidgen offers us thick description of a series of physiological experiments designed to measure the characteristic times necessary for certain physiological and psychological processes. Using concepts from Deleuze and Guattari, Schmidgen treats the entire experimental situation and the traces it produces (including publication) as a kind of machine which has at its core "a wild boar bristle, a swan feather, a tuning fork, and a brass drum" (222), and at its periphery a "noematachography" (a writing of the speed of thought (226)) and scientific publication. In its exemplary combination of theoretical, historical, and material analyses Schmidgen's essay realizes the highest standards of scholarship in the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

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