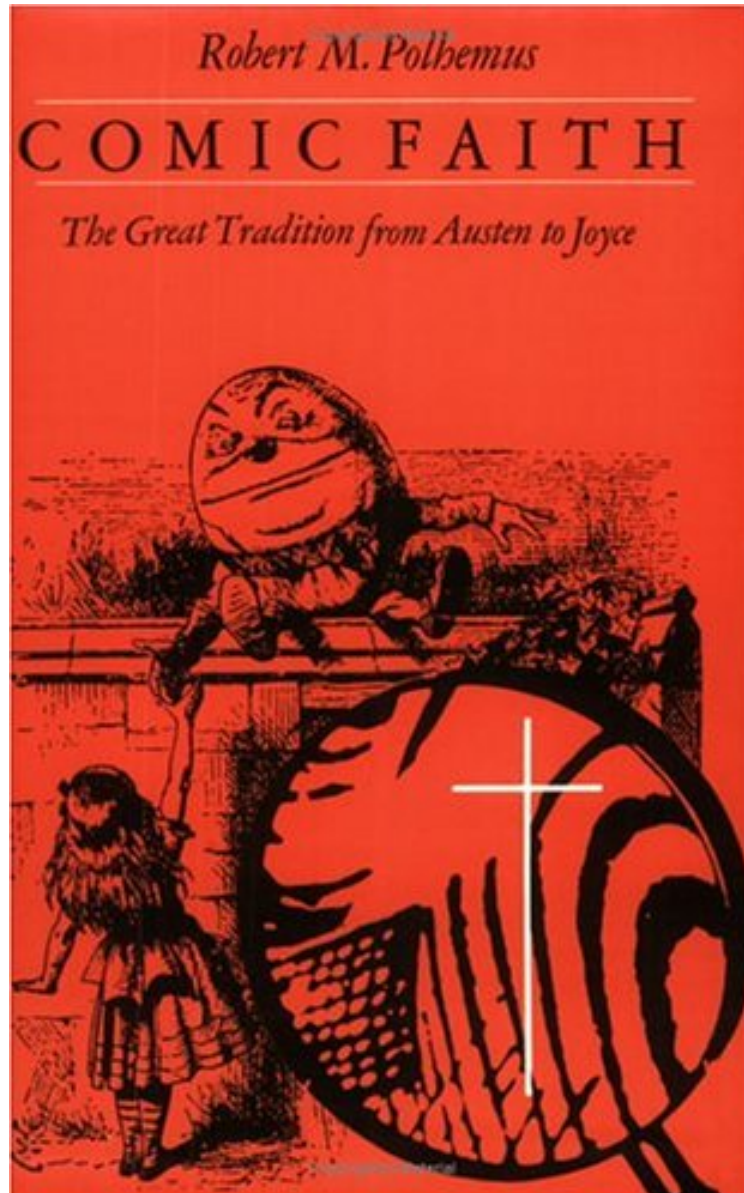


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Comic Faith: The Great Tradition from Austen to Joyce

Robert M. Polhemus

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"Polhemus sketches several distinctions between nineteenth- and twentieth-century novelists and concludes that what most characterizes the nineteenth century, from the perspective of the twentieth, is the tendency in its comic fiction to criticize and to undermine the dogma and institutions of religion and to put faith instead of the existence of the comic perspective. *Comic Faith* is a virtuoso performance of impressive stature; I suspect the book will be influential for many years to come."—John Halperin, *Modern Fiction Studies*