

FORTHCOMING FROM ATLAS PRESS

# *Oulipo Compendium*

edited by Harry Mathews & Alastair Brotchie



A NEW, UPDATED  
AND  
REVISED EDITION

For publication in November 2005 at £19.99.  
Copies available late August and orders  
now being accepted  
at the pre-publication price of £15.  
**ATLAS PRESS**  
Enquiries/information:  
[atlaspress@compuserve.com](mailto:atlaspress@compuserve.com)

What do Marcel Duchamp and Italo Calvino have in common? The Oulipo, or *Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle*. This “Workshop for Potential Literature” was founded by Raymond Queneau and friends in 1960 to find out how abstract restrictions could be combined with imaginative writing (as in Georges Perec’s celebrated novel written without the letter *e*). Still formidably active, the Oulipo is now recognised as the most original, productive and provocative literary enterprise to appear since the last war. This *Compendium* is the first comprehensive survey of the group in any language. It includes extensive selections from the work of Oulipians, analyses of their important works, and descriptions of their methods. Further sections cover related groups working in the fields of art, detective fiction, comic strips, even cuisine. A vital resource for creativity in all areas!

*Oulipo Compendium is a late 20th-century kabala, a labyrinth of literary secrets that will lure the uninitiated into rethinking everything they know about books and writing. A nutty, one-of-a-kind book, the definitive encyclopaedia of contemporary word-magic.* PAUL AUSTER

*An indispensable book for everyone who cares about literature.* SUSAN SONTAG

*Book of the year!* GILES FODEN in *The Guardian*.