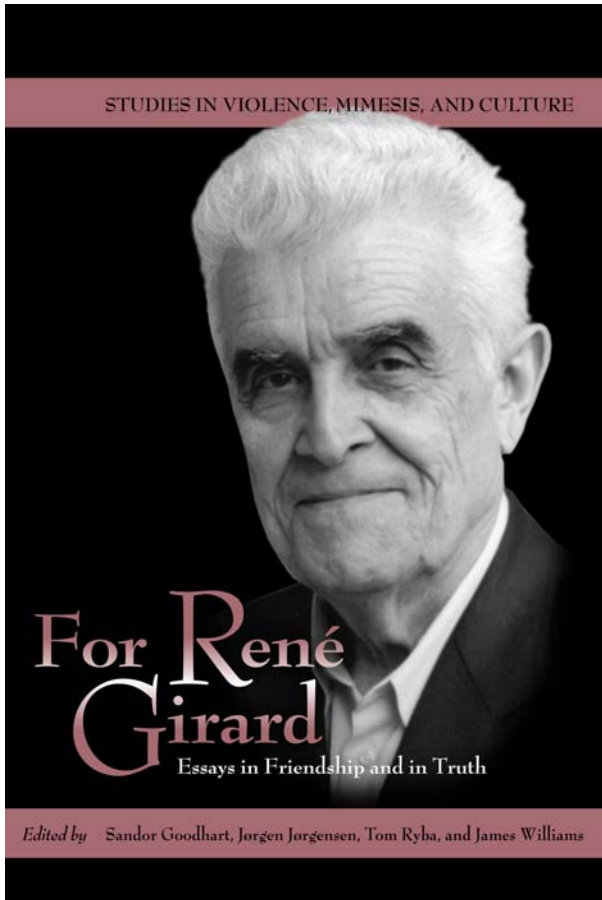


FOR RENE GIRARD
Essays in Friendship and Truth
 edited by Sandor Goodhart, Jorgen Jorgensen,



In his explorations of the relations between the sacred and violence, René Girard has hit upon the origin of culture—the way culture began, the way it continues to organize itself. The way communities of human beings structure themselves in a manner that is different from that of other species on the planet.

Like Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Émile Durkheim, Martin Buber, or others who have changed the way we think in the humanities or in the human sciences, Girard has put forth a set of ideas that have altered our perceptions of the world in which we function. We will never be able to think the same way again about mimetic desire, about the scapegoat mechanism, and about the role of Jewish and Christian Scripture in explaining sacrifice, violence, and the crises from which our culture has been born.

The contributions fall into roughly four areas of interpretive work: religion and religious study; literary study; the philosophy of social science; and psychological studies

The essays presented here are offered as “essays” in the older French sense of attempts (*essayer*) or trials of ideas, as indeed Girard has tried out ideas with us. With a conscious echo of Montaigne, then, this *hommage* volume is titled *Essays in Friendship and Truth*.

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Sandor Goodhart is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Classics at Purdue University.

Jorgen Jorgensen edited a collection of essays on Girard titled *Sydens sold*.

Tom Ryba is Notre Dame Theologian-in-Residence at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Purdue University.

James Williams is the author of *The Bible, Violence, and the Sacred* and editor of *The Girard Reader*.

For more information contact:

Julie Reaume, Marketing Manager
 Phone: (517) 355-9543 ext. 109
 Email: reaumej@msu.edu



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 1405 SOUTH HARRISON ROAD
 MANLY MILES BUILDING, SUITE 25
 EAST LANSING, MI 48823
 PHONE: 517-355-9543
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