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This volume assembles various works from which emerges a tense and contrasting world made up of Verhaeren's sprawling cities, the City as envisioned by Claudel, Bruges-la-Morte, and even the cities of d'Annunzio,

This work includes well known authors as much as it does those who are less famous, like Rachilde, Rosny, Fogazzaro, Poictevin, and Goffin; moreover, it includes cities that are not as immediately linked to symbolist works: Antwerp, Ghent, and even colonial cities, for example.

It passes from Hugo to Fargues and it incorporates the traditions of the Italics, from Belgium, to France, and to Italy, with a detour in Germany that examines Bayreuth.