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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية

التوثيق الالكتروني والميكرو فيلم

جامعة عين شمس

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*Patterns of Discovery in
John Banville's Works
From 1973 to 1989*



*A Thesis submitted to the
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Master of Arts*

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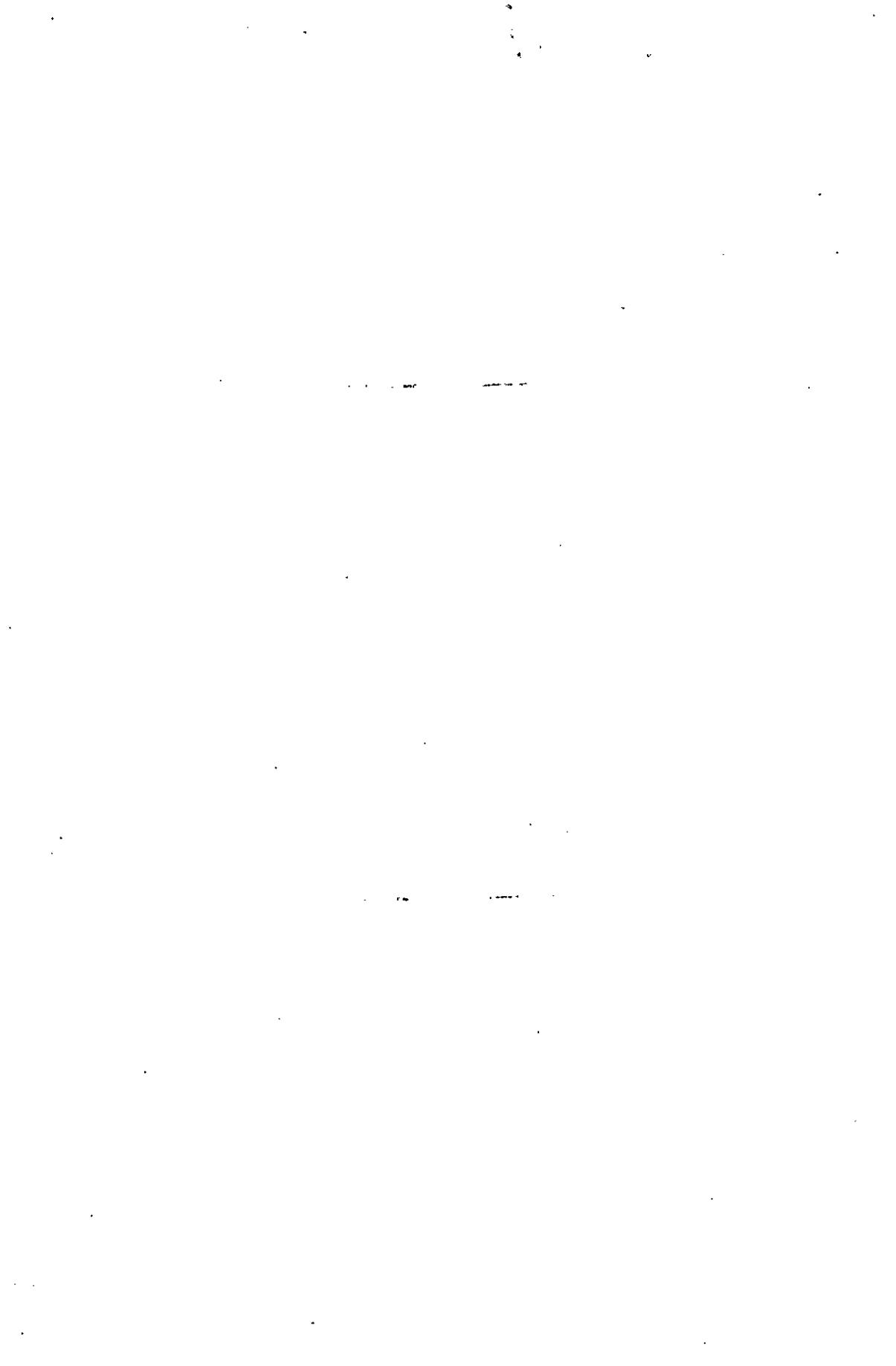
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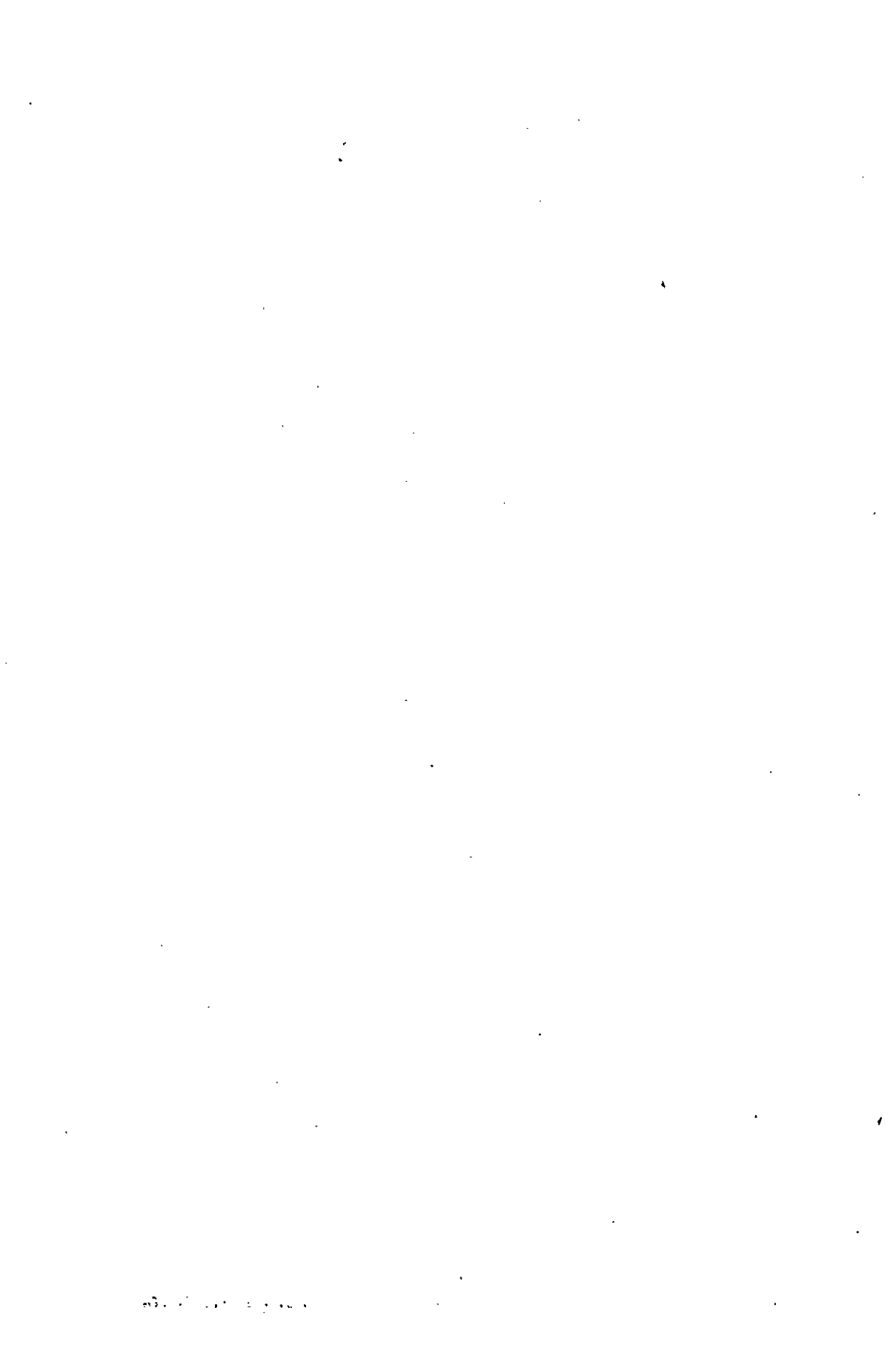
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To My Family & My Son



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Preface

John Banville was born in Wexford, Ireland, in (1945). He is a novelist of high imagination who returned to literature itself as a source of imagination and aspiration.

Banville wrote ten novels, and a collection of short stories. His first book Long Lankin was published in (1970), followed by Nightspawn a year later. The third novel, Birchwood was published in (1973) and won two prizes. First, the "Allied Irish Banks" prize, and second, the "Macaulay Fellowship" by the Irish Arts Council. In (1981) he was awarded the "James Tait Black Memorial Prize" for his work Doctor Copernicus; and in (1981) his novel Kepler won the "Guardian Fiction" prize. The remaining novels are The Newton Letter (1982), which concluded the trilogy of novels dealing with historical scientists. Mefisto (1986) is a part of this serial but it differs in some aspects and it is dealt with in the third chapter due to its different motifs. We can consider the scientific works a trilogy rather than a tetralogy. The novel displayed Banville's mastery of language as a great stylist. Banville's trilogy included Doctor Copernicus, Kepler, and The Newton Letter. Throughout these three novels, Banville shows how each one of the

scientists learned and became more enlightened after great efforts and commitment. His novel The Book Of Evidence (1989) won the G. P. A. literary award and was nominated to the Booker prize, and it dealt with a circumstantial criminal. Tracing the sequence of his production revealed more recent novels Ghosts (1993), and Athena (1995); this information was supplied through the Internet, but the texts are not available and the thesis itself ends till (1989).

The introduction of the thesis (chapter 1), deals with the background of Banville, the Irish society, culture, history, and literary tradition. It casts light on the literary movement in Ireland demonstrating some famous authors and the themes they dealt with. Chapter one, also, shows the influence of other novelists on Banville's style and technique.

The thesis, in chapter two, moves on to discuss Banville's works Doctor Copernicus, Kepler, and The Newton Letter. The novels are analysed on both the technical and the thematic level; bearing in mind the common feature of the heroes, who are all scientists of a sort.

Chapter three, continues to analyse Banville's works Birchwood, Mefisto, and The Book of Evidence. These novels have proved to be sharing the same style and craftsmanship that were clarified in the previous chapter, yet, the thematic level is not similar to the