Contents

INTRODUCTION

The Psychic Life of Paperwork 9

I The Disciplined State 19

"The National Assembly Doesn't Give a Damn"
"Shareholders in the Great Social Enterprise"
The Disciplined State
"A Stranger to Everything Happening"

II The Demon of Writing 51

"The Demon of Writing"

"The Physical Impossibility of Doing Otherwise"

"Tiresome Details," "Barbarous Concision"

"As Simple as It Was Bizarre"

Matter, Form, and Power

III The State of Want 77

Writing and Indifference
"Women and White Paper"

Is Tocqueville Kidding?

A Bitter Joke

IV The Bureaucratic Medium 109

The Case of Inspector von Zuccalmaglio Smashing Mistakes Are Made Withdrawal Slip From the Desk of Roland Barthes

CONCLUSION
The Wish-Utensil 145

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 151

NOTES 155

INDEX 179