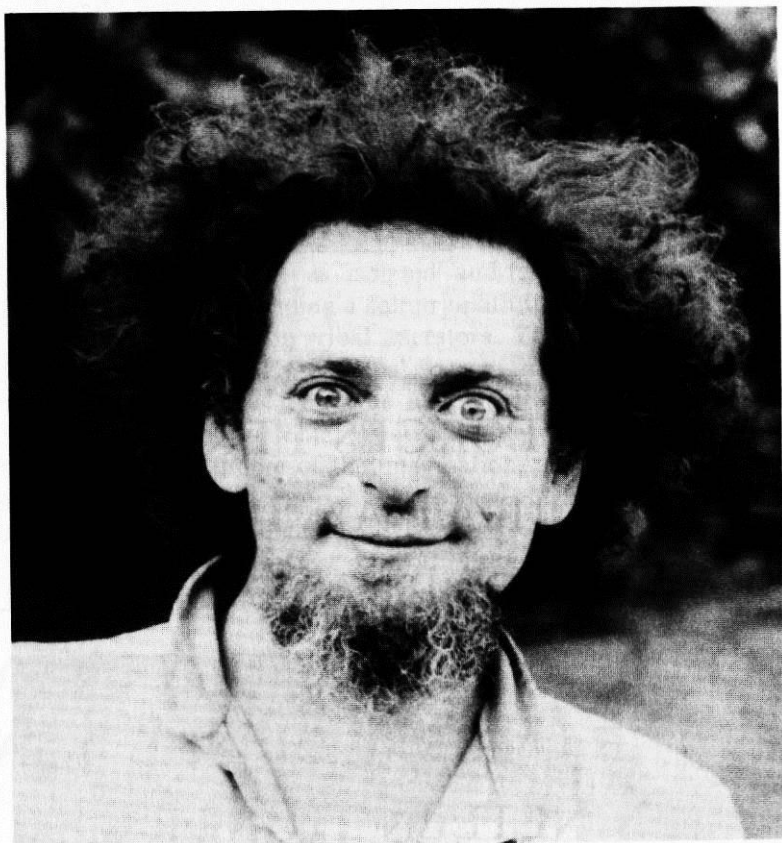


GRANTA

GEORGES PEREC

ATTEMPT AT AN INVENTORY
OF THE LIQUID AND THE SOLID
FOODSTUFFS INGURGITATED BY ME
IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR
NINETEEN HUNDRED
AND SEVENTY-FOUR



Georges Perec

ANNE DE BRUNHOFF

Georges Perec was born in Paris in 1936 and died in the same city four days before his forty-sixth birthday in 1982. His parents were Jews who had migrated to France from Poland; both died during the Second World War—his father as a soldier during the German invasion of France, his mother in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Perec, as his biographer David Bellos has written, grew into a man and a writer 'always puzzled by memory and sometimes obsessed with the fear of forgetting'. He kept a careful record of his food and drink intake during 1974. This first English translation, by John Sturrock, includes several dishes that remain obstinately obscure to the Anglo-Saxon menu—a Guéméné andouille, for example, is a kind of sausage; crème renversée is a set custard turned out of its mould. As a French citizen, Perec seems to have had an ordinary enough consumption of wine. In the course of the year he drank 181 named bottles and an unspecified number of anonymous bottles, perhaps too humble to be noted. He does not seem to have been fond of fish; only forty-one fish dishes in 365 days of eating, fewer than one per week.

The attempted inventory:

Nine beef broths, one iced cucumber soup, one mussel soup. Two Guéméné andouilles, one jellied andouillette, one Italian charcuterie, one saveloy, four mixed charcuteries, one coppa, three pork platters, one figatelli, one foie gras, one fromage de tête, one boar's head, five Parma hams, eight pâtés, one duck pâté, one liver pâté with truffles, one pâté en croûte, one pâté grandmère, one thrush pâté, six Landes pâtés, four brawns, one foie-gras mousse, one pig's trotters, seven rillettes, one salami, two saucissons, one hot saucisson, one duck terrine, one chicken-liver terrine.

One blini, one empanada, one dried beef. Three snails.

One Belon oysters, three scallops, one shrimps, one shrimp croustade, one friture, two baby eel fritures, one herring, two oysters, one mussels, one stuffed mussels, one sea urchins, two quenelles au gratin, three sardines in oil, five smoked salmons, one taramasalata, one eel terrine, six tunas, one anchovy toast, one crab.

Two haddock, one sea bass, one skate, one sole, one tuna.

Four artichokes, one asparagus, one aubergine, one mushroom salad, fourteen cucumber salads, four cucumbers *à la crème*, fourteen celery *remoulades*, two Chinese cabbages, one palm hearts, eleven crudités, two green-bean salads, thirteen melons, two *salades niçoises*, two dandelion salads with bacon, fourteen radishes with butter, three black radishes, five rice salads, one Russian salad, seven tomato salads, one onion tart.

One Roquefort croquette, five *croque-monsieurs*, three quiches Lorraine, one *tarte aux maroilles*, one yogurt with cucumber and grapes, one Romanian yogurt.

One *torti* salad with crab and Roquefort.

One eggs with anchovy, two boiled eggs, two eggs *en meurette*, one ham and eggs, one bacon and eggs, one eggs *en cocotte* with spinach, two eggs in aspic, two scrambled eggs, four omelettes, one sort-of omelette, one bean-sprout omelette, one horn-of-plenty omelette, one duck-skin omelette, one *confit d'oie* omelette, one herb omelette, one Parmentier omelette.

One sirloin, three sirloins with shallots, ten steaks, two steak *au poivres*, three *complets*, one rump steak with mustard, five roast beefs, two ribs of beef, two top rump steaks, three beef *grillades*, two chateaubriands, one steak tartare, one *rosbif*, three cold *rosbifs*, fourteen entrecôtes, three entrecôtes *à la moelle*, one fillet of beef, three hamburgers, nine skirts of beef, one flank of beef.

Four *pot-au-feus*, one daube, one jellied daube, one braised beef, one beef mode, one beef *gros sel*, one beef in a thin baguette.

One braised veal with noodles, one sauté of veal, one veal chop, one veal chop with pasta shells, one 'veal entrecôte', six escalopes, six escalopes *milanaise*, three escalopes *à la crème*, one escalope with morels, four *blanquettes de veau*.

Five *andouillettes*, three black puddings, one black pudding with apples, one pork cutlet, two sauerkrauts, one Nancy sauerkraut, one pork chop, eleven pairs of frankfurters, two pork *grillades*, seven pigs' trotters, one cold pork, three roast porks,

one roast pork with pineapple and bananas, one pork sausage with haricots.

One milk-fed lamb, three lamb cutlets, two curried lambs, twelve *gigots*, one saddle of lamb.

One mutton cutlet, one shoulder of mutton.

Five chickens, one chicken kebab, one lemon chicken, one chicken *en cocotte*, two chicken *basquaises*, three cold chickens, one stuffed chicken, one chicken with chestnuts, one chicken with herbs, two jellied chickens.

Seven *poules au riz*, one *poule au pot*.

One pullet *au riz*.

One *coq au riesling*, three *coq au vins*, one *coq au vinaigre*.

One duck with olives, one duck breast.

One guinea-fowl casserole.

One guinea fowl with cabbage, one guinea fowl with noodles.

Five rabbits, two rabbits *en gibelotte*, one rabbit with noodles, one rabbit *à la crème*, three rabbits with mustard, one rabbit *chasseur*, one rabbit with tarragon, one rabbit *à la tourangelles*, three rabbits with plums.

Two young wild rabbits with plums.

One civet of hare *à l'alsacienne*, one daube of hare, one hare stew, one saddle of hare.

One wild-pigeon casserole.

One kidney kebab, three kebabs, one mixed grill, one kidneys with mustard, one calves' kidneys, three *têtes de veau*, eleven calves' livers, one calves' tongue, one calves' sweetbreads with *pommes sarladaises*, one terrine of calves' sweetbreads, one lambs' brains, two fresh goose livers with grapes, one *confit* of goose gizzards, two chicken livers.

Twelve assorted cold meats, two *assiettes anglaises*, *n* cold cuts, two couscous, three 'Chinese', one *moulakhia*, one pizza, one *pan bagnat*, one *tajine*, six sandwiches, one ham sandwich, one *rilette* sandwich, three cantal sandwiches.

One ceps, one kidney beans, seven green beans, one sweetcorn, one puréed cauliflower, one puréed spinach, one puréed fennel, two stuffed peppers, two *pommes frites*, nine *gratins dauphinois*, four mashed potatoes, one *pommes dauphines*, one *pommes boulangères*, one *pommes soufflées*, one roast potatoes, one sauté potatoes, four rice, one wild rice.

Four pasta, three noodles, one fettucine with cream, one macaroni cheese, one macaroni, fifteen fresh noodles, three *rigatoni*, two ravioli, four spaghetti, one tortellini, five tagliatelle *verde*.

Thirty-five green salads, one *mesclun* salad, one Treviso salad *à la crème*, two chicory salads.

Seventy-five cheeses, one ewe's cheese, two Italian cheeses, one Auvergne cheese, one Boursin, two Brillat-Savarins, eleven Bries, one Cabécou, four goats' cheeses, two *crottins*, eight Camemberts, fifteen cantals, one Sicilian cheeses, one Sardinian cheeses, one Epoisses, one Murols, three fromages blancs, one goat's-milk fromage blanc, nine Fontainebleaus, five mozzarellas, five Munsters, one Reblochon, one Swiss raclette, one Stilton, one Saint-Marcellin, one Saint-Nectaire, one yogurt.

One fresh fruit, two strawberries, one gooseberries, one Orange, three 'mendiants' [a mixture of almonds, dried figs, hazelnuts and raisins].

One stuffed dates, one pears in syrup, three pears in wine, two peaches in wine, one vineyard peach in syrup, one peaches in Sancerre, one apples *normande*, one bananas *flambées*.

Four stewed fruit, two stewed apples, two stewed rhubarb and *quetsch*.

Five *clafoutis*, four pear *clafoutis*.

One figs in syrup.

Six fruit salads, one tropical fruit salad, two orange salads, two strawberry, raspberry and gooseberry salads.

One apple pie, four tarts, one hot tart, ten tart Tatins, seven pear tarts, one pear tart Tatin, one lemon tart, one apple-and-nut tart, two apple tarts, one apple tart with meringue, one strawberry tart.

Two crêpes.

Two charlottes, three chocolate charlottes.

Three babas.

One *crème renversée*.

One *galette des rois*.

Nine chocolate mousses.

Two *îles flottantes*.

One bilberry *Kugelhupf*.

Four chocolate gateaux, one cheesecake, two orange gateaux, one Italian gateau, one Viennese gateau, one Breton gateau, one gateau with fromage blanc, one *vatrushka*.

Three ice creams, one lime sorbet, two guava sorbets, two pear sorbets, one chocolate profiteroles, one raspberry melba, one pear *belle Hélène*.

Thirteen Beaujolais, four Beaujolais Nouveaux, three Brouillys, seven Chiroubles, four Chenas, two Fleuries, one Juliéna, three Saint-Amours.

Nine Côtes-du-Rhône, nine Châteauneuf-du-Papes, one Châteauneuf-du-Pape '67, three Vacqueyras.

Nine Bordeaux, one Bordeaux Clairet, one Lamarzelle '64, three Saint-Emilions, one Saint-Emilion '61, seven Château-la Pelleterie '70s, one Château-Canon '62, five Château-Négrits, one Lalande-de-Pomerol, one Lalande-de-Pomerol '67, one Médoc '64, six Margaux '62s, one Margaux '68, one Margaux '69, one Saint-Estèphe '61, one Saint-Julien '59.

Seven Savigny-lès-Beaunes, three Aloxe-Cortons, one Aloxe-Corton '66, one Beaune '61, one white Chasagne-Montrachet '66, two Mercureys, one Pommard, one Pommard '66, two Santenay '62s, one Volnay '59.

One Chambolle-Musigny '70, one Chambolle-Musigny Les Amoureuses '70, one Chambertin '62, one Romanée-Conti, one Romanée-Conti '64.

One Bergerac, two red Bouzys, four Bourgueils, one Chalosse, one champagne, one Chablis, one red Côtes-de-Provence, twenty-six Cahors, one Chanteperdrix, four Gamays, two Madirans, one Madiran '70, one Pinot Noir, one Passetoutgrain, one Pécharmant, one Saumur, ten Tursans, one Traminer, one Sardinian wine, *n* sundry wines.

Nine beers, two Tuborgs, four Guinnesses.

Fifty-six Armagnacs, one bourbon, eight Calvadoses, one cherries in brandy, six Green Chartreuses, one Chivas, four cognacs, one Delamain cognac, two Grand Marniers, one pink gin, one Irish coffee, one Jack Daniel's, four marcs, three Bugey marcs, one marc de Provence, one plum liqueur, nine Souillac plums, one plums in brandy, two pear eaux-de-vie, one port, one slivovitz, one Suze, thirty-six vodkas, four whiskies.

N coffees, one tisane, three Vichy waters.

Translated from the French by John Sturrock