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# French Studies Library Group

## Annual Review

Issue 6 (2009-10)

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# French Studies Library Group Annual Review

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## Editor

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With thanks to Teresa Vernon for  
additional editorial input.

The *FSLG Annual Review* is an annual publication, produced for the members of the French Studies Library Group. The aims of the Group are:

- To act as a focus for librarians and others concerned with the provision of library resources and services in French studies.
- To facilitate cooperation in the provision, access, promotion and preservation of French printed and electronic resources.
- To provide a forum for the dissemination of information on these topics between libraries and the scholarly user community.
- To liaise with related library groups.

## Membership

Membership is open to any person or institution with an interest in the aims of the Group. To apply for membership please fill in the form at <http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/fslg-application-form.pdf>. Annual membership costs £15 (retired members £10).

## Notes for contributors

Contributions to future issues of the *Annual Review* are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form (Word or rich text format (RTF)). Please send them to Sarah Brain at the above address.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Copyright in this publication rests with the Group, but the views expressed in it are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group.

FLSG on the web: <http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/>

## Electronic mailing lists

FLSG has its own JISCmail list: **FSLG** (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/fslg.html>)

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# Staff news

## • Departure of Ann Farr

On 27 August 2010 Ann Farr left her post as Faculty Team Librarian in the Arts Faculties team at the University of Leeds under the University's voluntary leavers' scheme. Her departure is a great loss to the French Studies Library Group.

In her post as Faculty Team Librarian for the Arts Faculties, Ann's remit encompassed subjects as diverse as English, Icelandic, Medieval Studies, Music and Theatre as well as French, and involved regular contact with no fewer than 100 academics in her subjects (and that's after dropping Art!).

Despite being in fact a graduate in German, Ann agreed to join the French Studies Library Group Committee wearing her French subject specialist hat. Indeed, she became such an active member of the Committee when she joined in 2003 that she was a natural to take over from Martin Hodgson as Secretary at the 2004 AGM. Ann has served in this post ever since, so it is very difficult to envisage the FSLG without her as our Secretary and her many creative contributions over the years.

With the dwindling of subject librarian posts came the opportunity for increased collaboration with other language studies library groups, first bilaterally with the GSLG (German Studies Library Group), and later with ACLAIR (Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources) and the ISLG (Italian Studies Library Group) as well under the WESLINE umbrella. Ann embraced these opportunities with zest, forging many good friendships with colleagues beyond the FSLG Committee and undertaking to act as ad hoc WESLINE Secretary at FSLG/GSLG AGMs in the absence of such a post in the umbrella group structure.

Some of my personal recollections of Ann, both professional and social, include Ann's hosting an FSLG Committee meeting in Leeds in May 2008 during which she treated us to a fascinating display of highlights from the Brotherton Library's Special Collections, mounting a special display of French material for the Society of French Studies conference held in Leeds in July 2005, and gamely downing an Americano in a café in Lille in April 2010 despite this turning out to be a Martini-based cocktail as opposed to the coffee that we all thought that she was ordering.

Teresa Vernon

## • Martin Hodgson moves on

Martin Hodgson decided to take voluntary redundancy from his post of Information Specialist (Arts & Humanities) at King's College London and left the College at the end of April 2010.

Martin has long played a leading role in the FSLG. He was elected Secretary in 2002 and served in that post for a year. He was then elected to the new post of Treasurer

in 2003. In this capacity, Martin was responsible for piloting the introduction of an annual membership fee, and he has remained in charge of the Group's finances and membership ever since.

As if this was not enough, following the resignation of Antony Loveland, Martin was elected to the Committee of the German Studies Library Group to fulfil the role of FSLG representative on the GSLG Committee.

Martin's departure is a great loss to the French Studies Library Group. He is, however, currently working at Senate House Library covering Sarah Burn's post (which does not involve languages) while Sarah is on maternity leave. On Sarah's return he will then be actively seeking another post, so he may yet find himself in a position to renew his involvement with the FSLG and the other language studies library groups.

Teresa Vernon

**FSLG Committee meeting at Bristol, April 2009.**

Front L-R: Ann Farr, Teresa Vernon, Anne Worden, Damien McManus.

Back L-R: Jill Kempshall, Anne Cobby, Nick Hearn, Des McTernan, Martin Hodgson, Christine Anderson



## ● Staff round-up

Following the departure of Martin Hodgson from King's College London, Graeme Lockheart, Information Specialist (Arts & Humanities), has taken over responsibility for French at King's College London.

Caroline Long has moved to a new role at the University of Aston and no longer covers languages. She is replaced by Chris Brown, who is the Information Specialist for Languages & Social Sciences.

At the John Rylands University Library, University of Manchester, Helen Dobson has taken over from Glynis Platt as Faculty Team Librarian for French Studies.

Colin Homiski has taken over from Christine Anderson as Academic Liaison Librarian for French at Senate House Library. Christine remains responsible for the Library's Francophone Caribbean collections in her role as Academic Liaison Librarian for Latin American & Caribbean Studies.

Philip Hatfield has taken up the post of Curator of Canadian and Caribbean Collections at the British Library. He is responsible for collecting and curating both Anglophone and Francophone materials from those areas.

Lorna Rosbottom has replaced Crispin Partridge as Academic Liaison Librarian for French Studies at London Metropolitan University.

# Farewell Intute: a look back at the Intute and SOSIG contribution to French studies

*Angela Joyce, Intute Research Officer, Bristol University*

On 31 July 2010 Intute will change. No new resources will be added to the catalogue, although a small team at Mimas in Manchester will maintain the existing database for one year. Newsfeeds will be switched off and MyIntute alerts will stop. Why the change? Our funders, JISC, decided that they could no longer support Intute. As stated in the JISC statement about the Intute review, when services "reach the end of their existing funding cycle it is always intended, wherever possible, that they move from being fully funded to being part-funded or fully sustained by other sources".<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately in the current economic climate no realistic alternative funding model for Intute as it currently stands has been identified.

The Virtual Training Suite (VTS) (<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/>) and Informs ([http://www.informs.intute.ac.uk/informs\\_perl/login2.pl](http://www.informs.intute.ac.uk/informs_perl/login2.pl)), however, will continue for another year at least. In June, 30 new VTS tutorials were launched, including linguistics and classics. Existing tutorials, including Internet for Modern Languages, will be maintained. VTS and Informs will explore ideas for building a sustainable and possible subscription model for the future. We will be consulting our users for feedback on this.

Although we are sad about Intute, we would like to leave on a positive note and remind FSLG members of our legacy to resource discovery and Internet developments in general:

## **SOSIG – Social Sciences Information Gateway**

A radical approach for its time, SOSIG aimed to make sense of the Internet for social science students and researchers. It was a people-built gateway of quality resources, launched in 1995 by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The EuroStudies section was added in September 2002. This project was a collaboration between SOSIG at the University of Bristol (who provided the technical infrastructure) and Information Services at the University of Birmingham (who provided the subject knowledge and expertise). It had categories for each European country, including France. In 2004, Birmingham withdrew, and Bristol took over the management of EuroStudies. We continued to develop the French section, aiming to include key government websites, libraries, official statistics, social sciences research centres, academic blogs, journals and references materials, to name a few.

## French studies on Intute

Intute was launched in 2006, and brought together all the Resource Discovery Network (RDN) hubs, such as the wonderfully named EEVL (Edinburgh Engineering Virtual Library) and Humbul Humanities Hub (which already had a rich collection of French resources). EuroStudies was subsequently combined with Modern Languages to create the 'Modern Languages and Areas Studies' section of Intute (<http://www.intute.ac.uk/mlas/>).

The section comprises literature, languages, art, area studies and social sciences, overseen by Intute editors (librarians and academics) at UK universities.

Students of French studies can find a wealth of online resources on Intute. Resources are not limited to France, but are relevant to the Francophone world too, including African countries, with interesting sites like Agence la Francophonie (<http://www.francophonie.org/>) and Africultures (<http://www.africultures.com/php/>). There are some innovative language learning resources and teaching websites such as Language Box (<http://languagebox.eprints.org/>) and Civilisation française (<http://www.cortland.edu/flteach/civ/>). Users have been able to comment on Intute records too and we have received lots of feedback, both good and bad!

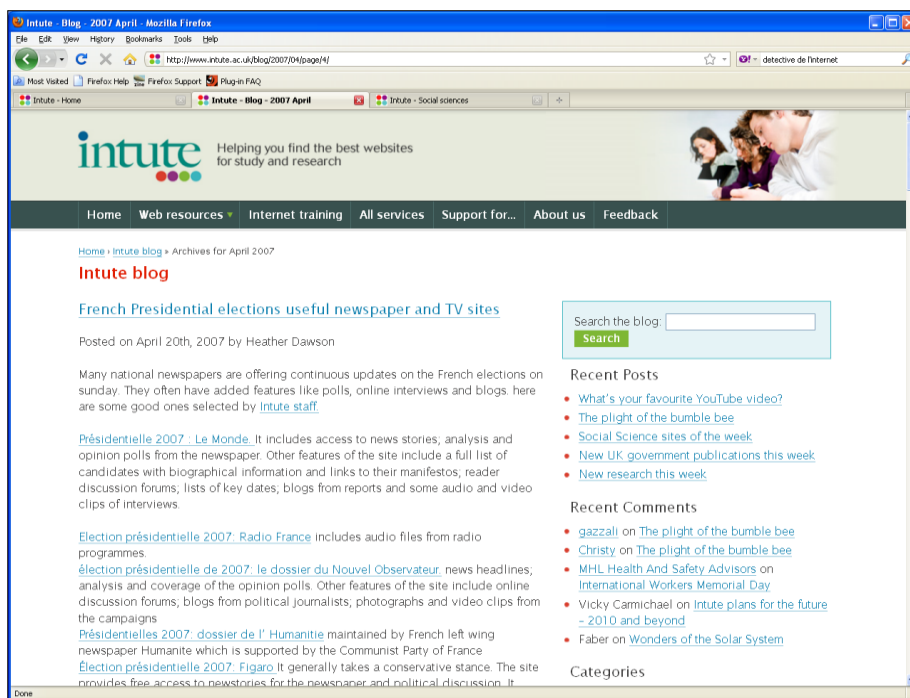
Typical of many comments we have received about Intute's future is this one. "Very disappointing news. I've used Intute extensively as a university librarian over the years and now as a school librarian. It is invaluable, particularly for schools that don't have adequate funding to subscribe to online databases for students. It's really useful in guiding sixth formers to use good quality websites instead of depending on the first thing they find on Google. A real loss and will make it even harder to develop students' information literacy skills."

As well as a catalogue of quality Internet resources, Intute editors are keen bloggers. Angela Joyce and Heather Dawson have covered the French elections, European Union, French social sciences, French language and more. Heather is continuing her great work with a blog at LSE called Elections in the News, covering worldwide elections (<http://electionsinthenews.blogspot.com/>). Angela also twitters on the channel intuteeuro (<http://twitter.com/intuteeuro>).



*The original EuroStudies page on SOSIG*





*Heather's blog about the French elections, 2007*

Intute also produced a range of free colour subject booklets, in PDF or paper form, which proved very popular with librarians and students. They offered a 'taster' of key online resources in various subjects, which was useful for new undergraduates and Further Education students. These included one on Modern Languages resources.

The Intute Integration project offered users the chance to re-use Intute content in their own Web spaces or Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) (<http://www.intute.ac.uk/integration/>). These ranged from simple Intute web links, to an embedded search box, newsfeeds, or downloadable selections of records from the MyIntute customising service. By 2009, 67% of UK university libraries had integrated Intute in a consistent way.

To summarise, Intute has guided students to quality free French resources, offered current awareness services, and been active via social networking services. It has offered an alternative to Google and Wikipedia, or subscription databases. On a practical note, we should remind FSLG members that they may want to remove Intute links and newsfeeds after July 2010 and perhaps not promote it in student inductions. Help is available on the Intute website.

Finally, we would like to thank FSLG members for all their support over the years and we hope that the Intute legacy of 'the best of the Web' will not be forgotten. We hope to get feedback from some of you this summer about new ways of delivering VTS and Informs. For feedback and comments contact [Angela.Joyce@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Angela.Joyce@bristol.ac.uk)

<sup>1</sup> Full statement available at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/12/intute.aspx>

# 100 years on: a brief history of the Institut français in London

**Anne-Elisabeth Buxtorf**, *Director of the Médiathèque, Institut français, London*

Translated by Camille Regnault

## Origins

The origins of the Institut français du Royaume-Uni can be traced back to the establishment of the Université des Lettres Françaises by Marie d'Orliac in 1910. This 19 year old French woman, arriving in London, aspired to set up an institution that would introduce British men and women of culture to the French writers and artists of the day. Initially granted a budget of fifty pounds (donated by Lord and Lady Askwith), Marie d'Orliac, later to be known as Madame Bohn, gained greater support and was notably backed by the ambassador of France, M. Cambon. These developments ushered her into British high society, where she organised dinner events for prominent figures who might be likely to support the project. This included the Duchess of Marlborough and the banker Emile Mond, who was director of "Crédit lyonnais" at the time. Mr Justice Darling, a lawyer who was enthused by the young woman's project, made a proposition to offer up his property in Marble Arch prior to its planned demolition in two years time. This is how the Université des lettres françaises came to open its doors on the 8th October 1910. The University offered French foreign language courses, poetry reading, live theatrical performances and a library. The University was an overnight success and admitted a hundred or so students.

In 1913, the University of Lille decided to construct a cultural and educational institution for the French language in London following pre-existing models in St Petersburg, Florence and Madrid. As a result, the Université des lettres françaises became a section of the new Institut français with the following constituent parts:

- An arts and literature section managed by Marie d'Orliac.
- A language laboratory section placed under the management of Albert Schatz from the law department at the University of Lille.

The Institut's management team at this stage consisted of Lord Askwith, the chairman until 1942, Emile Mond, Austen Chamberlain, Rudyard Kipling, Earl Crawford and Princess Mary (daughter of King George V).

In 1915 numerous French and Belgian families took refuge in London to escape the war. With the aid of Emile Mond and Mrs Norman Grosvenor, some premises belonging to British Rail opposite Victoria station were offered to the Institut français. One hundred and twenty children were admitted into a provisional French secondary school as a result and were shortly expected to be joined by Russian, Greek and Portuguese children having fled zones of conflict. Despite the war, the Faculté des Lettres continued to teach French and to prepare students for

recognised French qualifications.

### **The Interwar years**

In 1919, the premises near Victoria Station were reclaimed by their owner and the British government made an offer to the school and the Institut français to build its new foundations opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum. On 26th February 1921, the universities of Lille and Paris declared the new sites open.

During this time, the Institut became a focal point for London intellectual life. The most famous artists and writers like André Maurois, Darius Milhaud, Virginia Woolf and André Citroën made regular appearances to present lectures. The Institut also exhibited beyond its walls at the Victoria and Albert Museum and created cultural branches in a number of cities across England such as Leeds, Liverpool, Cheltenham, Bradford, Bristol and Bath.

Denis Saurat was named director in 1924 and continued to pursue this intellectual development. But the premises became confined for space once again and it was time to consider another relocation. It is at this point that the red-bricked building was conceived: the result of a collaborative effort between an English and a French architect, Mr. A. I. Thomas and Patrice Bonnet, and was completed in 1937. However it was not until March 1939, that President Albert Lebrun inaugurated the new premises on Queensberry Place. The building during this time stood out as being radically different to the Victorian architectural style of the surrounding area.

### **During the Second World War**

Further expansion was interrupted by the Second World War. In spite of this the British government, conscious of the cultural-political role of the Institut, provided financial aid via the British Council. At this time France was effectively occupied territory and consequently unable to support the activities run by the Institut, and a number of centres for cultural cooperation closed during this period. However, the Institut français in London met an unexpected fate with the arrival of General de Gaulle, and Denis Saurat's positive response to the 18th June 1940 Appeal.

The Institut français' contributions to the war effort took many forms: physical cooperation with the provision of its new site and intellectual cooperation in providing moral support to the population and in supporting the exchange of ideas. In September 1939, the « Mission d'Information », a branch of the General Board of Information on British soil was set up at the Institut français in London. From 1940 to 1944, the premises of the Lycée were near to the headquarters of the Free French Air Forces (FAFL), which was visited a number of times by General de Gaulle. The Institut français in London was considered at this point a prominent intellectual platform, welcoming writers such as Raymond Aron, who contributed to the journal *La France Libre*, founded by André Labarthe.

Over time the Institut's communication with the authorities of occupied France lapsed. Thanks to British support, the Institut provided a venue for 'Free French actors', and lectures took place twice a week. During the bombings over

London the Institut was spared. However they did affect the director Denis Saurat's house, which was ultimately destroyed. The man himself is reported to have remained buried beneath the rubble for many hours before being rescued.

### **The Post-war era**

In 1945, the Institut took a new turning point, coming under the management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1963, the Lycée Français and the Institut went their separate ways to form two independent bodies. The Institut français thus presided over two domains: the teaching of French; and cultural activities and events (lectures, exhibitions, cinema, theatre, opera, library).

During these years, the expansion of the library brought into focus a need for further reorganisation. So in 1950, the former ball room was converted into the main reading room by Jean-Charles Moreux.

The Institut français du Royaume-Uni continued to promote Franco-British exchanges and the British public continued to show great support for French culture. In conjunction, the Lycée cultivated an ever-increasing student base who received a bilingual education firmly rooted in French culture.

### **Today**

In 1995, the building was modernised by the architect Jean-François Darin, under the direction of Olivier Poivre d'Arvor. The library became a médiathèque with open access collections. The "Théâtre Artaud" was transformed into the "Ciné Lumière", opened by Catherine Deneuve. It became a reference point for London-based cinephiles. During this decade, a number of personalities from the 'septième art' visited, representing French cinema: amongst them Patrice Chéreau, Jean-Pierre Bacri, Romain Duris, Agnès Jaoui and Sophie Marceau. Literary activities continued to flourish and all the great French contemporary authors came to present their work.

In 2008, in the run up to its centenary, a new wave of renovation work was launched under the impetus of Laurence Auer, the newly appointed director. The cinema was completely refurbished and equipped with a digital projector and disabled access was improved. The following year, the hall in turn was renovated with the aim of rediscovering its original features. The modernisation process culminated in the creation of Culturethèque, the digital platform of the Institut français. The overall premises were equipped with new IT; and the opening of a new language laboratory is anticipated in September 2010.

# Some significant developments in French library-based resources

Teresa Vernon, Head, French Collections, British Library

## 1. Catalogues

### **Records from France and Switzerland in WorldCat** (<http://www.worldcat.org/>)

In April 2010, following agreements signed with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF) and with the Agence Bibliographique de l'Enseignement Supérieur (ABES), the agency that manages the *Système universitaire de documentation* (SUDOC) union catalogue for French universities, OCLC completed projects to load more than 8.8 million records from the BNF's Catalogue général and over 7.9 million records from the SUDOC into WorldCat. In addition, the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon has contributed more than 1.3 million records to WorldCat. In December 2009, RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland, agreed to contribute more than 4.8 million records to WorldCat during the first half of 2010 (The Swiss National Library already contributes its records to WorldCat).

### **BNF Catalogue général** (<http://catalogue.bnf.fr/>)

In spring 2009, the Bibliothèque nationale de France's main catalogue changed its name from 'BN-Opale Plus' to 'BNF catalogue général'.

### **BNF archives et manuscrits (BAM)** (<http://archivesetmanuscrits.bnf.fr/>)

This online catalogue, started at the end of 2007 and still in progress, contains records from the département des Manuscrits, the département des Arts du spectacle and the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal. BAM also includes records for the Library's administrative archives ('Archives administratives de la bibliothèque'). BAM is moreover searchable as a subset of the *Catalogue collectif de France*.

### **Swissbib (Beta): Metacatalogue** (<http://www.swissbib.ch>) **and Project Wiki** ([www.swissbib.org](http://www.swissbib.org))

Swissbib is the new metacatalogue of the Swiss university libraries and the Swiss national library. The metacatalogue, developed with the assistance of OCLC, handles the records from the Swiss National Library, the Library Network of Western Switzerland (RERO), the Library Network of German-speaking Switzerland (IDS) and the Sistema Bibliotecario Ticinese (SBT). It is now possible to search 14 million title records from 740 libraries in French, German and Italian-speaking Switzerland via the beta version of the Swissbib interface. The catalogue is available in French, German and Italian and in (currently limited) English.

### **Catalogue collectif des périodiques Caraïbe-Amazone** (<http://www.periodiques-caraibeamazone.fr/>)

Online union catalogue listing periodicals, magazines and newspapers on the Caribbean held in libraries in Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guyana. Includes material not hitherto visible online since many of the libraries do not have online catalogues.

## 2. Digital Libraries

### **Réseau francophone numérique** (<http://www.rfnum.org/>)

In March 2010, directors from the 17 member libraries of the Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques (RFBNN), created in 2006, met under the auspices of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), to adopt the name of Réseau francophone numérique (RFN). The change of name reflects the fact that membership is now open to research libraries, not just national libraries. The library representatives also signed the RFN's new charter which sets out its objectives and sets up its structure: a general assembly, steering committee and general secretariat. Guy Berthiaume, the director of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BanQ), has been appointed Secretary General of the RFN for a two-year (renewable) term.

### **Belgica** (<http://belgica.kbr.be/>)

On 17 February 2009, the Royal Library of Belgium launched its digital library Belgica.

### **Digicoord** (<https://www.digicoord.ch/index.php/Accueil>)

This project, a joint initiative of the Swiss National Library and RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland, is a platform offering information on digitisation projects in libraries and archives in Switzerland. While it is intended for library professionals, its 'Projets de numérisation' pages usefully list current and completed projects, with links to the online resource where applicable.

### **E-lib.ch – Swiss Electronic Library** ([http://www.e-lib.ch/index\\_e.html](http://www.e-lib.ch/index_e.html))

E-lib.ch, a cooperative project of the Swiss universities funded by the Swiss University Conference (SUK/CUS), is intended as a portal for digital projects and information. The digital content projects are *retro.seals.ch* (digitised periodicals), *e-rara.ch*, launched in March 2010 (digitised early imprints in Swiss libraries starting with 16<sup>th</sup> century Swiss imprints), and *e-codices* (medieval Swiss manuscripts online).

### **Gallica** (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>)

16 February 2010 saw the launch of a new interface of Gallica, the digital library of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF). The site now offers over one million items (current statistics are displayed on the browse function) and includes increasing material from partner libraries and also links to e-publishers (listed under Partners on the home page). Gallica is now on Facebook and current developments may be followed via the monthly e-mail newsletter, the Gallica blog, RSS and Twitter feeds. Since November 2009, the site now offers a new and faster viewer using Flash (click on the green buttons to open a new tab to view the book). The BNF blog: <http://blog.bnf.fr/gallica/?p=997> provides a sample book to demonstrate the new viewer.

In April 2010, the BNF signed an agreement with Wikimedia France to load 1,400 out of copyright texts from Gallica into Wikisource, Wikimedia's free library, to enable volunteer end users to correct errors in texts digitised using Optical character

recognition (OCR). Library professionals can find professional and technical information relating to the BNF's digitisation programme on the dedicated pages on the BNF website: <http://www.bnf.fr/fr/professionnels/numerisation.html>

#### **Google Books** (<http://books.google.com/>)

- **Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire de Lausanne**

The BCU, the first library in a French-speaking area to sign with Google, announced in December 2009 that Google had completed the scanning of its pre-1870 out of copyright books and that the majority of these 100,000 volumes were now publicly available via the Google Books website but note also the caveats on the BCU website (<http://www.unil.ch/bcu/page73478.html>).

- **Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon**

Google began scanning up to 500,000 volumes from the BM Lyon collections in December 2009, with the project due to be complete within 10 years. In November 2009, following the French book trade journal *Livres Hebdo's* successful submission to the Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs (CADA), the Ville de Lyon made public its contract with Google:

<http://culture.france2.fr/livres/e-livre/Le-contrat-Google--Ville-de-Lyon-rendu-public-59237822.html>

- **Ghent University Library**

Google started digitising the Library's 300,000 out of copyright books at the end of 2007. Although Ghent is in Flanders, the university was French-speaking until 1930 and its collections contain works in French as well as Dutch. More information is available on the University library website (in English):

<http://lib.ugent.be/info/en/project-google.shtml>

#### **Manioc: bibliothèque numérique Caraïbe, Amazonie, Plateau des Guyanes**

(<http://www.manioc.org/>)

The Manioc digital library, initiated by the Libraries (SCD) of the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, offers free access to online resources on the Caribbean, Guyana and Amazonia in the following categories:

- Patrimoine numérisé (heritage digitised books, full text)
- Images du patrimoine
- Catalogue collectif des périodiques Caraïbe Amazonie
- Audio Vidéo
- Travaux de recherches (articles, cartes, communications, livres, thèses)
- *Etudes caribéennes* (e-journal on *Revue.org*)

It thus complements the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC).

#### **Bibliothèque numérique RERO DOC** (<http://doc.rero.ch/>)

RERO-DOC is the digital library of RERO, the Library Network of Western Switzerland. It provides access to the digitised collection of books and periodicals of RERO libraries, as well as to the output (electronic theses and e-prints) produced by the institutions participating in the project, in PDF format. The content is searchable by

author, title, year, collection, keyword, any field and full text and the site can also be browsed by specific collections, themes and institutions.

### Francophone electronic journals

- **Mir@bel (Mutualisation d'Informations sur les Revues et leurs Accès dans les Bases En Ligne)** (<http://www.reseau-mirabel.info/>)

*Mir@bel*, a joint initiative of the Institut d'études politiques (IEP) de Grenoble, the IEP de Lyon and the Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon (ENS-LSH), is an index of online mainly francophone journals in the humanities and social sciences. Entries provide links to sources for the full text, tables of contents and abstracts, and it is possible to browse or search the site.

- **Place des revues: le catalogue raisonné des revues savantes and culturelles** (<http://www.placedesrevues.org/>)

The website of the Salon de la Revue announced the launch of a new online catalogue of learned and cultural periodicals entitled *Place des revues* to coincide with the Salon de la Revue held in October 2009. This new website, a joint project of the Fondation MSH (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme) and the Association Ent'revues, is now up and running, though still at a very embryonic stage. It is run on collaborative wiki/web 2.0 lines and is designed to provide full information on each periodical featured. Each periodical listed has a template which mostly has yet to be completed, so you get brief information that you would find, say, on the 'annuaire des revues' on the Ent'revues website, but for an example of a fuller entry, take a look at the entry for *Langage et Société*. You can search by title or by start date, subject/area and country.

- **Somrev (Sommaires de Revues)** (<http://doc-iep.univ-lyon2.fr/Ressources/Bases/Somrev/s-interrogation.html>)

*Somrev*, maintained by the Institut d'études politiques (IEP) de Lyon in collaboration with other French research centres, provides free access to the tables of contents of 157 journals in the humanities and social sciences. Journals may be browsed or searched by title, author or year and RSS feeds are available. In addition, 46% of the tables of contents offer direct links to the full text.

- **Cairn** (<http://www.cairn.info/>)

The Franco-Belgian aggregator currently (July 2010) offers 244 journals published in France and Belgium ranging from 2001 to the present day. In 2010, additions include new journals from Armand Colin: *Annales historiques de la Révolution française*, *Langue française*, *Littérature*, *Revue d'histoire des sciences*, *Romantisme*, *Tiers monde*; Vrin: *Archives d'histoire doctrinale et littéraire du Moyen Âge*, *Revue des sciences philosophiques et théologiques*; INRP: *Histoire de l'Éducation*; IPFO: *Bulletin d'études orientales*. As before, there is a moving wall of between three and five years (depending on the title), limiting access to recent and current issues to subscribers only.

Cairn increasingly works in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (Gallica) and with e-aggregators Persée and Revues.org to increase scope and



interoperability (e.g. the Jesuit periodical *Etudes*: the issues from 1856 to 2000 are hosted on Gallica and the issues from 2001 onwards on Cairn and the *Revue française de science politique*: the pre-2001 issues are on Persée and the post-2001 issues on Cairn).

In addition, Cairn is this year broadening its offer to include French-language magazines such as *Sciences humaines*, *Les Grands dossiers de Sciences humaines*, *L'Histoire*, *Le Magazine littéraire*, *Manière de voir*, *Alternatives économiques*, *Alternatives internationale* and *Le Monde diplomatique*, and also e-books: the introductory series *Que-sais-je* (PUF) and *L'état du monde* (La Découverte), and more than 500 edited conference proceedings published by De Boeck, La Découverte, Presses de Sciences Po, etc.

Finally, Cairn launched a new version of its website: it has a new search engine implementing clustering and semantic treatment; improved user-friendliness; DOI, bibliographic and semantic linking between articles; compliancy with COUNTER 3 and SUSHI protocol and MARC 21 records for export.

A short video (in French, with English subtitles) summarises the changes introduced in 2010.

- **Persée** (<http://www.persee.fr/>)

Persée currently provides 72 journals. The portal has now broadened its scope to include monographs in series and proceedings: publications from the Ecole française de Rome and the Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée are now available. Persée has developed tools for referencing its resources internationally, using DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) recognised by CrossRef.

- **Revue.org** (<http://www.revues.org/>)

Revue.org has refreshed its website which is now partially available in English. The online catalogue and the search engine both provide filters to limit searches. The aggregator currently (July 2010) offers access to 206 journals and book series (a further 48 titles are forthcoming). The journals are mostly in French, but there are a handful of journals in English, German, Spanish and Portuguese, and it is now possible for authors to insert multimedia enhancements such as videos, etc, to the online version. The site now also offers e-books (*les livres de revues.org*) including e-publications from the Institut français du Proche-Orient (IPFO), the Institut national de l'histoire de l'art (INHA), Editions Agone, the Musée du Quai Branly and the Collège de France and, in the future, from Droz (*Travaux de Sciences Sociales* is forthcoming).

#### **Newspaper digitisation projects**

- **ICON:International Coalition on Newspapers (CRL)-Newspaper Digitization Projects** (<http://icon.crl.edu/digitization.htm>)

Lists the digitisation projects that ICON knows about by country

- **Réseau francophone numérique** (<http://www.rfnum.org/>)

Lists and provides access to francophone newspaper digitisation projects listed by country.

- **Belgium: Belgica – Journaux**

The Royal Library of Belgium's Belgica digital library launched in February 2009 includes a collection of newspapers digitised in partnership with the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (CEGES/SOMA). The collection is expected to comprise 30 separate titles from 1831 to 1950 (and, in addition, the clandestine press of World War I and World War II). Currently, remote access appears limited to one year only (1914) of the daily newspapers *L'Indépendance belge* and *L'Avenir du Luxembourg* and one year (1861) of the satirical weekly (with illustrations by Félicien Rops) *Almanach d'Uylenspiegel*. Issues may be browsed by year and date. Full text searching by keyword is possible for *L'Indépendance belge* and *L'Avenir du Luxembourg* via the advanced search option. For copyright reasons, *Le Soir* is only available onsite at the Royal Library.

- **France**

**Gallica – Presse et revues** (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/editors?type=periodicals>)

Gallica, the digital library of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, provides free online remote access to approximately 30 newspaper titles. Notable titles currently include *La Croix*, *Le Figaro*, *L'Humanité*, *Le Journal des débats*, *La Presse* and *Le Temps*. For a full list of digitised newspapers (titles marked with an asterisk have been OCR scanned and are therefore searchable), see:

[http://www.bnf.fr/fr/collections\\_et\\_services/presse/s.presse\\_numerisee.html](http://www.bnf.fr/fr/collections_et_services/presse/s.presse_numerisee.html)

**Presse XIX: Presse lyonnaise du XIX siècle** (<http://collections.bm-lyon.fr/presseXIX/>)

The Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, with the support of the French Ministry of Culture, embarked in 2006 on the digitisation of its collection of Lyon newspapers published between 1830 and 1914. The first title to be digitised was *Le Progrès illustré* (the supplement of the eponymous daily newspaper, covering the period 21 December 1890 to 16 September 1905). Currently, approximately 200 titles are available online free of charge for the period 1865-1914. The project is due to be completed at the end of 2010 with 230 local newspapers available for the period 1830-1914. The full-text content is searchable by keyword and you can filter the results by title, decade and number of words by article. Users can also browse through individual issues by date and issue number or view all issues published on the same date.

- **Great Britain**

**17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Burney Collection**

This is a subscription database, but Higher Education institutions in the UK can sign up for this resource free of charge. The database offers the digitised fully searchable archive of the entire Burney collection which comprises 1271 individual titles. This includes London and provincial newsbooks, newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets and single-sheet ephemera, 1600 to 1800. The collection, which is cross searchable with the *19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers* database, provides a valuable source of information about events in France and other European countries from a British

perspective and about the French in Britain. British Library project page:  
<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspdigproj/burney/>

- **Luxembourg – eluxemburgensia** (<http://www.eluxemburgensia.lu/>)

This new portal gives access to the National Library of Luxembourg's digital collection and provides access to the historical digitised issues of the *Luxemburger Wort* (1848-1950) and the *Tageblatt* (1913-1950) which are searchable by keyword and can be browsed by date. The portal also cross refers to its predecessor, Luxemburgensia online ([www.luxemburgensia.bnl.lu](http://www.luxemburgensia.bnl.lu)), which provides access to image-only content including online facsimiles of newspapers and weeklies that can be browsed by date and includes French-language titles such as *La clef du cabinet des princes de l'Europe* (1704-1794).

- **Switzerland**

- **Le Temps-archives historiques** (<http://www.letempsarchives.ch>)

The complete holdings of the *Journal de Genève* (1826-1998), founded by James Fazy, the *Gazette de Lausanne* (1798-1991) and the *Nouveau Quotidien* (1991-1998), all forerunners of the Geneva-based daily newspaper *Le Temps*, have been digitised and made available online free of charge. The project, the result of a public-private partnership between the Swiss National Library, the Bibliothèque de Genève, the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire de Lausanne, the newspaper *Le Temps* with the support of various sponsors, provides a valuable source of information on the political, cultural and social conditions in Switzerland and on events abroad viewed from a Swiss perspective for the period 1798-1998.

All of the content is searchable by keyword, date or period, with the possibility to limit a search by period or content (articles, titles of articles, images, advertising). You can then view the page or the specific item you want. Users can also browse through individual issues, forward an article by e-mail or print it, and save searches in a personal folder.

Background information on these three titles and on James Fazy and others may be found on the e-version of the *Dictionnaire historique de la Suisse (Historical Dictionary of Switzerland)* (<http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/english.php>).

# Culturethèque: the new digital platform for the Institut français

**Anne-Elisabeth Buxtorf**, *Director of the Médiathèque, Institut français, London*

Translated by Camille Regnault

Conceptually original and innovative, Culturethèque is a platform offering French cultural content managed and maintained by the Médiathèque of the Institut français du Royaume-uni.



More than 5000 contemporary ebooks are offered in French. The latest novels, such as those by Frédéric Beigbeder or Jean-Marie Rouart feature alongside the great classic authors of French literature such as Julien Gracq, Marcel Proust and Balzac. In addition, the collection ranges from a selection of essays reflecting the most pressing debates of French society (including secularism, climate change and immigration) to more practical texts such as guides on studying in France, travel guides and books on French cuisine.

The Institut has also digitised its exceptional collection of old texts. This comprises 17th and 18th century rare editions of texts written in French but published outside France. As such, they have not been subject to copyright registration and most of them remain unrecorded across French as well as British libraries. Amongst these remarkable publications, we can consult a first translation in French of the *Arabian Nights* (*Contes des mille et une nuits*) by Galland and a 1788 edition of *Le Paysan parvenu* by Marivaux.

Culturethèque also provides access to the Institut's sound archives. Around 250 of the conferences held at the Institut français since 1967 will be made available online. Some of the greatest names in modern philosophy and French literature have already agreed to share their contributions through Culturethèque. Amongst them are Etienne Balibar, Julia Kristeva, Michel Butor and Patrick Chamoiseau to name but a few.

In addition, Culturethèque provides an opportunity to integrate virtual exhibitions, such as the current online exhibition "Free French in London and the French Institute during the war", which was put together from the Institut français' own archives. The learn tab, which is still in the early stages of development will offer resources to support those people wishing to learn French. Finally, the blog section allows users to keep in touch with French cultural events in the UK.

Up until the 27th September, full access to all content will be free of charge. Subsequent to this period Culturethèque will introduce its subscription fees of £20/year, or £5/month. The fee is based on an individual subscription and is only available to those residing in the UK. A section of the content will however remain

freely accessible to all without subscription. This section consists largely of the Institut's own material.

With the aid of Culturethèque, the Institut hopes to adapt itself to the needs of its customers living outside London, who are unable to visit in person. The project was financed by both private and public funds. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, eager to revitalise the image of French culture abroad, agreed to subsidize the project, along with funds raised by the Friends of the French Institute Trust.

The digitised contents offered by Culturethèque come from French business distributors specialising in the provision and publication of such contents. The platform itself was developed by a British company called Large Blue.

With this simple and user-friendly tool, the Institut hopes to respond to new cultural practices and, coinciding with its 100th anniversary, turn resolutely towards the future.

For free access to Culturethèque until 27<sup>th</sup> September visit the website at <http://www.culturetheque.org.uk/>

# French caricatures of the Franco-Prussian War and Commune at the British Library

W. Jack Rhoden, *PhD student, University of Sheffield*

Held at three separate shelfmarks in the British Library is a unique collection of around two thousand French caricatures. No comparable collection exists on these shores and although many of these images are preserved in the various sites of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, they are not, to the best of my knowledge, collected in such easy to access volumes as this. There is however, an enlightening, though somewhat hidden away exhibition on the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune at the Musée d'art et histoire at Saint-Denis that proudly displays some of these caricatures.<sup>1</sup>

The overwhelming majority of the images in the British Library collection were produced between the fall of Napoleon III in September 1870 and the end of 1871. An article by Morna Daniels attributed the acquisition of those at 14001.g.41 and Cup1001.l.1 to one Frédéric Justen who donated them to the British Museum on 9 March 1889. It is probable that this was the same Frederick Justen who was listed as a bookseller of German origin in the 1881 census and – given the significant overlap of the content – that he also donated a third collection (now found at shelfmark Cup648.b.2).<sup>2</sup>

The majority of images are French, caricatural in form, and produced in Paris but in addition to these there are significant numbers of German, war-themed illustrations and caricatures, Franco-Belgian caricatures, several images produced in Lyon and a few notable Italian caricatures. The subject matter is split between political cartoons and caricatures of social *moeurs*, with several series of classical battle illustrations. The collection held separately at Cup1001.l.1 is entirely given over to caricatures of an explicitly sexual nature with Bismarck and Napoleon III bearing the brunt of the attacks.

## My Project

I am currently nearing the end of the third year of my PhD, funded by the Concordat scheme between the University of Sheffield and the British Library. My supervisors at Sheffield are Dr. Timothy Baycroft and Prof. Mary Vincent, while Teresa Vernon and Des McTernan are my co-supervisors at the British Library. The working title of the thesis is 'Caricatural representations of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, 1848-1871'. The source material for my third chapter (on the Franco-Prussian War and Commune) is drawn almost entirely from this British Library collection. For this to be properly footnoted and referenced I had to catalogue the entire collection, building upon the work already done by Morna Daniels. I was also, with the help of Des and Teresa,

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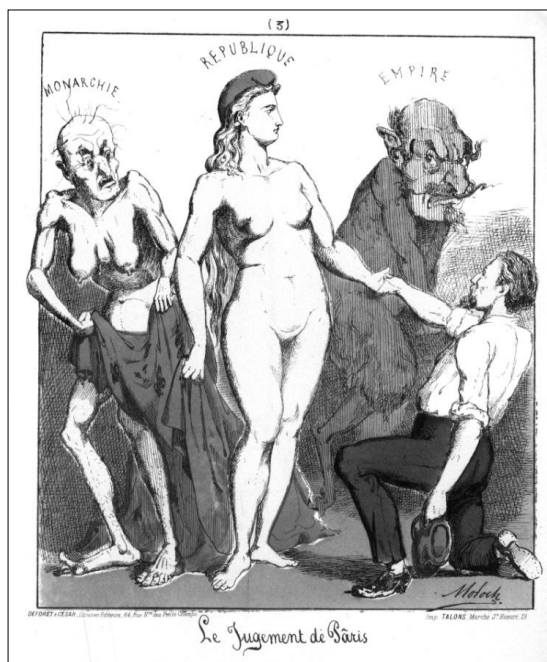
<sup>1</sup> Musée d'art et histoire at Saint-Denis, Paris: <http://www.musee-saint-denis.fr/> - The exhibition is curated by Bertrand Tillier, the foremost expert on French caricature for this period. It is not digitized.

<sup>2</sup> Morna Daniels, 'Caricatures from the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the Paris Commune', *The Electronic British Library Journal*, Article 5 (2005), p. 2.

able to order several hundred digital images of the collection for use on my project (some of which appear in this article).

The essence of the study is the representation of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte in French caricature from his first emergence on the political scene in 1848 to his ignominious fall from grace in the Franco-Prussian War. However, the intention is not to produce a narrative description of sources or to retell a life through caricature. At the core of this thesis

is the question of *how* Louis-Napoleon was portrayed and perceived in caricatures that were produced by Frenchmen and were published primarily, but not exclusively, for the Parisian market. Louis-Napoleon was, in this period, the most important political figure in France. To examine caricatural representations of him is to use his image as a prism through which one can view the key ideological conflicts of the era and also follow the technological and stylistic changes within the caricature press. The impact of censorship, the relationship between high and low culture, the conflict between the great nineteenth-century ideologies



*'Le Jugement de Paris' by Moloch*

of Bonapartism, republicanism and monarchism, and the formation of French national identities can all be better understood through analysis of these caricatured images.

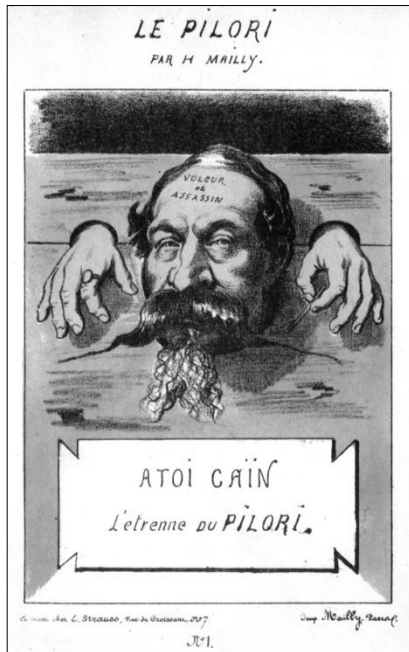
### **The Collection**

Surprising consistencies in the styles, methods and ideologies of the caricaturists emerged from the study of this collection in the British Library. There was an observable desire to humiliate the former leader which was coupled with a strong and often paradoxical sense that the defeated and spent force still represented something to be feared. Looking into the reasons for this approach it becomes clear that representations of Napoleon III are intimately linked to representations of the various republicanism that were offered to the Parisian public in this tumultuous period of war and civil strife. There is an element of scapegoating Napoleon III for France's military failings but beyond this it is possible to detect a sophisticated caricatural attempt to use Napoleon III as a symbol for everything that a particular republicanism was not.

While this is a specific point, its significance as regards the importance of this collection to other researchers becomes clear if one appreciates that it was not just Napoleon III who was used as a symbolic figure for othering by republican



caricaturists. Indeed, this was a critical point in French political history when the conservative republicanism and quasi-monarchism of Adolphe Thiers and the Versailles Assembly came into violent conflict with the democratic-socialist Communards and the ideologically in-between group that would eventually form the republican opposition under Léon Gambetta. Napoleon III was a symbolic figurehead for many caricaturists seeking to map out the range of acceptable political opinion but he was used alongside others such as Thiers, Jules Favre, Gambetta, Emile Ollivier, the monarchist pretenders, army generals and the Commune leadership.



Napoleon III placed in the stocks is the first image of H. Mailly's series *Le Pilori*

If one's academic interests do not necessarily lie with Napoleon III then rest assured that this collection contains depictions of all the other major political figures of the era. Virtually any political figure of significance was caricatured multiple times as they were used by the artists to carve out realms of political normalcy for the readership to squeeze neatly into. Additionally, the caricatures do not concern themselves with politics only. The social *moeurs*, norms and

eccentricities of Parisians through months of siege warfare are the subject of entire series of caricatures by the likes of Cham and Daumier.

### Concluding thoughts

My approach to the collection casts a wide net but does not by any means exhaust all possibilities for future fruitful study. Indeed, any study of the Parisian representations of key figures such as Thiers or Bismarck would be remiss if it were not to utilise this excellent resource. In a more general sense, studies of representations of the Franco-Prussian War, the Commune, and even of women and French

*moeurs*, would be greatly enhanced by the consultation of this collection. For this reason, I will look to publish a follow-up article to that of Daniels in the *Electronic British Library Journal* and investigate the possibility of the digitization and exhibition of this wonderful collection.



J. Corseaux, 'Actualités: Plaignons là!' – Ernest Picard, Jules Favre and Adolphe Thiers subdue Paris (the Marianne figure) and buy peace from the Prussians.



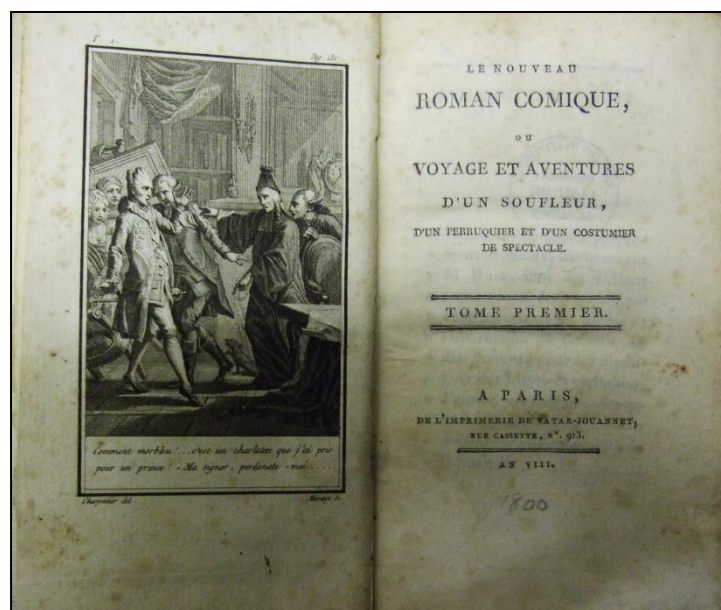
# The Mylne Collection – a special collection of the Taylor Institution Library, Oxford

**Nick Hearn**, *Slavonic and East European Subject Specialist (Language, Literature and Culture)*, Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library, Oxford  
*French Subject Specialist (Language and Literature)*, Taylor Institution Library, St Giles, Oxford

The Mylne Collection is named after Professor Vivienne Mylne, a scholar of French literature and 18<sup>th</sup> century French novel specialist. It is a collection of 1,007 titles, most of which are 18<sup>th</sup> century French novels (and some other works which are not novels, including translations of works from other languages) built up over a period of twenty years or so. It is a remarkable collection in a library renowned for the strength of its eighteenth-century French collections. The Mylne Collection contains at least one or two titles by most of the better-known and many less well-known or even downright obscure French novelists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whose works do not feature. When we say 'better-known', it has to be said that many of these novelists are not (with the exception of Voltaire - 11 works) household names and many of them seem to bear witness to a vanished world. Many will be familiar with Crébillon (8 works in the Mylne collection), Diderot (5 works), Madame de Genlis (19 works), Madame de Graffigny (5 editions: *Lettres d'une Péruvienne*), Restif de la Bretonne (4 works including *Le pornographe*) but such writers as Baculard d'Arnaud (11 works), Madame Cottin (7 works), Mouhy (2 works – one of them in two editions) and Pigault-Lebrun (3 works) are likely to be known only to the *cognoscenti*.

## Collection highlights

Unsurprisingly, quite a few of the author's lives ended abruptly at around the time of the Revolution. Jacques Cazotte's (1719-1792; one work) counter-revolutionary letters resulted in his arrest in August 1792 and although he escaped for a time through the efforts of his daughter, he was beheaded the following month. Even Madame Cottin, who lead a reclusive life in the South West of France writing novels (of which the Mylne collection has seven) about courageous and noble-spirited heroines including *Amélie de Mansfield* (MYLNE.238) and *Elizabeth ou les exilés de Sibérie* (MYLNE.239, 240), was affected by the Revolution as her husband, a banker, was found dead (of natural causes - presumably nervous exhaustion) in his bed after being denounced at the



Club des Jacobins. When titles of books in the Mylne collection are cited in this article, their Taylor shelfmark is given in brackets after the title: e.g. MYLNE 1.

Several anecdotes about some of these authors stick in the mind. Alain René Lesage (1668-1747; 3 works) was evidently, in an age of patronage, an independent character. When asked to read his manuscript to the Duchesse de Bouillon he turned up two hours late as he had been observing a trial at a law-court (one of his interests). On being reprimanded for making her guests waste two hours of their time he replied that it would be easy to make up the loss of time. He would simply not read his comedy and with that he walked out never to return.

There are some remarkable oddities and rarities in the collection. The *Mémoire de Sultan-Faithful* (MYLNE.788) by Jacques-Hippolyte Ronesse is a narrative in the form of a lawsuit written by a dog. Just as remarkable as the heterogeneity of the authors varying enormously in literary stature (and including many anonymous and pseudonymous authors) is the multiplicity of places of publication. *La courtisane convertie, ou, L'âge d'or à Bamboul par un Talapoin* (MYLNE.19) is perhaps, not unsurprisingly given its anonymity, published in London while Saint-Foix's *Lettres turques* (MYLNE.804) are published in Amsterdam. While most are published in Paris or provincial French cities, others are published in London, Amsterdam, Parma, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Vienna and even Dublin.

### **Vivienne Mylne's Background**

Vivienne Mylne, the scholar after whom the collection is named, was born in 1923 in Southern China of Methodist missionary parents and died in 1992. In 1927 all foreign nationals were requested to leave China and so the family returned to the UK. In 1939, the family moved to Jersey. In June of the following year, the Channel Islands were invaded by the Germans and later in that year Vivienne and her parents were arrested for disseminating news broadcast from London which they had listened to on their radio. At this time she was teaching classics at Jersey College for Girls. She was sentenced to three years imprisonment, which was commuted to one year. She was sent off to Troyes to serve her sentence, her parents being allowed to remain in Jersey to serve their sentences, as they were elderly. It is perhaps hard to see how a period of enforced confinement in Troyes prison could result in awakening a lifetime interest in French literature, but after this experience she transferred her academic interests from the Classics to French. Due to the good offices of Patience Webb and her powers of influence, she was freed from prison after eight months to resume teaching at Jersey College, where Patience Webb also taught. More information about her experiences in Occupied Jersey can be found in the Vivienne Mylne Collection in the Jersey Trust Archive.

Patience Webb was also instrumental in Mylne coming to Oxford to Lady Margaret Hall (which was Webb's own college) to study French. LMH is an Oxford College with an excellent French collection and Vivienne Mylne is listed on the library website as one of its donors. She went on to become a Senior Lecturer and finally a Professor at the University of Kent where she became an authority on the 18<sup>th</sup> century French novel.

### **Compilation of the Bibliography**

Mylne is best remembered for two works: *The eighteenth-century French novel: techniques of illusion* (1965) and for the work on which she collaborated with Angus Martin and Richard Frautschi *Bibliographie du genre romanesque français, 1751-1800* (1977). It would seem that the compilation of the latter went hand-in-hand with the building up of the collection now known as the Mylne Collection. The *Bibliographie du genre romanesque français, 1751-1800* follows on from an earlier bibliography by Silas P. Jones which covers the first half of the eighteenth century, entitled *A list of French prose fiction from 1700 to 1750: with a brief introduction* by S. Paul Jones (1939). Jones's bibliography was however only to bear fruit in terms of critical output several decades later in the 1960s and 1970s. Creative stagnation was thought to have set in with the French novel in the second half of the eighteenth century. Vivienne Mylne was not convinced by this view. She was sure that the originality and special character of the French novel during this period of sensibility, combined with its interest in moral questions, would be revealed if the totality of this literature was better known. This provided a motivation for the compilation of the bibliography.

The definition of 'genre romanesque' is wider than that of a mere novel. *Contes* for instance, or indeed anything with a narrative element (unless in verse) were included. As the 18<sup>th</sup> century advanced, translations grew in number and so they too were included in this bibliography of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Unlike Jones, the trio attempted to enumerate all editions of a particular work and unlike Jones they also included brief information about the content of each work. The main libraries used were the British Library, the Bibliothèque nationale and the Bibliothèque de l' Arsenal, although they also made use of the volumes of the *National Union Catalog* which started to issue its printed volumes after they had commenced work. As these volumes began to appear in 1968 and their project was well under way by this time we can infer that the three of them began work on the bibliography in the mid-sixties which would have been just after Vivienne Mylne completed her book on the eighteenth-century French novel. They also made use of what Vivienne Mylne terms 'auxiliary libraries' including those of Leningrad and Moscow and the Chateau d'Oron in Switzerland (invaluable for novels in the latter years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century).

The achievement of this bibliography is all the more remarkable when one considers that the three of them were living on different continents – Angus Martin in Australia (Macquarie University), Richard Frautschi in the USA (Pennsylvania State University) and Vivienne Mylne in the UK, before the advent of email and OCLC FirstSearch and computers in general. One stumbling-block mentioned in the extensive introduction to the bibliography was that the French revolutionary calendar does not neatly fit with the Gregorian calendar as its year begins and ends with the month of Vendémiaire which begins on 22, 23 or 24 September. As one rarely knows in which month a book is published, they decided to adopt the arbitrary but necessary expedient of nominating the Gregorian year which had the most months in common with the revolutionary one – thus Year 1 became 1793, Year 2 1794 and so on.

Between the years 1966 and 1985, Vivienne Mylne maintained a 'correspondence by invoice' with one of her main book-suppliers J. Geoffrey Aspin (mostly it contains invoices, lists and letters from Aspin to her). He would frequently send her lists of works he thought she might be interested in before offering them more generally in his catalogues. This correspondence is preserved in the Rare Books Room of the Taylor Institution Library and is a fascinating source of information about the antiquarian book trade particularly as it relates to 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century French books in France and the UK in the sixties and seventies. It also provides details about the social history for the period as well as biographical (or bibliographical!) details about Mylne's and Aspin's lives. In the course of the correspondence, the British currency goes decimal, typewriters change from manual to golfball with computers in the offing, Aspin divorces, temporarily gives up full-time antiquarian bookselling to go back to academic teaching at Liverpool, moves from Little Sutton to Hay-on-Wye and Vivienne Mylne publishes her long-awaited collaborative bibliography and becomes a Professor. Aspin's accompanying letters to Vivienne Mylne become longer and more revealing as the correspondence goes on. On 19<sup>th</sup> June 1980 he addresses her for the first time as Vivienne rather than Dr Mylne!

It also becomes apparent to what extent the bibliography and the collection are complementary activities, although the collection is not restricted to the dates of the bibliography. One of Mylne's criteria for selection was understandably whether a particular title was possessed by any other library – information which she was well-placed to have at her disposal. Thus in a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> April 1974 she ticks a title on one of Aspin's lists. It is the novel *Jeannette ou la fervente paysanne* [1772] (MYLNE.655) and she notes approvingly 'Not known' but against *Contes moraux (en prose)* by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont she writes 'No. In BN'. Aspin frequently alludes to the bibliography. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1969 for instance he writes as follows, 'Dear Dr Mylne, Thank you very much for the settlement of your invoice and for the details of your bibliography. At first sight, it looks like a most useful and interesting work and I shall very much look forward to seeing it. Maybe I shall recognise one or two old friends in the pages!' On 27<sup>th</sup> December 1973, he writes, 'Will the bibliography appear this year? Are you getting bored with this question? I myself am planning a Corneille bibliographical updating to include unrecorded editions I have acquired over the years'. When the *Bibliographie du genre romanesque* is finally published he is very grateful (letter of 20<sup>th</sup> September 1977), possibly not just for being mentioned in the acknowledgements but for the use he will be able to make of it in his work as an antiquarian bookseller!

In fact, it becomes apparent over the course of the correspondence that Aspin also has aspirations to publish. His publishing career was not destined to be as glorious as Vivienne Mylne's. Thus on 6th June 1973, Vivienne Mylne writes, 'I hope that your Quinault book comes through the ordeal by delegacy. Aren't publishers slow?' Sadly, there is no indication that his book was ever published although there is a record of his MA thesis on Quinault held by Manchester University. His collection of 17<sup>th</sup> century French plays was recently acquired by the Department of Early Printed Books at Trinity College Library, Dublin. The plays numbering 1,500 items date from

the early years of the seventeenth century to the first half of the eighteenth century and include many minor writers as well as the better known. As they were sold and not donated and he was better-known as a bookseller than a scholar, they are unlikely to be known as the Aspin collection. More details can be found in the *Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter, Trinity College Library*, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Volume 1, Issue 2 (available online).

### **Location of the Collection**

The Mylne Collection, like other Taylor Institution Library special collections, is not currently located in the main Taylor Institution Library itself at St Giles in central Oxford but in the Libraries' Repository at Nuneham Courtenay, a small village some five miles south of it. It is kept together as a collection and readers may order books from it to the Taylor Institution Library in Oxford or may with special permission visit and find all 1,007 novels in one place in the same bay of shelves – so from the point of view of readers it is not a bad solution to Oxford's problem of space in that the volumes are all there in one place and can be browsed. It is perhaps in another sense not entirely unfitting that they should be there. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, another great French eighteenth-century novelist was greatly admired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Harcourt and is said to have stayed in the village in 1767 and to have planted seeds of many foreign wild flowers including perhaps the wild bryony which trails among the trees of the Harcourt estate as it does in his novel *La nouvelle Héloïse*. As already mentioned, there are no novels by Jean-Jacques Rousseau in the Mylne collection although there is a novel by Pierre Rousseau, *Les faux pas* (MYLNE.793), published in 1755.



### **Future of the Collection and digitization**

The future location of the Mylne collection is uncertain. The Repository at Nuneham Courtenay is due to close once the new high-density storage facility is completed in South Marston near Swindon. The 1.3 million books currently at the Repository as well as 2.7 million from the New Bodleian are due to be moved there from Michaelmas 2010. The new Depository will house low-use material and especially material which is also available digitally and its total capacity will be 8 million volumes. As it will be high-density storage it will not be possible for readers to have direct browsing access to the material. The New Bodleian is to be redesigned as a centre for housing the Libraries' special collections by creating high-quality storage for them, supporting advanced research and allowing public access through exhibitions. It will be known as the Weston Library in honour of the Garfield Weston foundation which donated £25 million in March 2008. There is however a principle that older material from the Taylor would only be sent to the Weston Library if it is not modern languages-related. The Taylor Institution Library is currently full to capacity and would, as matters currently stand, be unlikely to be able to receive its special collections back again.

Towards the end of 2005, the University of Oxford concluded a mass-digitization agreement as a result of which many of the titles in the Mylne collection are even now available on-line through Google Books. Furthermore, the agreement with Oxford stated that the University would receive an Oxford copy of all books digitized in the project. As a result of a recent financial donation, it seems likely that within the next year titles digitized by Google will be available fully accessible through records on the Oxford online catalogue OLIS and therefore also on COPAC.

Google has been criticised for the quality of its digitization and its failure to recognize in its implementation the peculiar characteristics of the book as a format with its own conventions and material features and it seems unlikely that a digital copy of a book will ever be more than a pale reflection of the original for scholars and bibliographers. In one of the letters (8<sup>th</sup> May 1979) in the Mylne-Aspin correspondence there is a disagreement about the novel *Les amours de Sapho et de Phaon* by Sacy (MYLNE.800). Vivienne Mylne writes as follows, 'I would tend to disagree about your copy being the first edition. Mine is in -8 on better paper and with generous spacing between the lines. Wasn't it usual to have the princeps in -8 and then a cheaper in -12 version as the second edition?' A digital version will never completely replace the actual book. For example, Google pays scant attention to different editions of the same work or to bindings. Another argument for maintaining the integrity and visibility of special collections in their physical rather than virtual form is that as academic collections become more similar to one another through approval plans and approved suppliers, the only way in which libraries can become distinct from one another is through their special collections in their full glory as collections of physical rather than virtual books.

The Mylne Collection raises a number of issues. How do scholarly bibliographers compare as book-collectors with librarians or book-sellers? It highlights the process and importance of the work of bibliographers – especially of bibliographers who work on the grand scale. At one point in the correspondence (4<sup>th</sup> Jan 1978), Mylne points out that it is only the English and the Americans who take on the really big jobs – the French restrict themselves, perhaps prudently, to bibliographies of particular authors. It is amusing that a collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century novels should itself give rise to something that resembles an epistolary novel in this correspondence between academic and book-dealer. It is a sobering thought that the Mylne-Aspin correspondence would be unlikely to be preserved in the age of email. It also raises questions about special collections in academic libraries, how they should be stored and made accessible to scholars. The fact that Vivienne Mylne took the time and trouble to collect the physical books would suggest that it was not enough for her that these books exist as abstract items in a bibliographical list. On the other hand, bibliographers and book-collectors are perhaps a special breed with a strong obsessive streak! If Google has failed to digitize to scholarly standards, how could the job have been done better? To what extent is a mass-digitization project appropriate for the digitization of a collection of this kind? Finally, there is as yet no detailed or comprehensive guide to the multiplicity of French special collections in Oxford let alone the British Isles.

# The printed French Revolution collections in the British Library

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## Introductory note

Given below is a short description of the size and scholarly value of one of the major French-language collections held at the British Library in London. Formally known as the Croker collection but more usually called the French Revolutionary Tracts, it is the result of three successive series of acquisitions made in the years 1817, 1831 and 1856 from the politician and writer John Wilson Croker. It comprises almost 50,000 French-language, separate items published immediately before, throughout and in the aftermath of the French Revolution (FR) and all relating or connected to that world-changing event. It is the largest such collection in any library in the world outside France and is an outstanding resource for historians. The occasion for this article is my completion of the cataloguing of the FR sequence of tracts within this collection as described below and the hope that the whole collection may become better known and used.

## The French Revolution and printing

As a political event, the French Revolution has reverberated down the centuries and still retains its enduring significance. It created the terminology of “left” and “right” and the model of revolution as the most desirable agent of social and political change. These have dominated, determined and confined the spectrum of political possibilities for 200 years and only began to weaken after the end of the Cold War. This spectrum ranged from extreme utopianism and a belief in planned and morally improvable societies to extreme reaction. The Russian Empire recoiled from the French Revolution whilst the Russian, Chinese and Cambodian revolutionaries claimed to draw inspiration and tactics from it. Britain, however, opted for, and still largely defends a gradualist approach to social change. Even today, the ban on displaying or wearing overt religious insignia or clothes in state schools in France, is squarely founded on the intention to protect the principles embodied in the secular republic which the Revolution lastingly bequeathed.

Of course, such lessons as it offered could and can only be learned from a collection and study of the vast amount of printed materials which the Revolution created and left behind. To consider these materials is also to realise the scale of the sea change which occurred in the world of French printing, from 1789 onwards, as the trade guilds were dissolved and every man was free to set himself up as a printer, as print-runs increased quite massively, especially of pamphlets and ephemeral literature which abounded in a way that they never had before, and as so many issues and people found a voice. To consider these materials is also to understand the extent to which widespread accessibility depends on cheapness of production and this does much to explain the quality and appearance of so much of the printed output of this era and how it adapted to reach its intended audience. They are deeply unglamorous to behold: printed on cheap paper in the same standard octavo format, often poorly inked, often, for reasons of economy, lacking a separate title-page and giving



minimal authorial or bibliographical information. Yet it is precisely these deficiencies which allowed them to be printed in such huge numbers, to be read by candlelight or torchlight, at home or in meeting rooms or public places, which allowed Government to speak to its people and which allowed the voices of so many individuals to be heard in the public realm. The extent to which such an abundance of print, so cheaply and quickly produced and distributed, discussing so many ideas and possibilities, allowed the French Revolution to define and coordinate itself and to evolve as it did still remains a question for research.

### **The library of the British Museum in its early days**

Opened to the public in 1759, the British Museum Library was exceptionally well placed to collect and offer a body of works concerning this great event. Unlike most other research libraries in Britain of that time, it was conceived as a public library which was open to all on the basis of need rather than through membership of, for example, a particular learned society or academic body. In consequence, the Library was placed under a continuing obligation to obtain material which responded to a very diverse demand. In addition, the four foundation collections which had been brought together to create the Library already held a wealth of foreign-language, especially French-language, printed and manuscript materials and it was possession of them which allowed the Library, from then until now, to regard collection on a global scale and in a great variety of languages as a legitimate part of its remit. This was especially the case with French publications as French was then the international language in practically every field. Furthermore, France was and would continue to be a major world power as well as Britain's chief rival, until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in the creation of empires. Knowledge about it was therefore essential.

Although implicit from the beginning, these functions of the British Museum Library and its identity as a "universal" library would become clearly articulated only in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it struggled with a very limited acquisitions budget and a reliance on legal deposit as it attempted to build its collections. Very fortunately, however, Britain's interests were worldwide, its engagement with Europe was intense and British publishing was therefore abundant, rich and strongly reflective of these facts. London also contained many foreign communities including a substantial French one. In the 1770s-1780s, this had included the doctor, political theorist and subsequent ardent revolutionary Jean-Paul Marat (1743-1793). As the French Revolution gained momentum, this community was greatly increased by refugees of various political commitments including, among many others, the disgraced French General Controller of Finances Charles-Alexandre de Calonne (1734-1802). Their published contributions, while in Britain, to the debate on the Revolution as well as to British intellectual life more generally, can be found in the English Short Title Catalogue (available online at: <http://estc.bl.uk>). It appears that two printers in particular specialised in these publications. They are T. Spilsbury and T. Baylis and searches under these surnames, using "publisher" as the search term, are particularly effective in retrieving a great number of works, in both French and English, bearing on France and the French Revolution.



Up until about 1820, a system, both restricted and awkward, of funding the British Museum Library as well as the problems caused by successive trade embargoes during the Napoleonic Wars, made the acquisition of French imprints difficult and sparse. By that year, however, a series of magnificent donations and bequests had begun the consolidation of its position as the National Library and as a centre of research. Collections received included the personal libraries of the naturalist Joseph Banks and of C. M. Cracherode and a complete set of the printed papers of the House of Commons. It is striking how, in these years, so many of these collections were obtained through the efforts of highly engaged Trustees of the British Museum or those who became committed to the enrichment of its library through some professional contact with it.

In 1835 and 1836, two Parliamentary Commissions were held into the structure and workings of the British Museum and all its departments. Subsequent to their recommendations and to the appointment in 1837 of Anthony Panizzi, a man of extraordinary energy and perceptiveness, as Keeper of Printed Books, the British Museum Library was confirmed in its identity as the national library of the United Kingdom. An era of massive expansionism now began as acquisitions policies were definitively articulated and determinedly sustained. Evidently, there were hierarchies of priority but these policies effectively covered the entire world, every language and every age of printing in every format. It is their accomplishments which have given the British Library the international status that it has today. It was in this context that further enhancement of existing collections was seen as desirable if not essential.

### **John Wilson Croker and the acquisition of the first French Revolution Collection: the F tracts**

One committed benefactor of the British Museum Library was John Wilson Croker (1780-1857) who, in 1813 as Secretary of the Admiralty, was instrumental in ensuring that the Library would receive copies of all materials published by his Department. Croker was a man who would pass his professional life in high political and administrative positions and remain close to the centre of power. Academically, he was a prolific contributor to the *Quarterly Review* and he also edited or prefaced a good number of 18<sup>th</sup> century British literary classics. His involvement with France is a largely unexplored part of his character and his intellectual development. It began with his childhood education in Cork, Ireland, where he learned French from native French-speakers, and was sustained both in his political work and writings. Most remarkably and most enduringly, however, it is apparent in the efforts he made on behalf of the British Museum Library. One fact is clear: whilst having no admiration for the French Revolution, he clearly recognised it as a foundational and transforming event in modern European history.

In October 1816, Croker wrote to the British Museum authorities to notify them of the availability for sale in Paris of a private collection of 15,000 works in approximately 25,000 parts produced during and all relating to the French Revolution. Then, through his very active agency as well as the financial co-operation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (and also Trustee of the British Museum), the sale

was agreed at substantially less than the original asking price of £400 and the entire collection was safely received in London by early April 1817. The different works were bound roughly according to subject and were all given the shelfmark F, standing for France, which identified them as a specific collection. They now comprise the 1927 volumes at shelfmarks F.1 - F.1927, the 197 volumes at shelfmarks F.1\* - F.197\* and the 71 volumes at shelfmarks F.1\*\* - F.71\*\*. By this one acquisition, the British Museum Library became the biggest holder in the world, outside France, of French Revolutionary imprints. Successive acquisitions, as noted below, have ensured that the British Library retains this claim.

### **The contents of the F tracts**

By itself alone, this collection offers a vast panorama of all the activities which constituted the Revolution. There are the descriptions of the États Généraux (and the accompanying cahiers de doléances) whose summoning by Louis XVI generated a vast pamphlet literature concerning the exact nature, power and authority of deliberative assemblies within the French monarchical system (shelfmarks F.11 – F.86). There are close examinations of the different Estates, especially the Clergy and Nobility, their value to French society and their claim to authority or status within it (shelfmarks F.87 - F.178). Despite its many mutations, one constant throughout the Revolution was its spirit of accountability and transparency which put it quite at odds with the Ancien Régime and its notions of “The King’s Secret” as a system of government. We therefore have the *Journal des États-Généraux* (shelfmarks F.1524 - F.1549) as well as the *Procès-verbaux des séances de l’Assemblée Nationale Constituante* (shelfmarks F.1620 - F.1652), of the Assemblée Législative (shelfmarks F.1653 - F.1668) and of the Convention Nationale (shelfmarks F.1669 - F.1725). Accompanying all the political turbulence which characterised the Revolution is the great number of reports, projects and theoretical works discussing the kinds of constitutions available to the French Constitutional Monarchy and then to the French Republic (shelfmarks F.795 - F.807).

This collection charts the breakdown in French society as the Revolution gathers momentum. Much is published on the taking of the Bastille and on the national significance of this event (shelfmarks F. 235 - F.242), on the breakdown of military discipline and loyalty to the Monarchy in Nancy in 1790 (shelfmarks F.326 - F.328), on brigandage in the countryside throughout this period (shelfmark F.571), on the great rejection of the Revolution in the Vendée (shelfmarks F.1046 - F.1048) and on the violent rejection of compromise with “counter-revolution” evinced in the massacres of September 1792 (shelfmark F.936). As monarchical rule disintegrates, so a new force - the State embodied in its legislature - comes into being and begins to assert itself. We see the result of this in the courts and tribunals, local and national, which the new sovereign authority creates and to which they are accountable (shelfmarks F.1086 - F.1087 and F.1121 - F.1131), in the attempts to soften the cruelty of judicial execution by the introduction of the guillotine (shelfmark F.1159) and in the creation of the Garde Nationale to maintain public order and defence of constitutional government (shelfmarks F.249 - F.252). As in all other regimes, it is the public finances which allow or constrain all things and which

were an enduring and chronic problem for all French governments until Napoleon (shelfmarks F.179 - F.234).

Most striking and impressive of all, however, for anyone who consults this material extensively, is to see the deliberate creation of something so fundamental to our lives that it is invisible: the Nation-State. In 1789, France was a collection of provinces with different laws, currencies, languages and undefined borders, united only in their allegiance to the monarch. By 1794, the central government had, often brutally, asserted its sovereignty and the uniformity of law and currency over the entire territory. It had also defined the exact limits and divisions of that territory. It had taken from religion the legal prerogative in all things, for example marriage and divorce (shelfmarks F.535 - F.537) or the freedom of the press (shelfmarks F.524 - F.526). The Monarchy's ancient partnership with the Catholic Church was brought to an end and the absolute supremacy of the State was now enforced with the imposition of the Civic Oath on the Clergy (shelfmarks F.1055 - F.1057). In a heady moment of revolutionary Messianism, it had even remade the world of time by the imposition of the Republican calendar (shelfmark F.1185). More prosaically and more enduringly, the laws and practices governing the farewells to and hygienic disposal of the dead were harmonised and improved (shelfmarks F.1083 - F.1085). For the living, the Revolutionary government instituted or endorsed a series of national and local festivals and commemorative days intended to celebrate its achievements and to replace local patriotisms with a pan-French one (shelfmarks F.1058 - F.1069). In these and many other ways, it became possible to cease to be primarily Norman or Auvergnat and to become French. The condition of this was to live in the ever-growing presence and authority of the State.

The nature, purpose and direction of that authority did not go uncriticized, for the Revolution also gave birth to news journals of all political orientations. Their beginnings were shaky, titles were often ephemeral and sometimes the voice of just one man as we see in the prolific outpourings of Marat who produced *Le Moniteur patriote*, *Le Publiciste parisien*, *L'Ami du Peuple*, *Le Publiciste de la République française* and others (shelfmarks F.300 - F.313). However, periodicals and journals did proliferate and this collection holds complete or broken runs of many of them. In retrospect, we see them clearly as the foundation of French journalism. There is the *Journal de la Société des Amis de la Constitution monarchique* (shelfmarks F.1427 - F.1430) which, until its position was discredited, competed with the increasingly republican *Journal des Amis de la Constitution* (shelfmarks F.1464 - F.1467). There is the slightly ironic, aristocratic and mocking first series of the *Actes des Apôtres* (shelfmarks F.1353 - F.1362) which failed to hold its ideological ground against the evolving dynamics of the Revolution. Whilst many struggled to be national in coverage such as the *Journal général de France* (shelfmark F.128\* - F.132\*), others aimed for a purely local audience such as the *Chronique de Paris* (shelfmark F.110\* - F.117\*) or for a particular satirical and sometimes grimly humorous style such as the *Journal du Diable* (shelfmark F.1426) or the populist *Je m'en fouts ou pensées de Jean Bart* (shelfmark F.1460 - F.1462). And there are many, many more. These and many like them were enough to embed the concept of the press as a permanent

feature of French public life and to destroy the idea that a necessary, if covert, feature of any periodical publication was endorsement of the Government.

If there is one area in which this collection can be judged as deficient, it is in the relative absence of the reports and decision of the many government committees which were formed to address the issues, internal or external, which the various Revolutionary governments had to face. On the other hand, it does abundantly depict the civil society which was suddenly and massively called into being consequent on the creation of representative government and with the right to comment on that government. Besides finding its different voices, civil society also found its many institutions. Local government was completely restructured and re-animated as an active partner of the central government. The two, however, could also become antagonists in the political and revolutionary process as the case of the Commune de Paris showed (shelfmarks F.602 - F.628). As the États Généraux became the Assemblée Constituante and then the Assemblée Législative, so the citizens who had elected them rapidly became discussion groups which evolved into organised political clubs demanding accountability from their representatives and claiming a standing role in the business of government. The dialogue between legislators and the public, characteristic of any democracy, was thereby permanently engaged in France. Something of the scale and range of these various clubs can be seen in the holdings at shelfmark F.358 but the most famous among them was the network of Jacobin clubs which spread across the land and which used the Jacobin club in Paris as something of a headquarters and clearing house for information and for political strategy. Such was its growing power that it eventually felt able to rival and dominate the National Convention but it fell with the fall of Robespierre in July of 1794. Its aims, ambitions and the reactions to it can be seen at shelfmark F.333 – F.357.

Of course, it is people who make history and this collection introduces us to those whose names have lived on and to those who made only a short but radiant appearance. Naturally, there is much by and about that political theorist and eventually ruthless politician Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794), to be found at shelfmarks F.849 - F.858 but little by or about his ideological ally Louis-Antoine de Saint-Just (1767-1794). Understandably, there is an enormous amount concerning every aspect of the kingship and personality of Louis XVI (shelfmarks F.862 - F.922) and just as much about Marie-Antoinette (shelfmarks F.1 - F.3, F.930 - F.933, F.1577). It is of great fascination and full of tragedy as it marks the stages of her life from daughter of an Empress, through the clichés of sexually dissolute and financially rapacious Queen of France, reactionary wife of a cuckolded king, to the status of widowhood, destitute of all she once had, then going to her fate on the scaffold. There is surely still much to be written on her emblematic status as a woman, rather than a queen, and on the use of her as a warning to all women in stern, republican, revolutionary France of what a wife should not be!

In the works at shelfmark F.774, we meet Olympe de Gouges (1748-1793) for the first time. She strides briefly from the darkness onto the Parisian literary scene with her plays involving the equality of women, then moves into the political arena with

the same message and subsequently, with great bravery, offers to defend Louis XVI at his trial. As in so many revolutions, she shows us what might have been before soon dying the same death that he does. At shelfmark F.244, we meet that literary adventurer Simon-Nicolas-Henri Linguet (1736-1794), who lived by his wits and contradictory words, who attempted to withdraw from politics but whose writings, written in a pre-revolutionary universe, condemned him to death at the hands of that great dealer in revolutionary justice the Tribunal Révolutionnaire (shelfmarks F.947 – F.948).

Linguet is now largely forgotten as was Olympe de Gouges until recently, but two of the causes which they championed remain with us and were taken forward as a major part of his lifetime's work by the abbé Henri Grégoire (1750-1831). These were the issues of slavery and racism. The publications at shelfmarks F.772 - F.773 show some of the scale of his achievement in combating these social scourges. Sporadically translated since their first publication, they cry out for a modern, critical English-language edition. Not far from them along the shelf are the volumes at F.678 - F.733. These include the work of the Société des Amis des Noirs as well as works examining racism, the colonies and exploitation based on skin colour.

Of course, the French Revolution provoked a massive ideological and political response across the Western world with Britain in the front rank on both counts. Unsurprisingly, therefore, we find Tom Paine (1737-1809) at shelfmark F.1862 but only in his lesser works. In this collection, there is no copy of *The Rights of Man* in either French or English. We also find Edmund Burke but only in some translations of his parliamentary speeches or correspondence (shelfmark F.1582). These include the 1791 Paris edition of his *Letter to a member of the National Assembly*, which advocates external intervention to halt the Revolution and also the 1796 Paris edition of his *Thoughts on the prospect of a regicide peace* (shelfmark F.559(1)), but not a copy of his *Reflections on the revolution in France*, in either English or French, which correctly identified the events in France as, indeed, a revolution and not a political crisis and which thereby greatly deepened British apprehension and debate about them.

We may therefore conclude that this collection was created as chance allowed rather than by schematic and planned acquisitions. This statement and conclusion do not prevent it from being magnificent. Its scope and scale are huge and offer insights and access to every part of the French Revolution and let us come to know and understand, if not necessarily accept, the characters who peopled it and whose actions contributed so much to shape the France of today.

### **The French Revolution reflected in the King's Library**

Before 1792 and the downfall of the Monarchy, the French monarchical system had been quite stable for almost 1000 years. However, from 1792 until 1850, the French system of government moved from the First Republic to Napoleonic Empire, to Bourbon Monarchy then to elective Orleanist Monarchy. It therefore became critically important to understand the wellsprings of the political turbulence which had so suddenly sprung from the events of 1789. This concern was reflected in the

acquisitions made for the library created by King George III to which he gave substantial public access. Besides its many political memoirs and the accounts of the European conflicts generated by the French Revolution, it also contained great runs of publications appearing under the collective titles of *Procès-verbal* of the Assemblée Constituante and the Assemblée Législative, the Convention Nationale and the Directoire and Corps Législatif which succeeded them. This vast library of about 60,000 books and 20,000 pamphlets was acquired for the nation by the British Museum Library in 1823. After construction of a suitable gallery to house it, the whole collection was received in 1828 and became available to the general public.

### **John Wilson Croker and the acquisition of the second French Revolution Collection: the FR tracts**

Since 1817 and in tandem with his political career, John Wilson Croker had also been maintaining his commitment to the matter of the French Revolution to the extent that, by 1830, he had built up a private collection of about 20,000 publications relating to it. Near the end of that year, he offered to sell it to the British Museum Library and, by mid-1831, the offer was finalised and effected for the modest sum of £240. The Library had been able to obtain a considerable discount on the original asking price because the collection, as originally offered, necessarily included a good number of duplicates. Despite attempts to remove all of them, it was inevitable, given the number of publications involved, that some would be inadvertently included. By this purchase, the holdings of the first collection at shelfmark F. were immeasurably strengthened. A much greater amount was included about the workings of government and constitutions after 1795. The speeches and writings of lesser known but far more numerous politicians abounded as did materials for understanding the growth of the French State through the creation and functioning of the départements, municipalités and communes that we know today. The same was true for an understanding of the transformation of the French Catholic Church into the Constitutional Church and of the transformation of the provincial parliaments into an elaborate and detailed system of justice and judiciary. Some independently acquired works were subsequently added to this collection to become the 600 volumes now at shelfmarks FR.1 to FR.600. In this case, the letters FR stand for **F**rench **R**evolution. Extremely importantly, this collection added greatly to the material already held in the F. sequence concerning France's colonies in the Caribbean. This is particularly true of the colony of Saint-Domingue and I describe some of this material later in this article.

### **John Wilson Croker and the acquisition of the third French Revolution Collection: the R tracts**

Croker's final contribution to the British Museum Library came in 1856 when he sold for £200 (in effect a donation by him in view of the costs he had already incurred) a second collection, numbering about 15,000 items, of additional revolutionary material which he had assembled. Its remit was larger and far more international than the first two and included publications extending up to the 1840s covering the monarchies of Louis XVIII (shelfmark R.15) and Charles X as well as the lives of Napoleon (shelfmarks R.121 - R.123) and his consort Josephine (shelfmark R.124). There are extremely important works on England (shelfmarks R.286 - R.294) and

specifically on its role in the Revolution (shelfmarks R.291 - R.294), the United States (shelfmark R.313) and Egypt (shelfmarks R.311 - R.312) among other countries. Coverage also extends to the theatre in all its forms (shelfmarks R.395 - R.399), to the fine arts (shelfmarks R.400 - R.402) and to the sciences (R.403 - R.405). It is altogether a dazzling collection. Along with a few other related publications, this material was arranged into 693 volumes and given the shelfmarks R.1 - R.693. In this case, the letter R stands for **Revolution**.

It is these three successive collections, at shelfmarks F, FR and R, comprising about 50,000 items, which constitute what was called the Croker Collection in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but which are now usually called the French Revolutionary Tracts. Around and upon them was built another collection which continues to grow. It comprises the many thousands of publications which have appeared in an array of languages, from the 1790s to the present day, which have examined, considered and meditated on the significance and value of the French Revolution as it has played out across the centuries.

### **Cataloguing and documenting the French Revolutionary Tracts**

While scholars may rejoice at public access to such collections, it is certain that at least some of those librarians and archivists who have read this article up to this point will have felt some apprehension and anxiety as they recall past or current efforts to incorporate such huge and sudden acquisitions into their collections. It is relatively easy to forget the massive burden of cataloguing, shelfmarking and storage that such acquisitions lay on library and archive staff and the immense pressure on them to ensure rapid public access. These factors came into very serious play in the British Museum Library because staff numbers were always too deficient to respond to these issues over what an outsider might consider a reasonable or timely period. In addition to the French Revolutionary Tracts, many other special collections were acquired during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and they, along with the continual and increasing flow of standard publications received by purchase or legal deposit, clamoured for attention. The consequences were predictable and entailed huge cataloguing backlogs. Many colleagues will understand and sympathise intuitively and immediately, as I do, when I think about the situation that my predecessors faced. Unsurprisingly, it took most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to catalogue all of the 15,000 works at shelfmark F and the cataloguing of the 15,000 works at shelfmark R was not completed until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although cataloguing of the 20,000 works in the FR. collection had begun immediately upon receipt, this activity always seemed to cede priority to the other two collections. I do not know the reasons for this. In consequence, it was not finally completed until April 2010. This, I am proud to say, was my achievement.

It has taken almost 200 years to catalogue the French Revolutionary Tracts. Fortunately, they were bound in a relatively meaningful subject and author order and, in recognition of their importance, a proper name/subject index was compiled which could guarantee effective access to them in the absence of individual catalogue records. First published in 1899, a second edition of this index appeared in 1979 as:

*French Revolutionary Collections in the British Library: list of contents of the three special collections of pamphlets, journals and other works in the British Library, relating chiefly to the French Revolution.* Compiled by G. K. Fortescue; revised and augmented by A. C. Brodhurst. London: The British Library, 1979

In it, each of the three collections is listed in numerical order of volume and a brief overview of the contents of that volume is given, e.g.: F.481 *Travaux publics 1790-1797*; FR.84 *Véto royal*, R.284 *Campagne de Paris 1814*. This index is not currently available online. For remote users, therefore, the best way to determine exactly what the contents of each volume are is to go to the British Library's online catalogue at <http://catalogue.bl.uk> and select the BROWSE option, then to specify SHELFMARK as the desired search option, then to enter the relevant F, FR or R volume number as desired.

### **My part in completing public access to the FR Tracts**

When I began work in the French Section of the British Library in 1986, it was common for me to see my elders and betters plying their way through yet another volume of the FR tracts. They spoke occasionally of the scale and richness of these collections but also of their unendingness. They did their work with skill and professionalism but in a spirit of great patience and resignation. This task was the permanent backdrop to all other work but also an impediment. It had something of the eternal about it and seemed as though it could never be completed. These colleagues in the French Section retired in various years during the 1990s and I pay tribute to their work here.

In 1994, the section called "Early Printed Collections" was created within the British Library and I was made responsible for all French imprints published from 1501 to 1850 including the French Revolutionary Tracts. The problem of ensuring public access to them was now mine. In evolving my plans for tackling it, I found that I had one immense and growing advantage over those who had gone before me. This was computerisation. In the 1990s, the British Library used its own in-house computer system called BLAISE which gave me online access but which did not allow me to do online corrections. These were done using marked up paper print-outs. Having started my revision of the French Revolutionary Tracts with the catalogue entries for the F sequence, I was able to check and apply any relevant corrections to volumes 1-100. However, this work went into abeyance during the move from the British Museum to the British Library's new home at St Pancras during 1997-1998 and as the section to which I belonged established itself in its new reading room and developed its range of services. There was a further hiatus as the British Library extended its new computer system ALEPH to the very few staff at St Pancras involved in cataloguing printed material. I received my training in the summer of 2004.

By then, I had decided that completing work on the FR sequence should be my priority. I knew from experience that many of its shelfmarks were erroneous and, additionally, that the approximately 2,000 items contained in volumes FR.356 -



FR.426 still remained to be catalogued. Procedurally, my work was very straightforward and consisted simply of checking each volume, in shelfmark order, against the online catalogue to ensure that its contents were fully described and then amending or creating new records online as necessary. On 11 March 2005, I completed my check of volume FR.1. On 12 April 2010, which was five years later, I completed my check of volume FR.600. During this time, I must have eventually checked about 18,000 catalogue entries, written about 2,300 new ones and made about 3,000 amendments. I willingly admit that I felt great professional pride in having finally completed this task almost 200 years after it was begun. I also immediately admit that a great part of my achievement was due not to my own talents but to the facilities offered by ALEPH (which became my dearest disembodied friend) as it had liberated me from the complex paper trail with which all my predecessors in the post had had to contend.

A prosaic bibliographical process indeed but during which I was drawn into and became familiar with two worlds. The first world was that of the British Museum Library in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I became deeply aware of its procedures and structure and I consequently developed a great admiration for all of my colleagues who had gone before, from the beginning, and who had tried to make sense of these huge collections of tracts, to arrange them meaningfully, to make them available to the public as quickly as possible, even if this meant omitting any notice of duplicate (or triplicate) copies, and who had done these things in a context far more physically and bureaucratically demanding than mine. Whilst I could take issue with them over the subject arrangement that they had created in the bound volumes and therefore in the index, and the often abbreviated quality of the records that they had created, whilst I could fantasize endlessly about what I would have done if the whole collection had come to me in one block, I could never take issue with their sustained effort or their bibliographical and research skills. Never very many in number, they had shouldered these burdens heroically and often for a professional lifetime whilst they had also coped with the exponential growth rate of the collections of the British Museum Library in a building always under reconstruction.

### **The French Revolution and me**

Secondly, I learned about the French Revolution itself. This was necessarily the case as my work on the Tracts increased and as they became a part of my daily life but, to my great surprise, the Revolution became living and present to me. I found myself considering issues, taking sides and becoming invested in certain outcomes. My feeling for the revolutionaries, at least in the beginning, was respect. Considering the ramshackle patrimonial monarchy which they inherited, their achievement was great: they created an ordered, defined nation and implanted the concept of citizenship impartially across the national territory. Astoundingly, they achieved this in just over two years with the completion of the Constitution of 1791 and, through all the political turmoil, the Terror and the Napoleonic Wars which followed, all consequent on the Revolution, the principle of constitutional government and of the sovereignty of the People (however narrowly defined) never disappeared and was finally established by the Third French Republic in 1871.

For an ordinary person like myself, who has benefited enormously from the social and political promises embodied in “liberty, equality and fraternity”, it was hard not to cheer the Revolutionaries on as they set about their work of construction. More generally, my reading of the material that passed through my hands made me think more seriously than I had ever done about the difficulties of government in any state which tries to establish or exercise any form of democracy, about how easy it can be for a state, especially one based on representative democracy, to escape from the control of its citizens. I was led to wonder what exactly any revolution is, whose purposes it serves, when it has been accomplished and can therefore end. I had nevertheless always to bear in mind that my own reflections on the French Revolution and on the precise nature of freedom and equality took place in conditions of great comfort and leisure whilst the Revolutionaries lived in conditions of urgency, stringency and necessity and, like all pre-industrial societies, of great physical arduousness.

One factor that was hugely borne in on me was the sheer cost of the Revolution in every way. Besides the repeated bankruptcies of successive revolutionary governments and the financial chaos which ensued, there was the destruction of buildings and various works of art. It would also seem that as many jobs were lost as were created, that vast numbers of people were left bewildered by the disappearance of a familiar world, that the Revolution was as much the occasion for a looting of the public purse as it was for any notional redistribution of wealth. Most disheartening of all for me was to see how these problems were corralled, if not resolved, by the rise of Napoleon, whose deeply authoritarian regime restored some form of social order and sound money but only by a campaign of great political ruthlessness within France, by endless wars and looting across Europe and by tremendous loss of human life.

For if there is one overwhelming characteristic of the French Revolution, it is its violence. These were frightful times. From the taking of the Bastille onwards, violence or the threat of it, is the context within which political change came about. In much of the pamphlet literature, there is an exultancy in extreme levels of brutality and dreadful death. There is also the increasing willingness on the part of government to deploy this violence at street level and to accentuate an atmosphere of terror in order to consolidate power. Robespierre seems to exemplify this willingness despite his professed love for humanity. Olympe de Gouges comes to mind as one who takes the promise of the Revolution at its word in her defence of the rights and equality of women. It is hard not to be impressed by her text *Les droits de la femme* (shelfmark FR.443(7)) but she addresses it to the increasingly hated Marie-Antoinette, to whom she speaks as one woman to another. She offers to defend Louis XVI because she believes he has the right to a defence. In both instances, it is the Revolution which has allowed her to speak but which condemns her as counter-revolutionary for what she says. She therefore pays the ultimate price. The Revolution is also coterminous with the centralisation of power in Paris and, increasingly, there is no life that it will not sacrifice to obtain that end. As revolutionary zealotry grows, so does the cheapness of life of those who oppose it in any way. This issue is confronted by Gracchus Babeuf (1764-1797) in his work *Du*

*système de dépopulation ou, La vie et les crimes de Carrier...* (shelfmark F.1050(11)) which draws out and condemns the genocidal implications of the political repression of the Vendée from 1793-1796 when scores of thousands were killed. The overwhelming lesson for me was to see who paid the price for someone else's beliefs.

There was one event which distilled the Revolution for me, whose outcome seemed ineluctable and which I found truly compelling to see unfold. It is contained in volumes FR.401 - FR.408, covers the period 1792-1804 and describes a revolution far more profound than that which happened in France and one whose influence outside the Western world may not yet have been fully recognised. It is the transformation of the French slave-based colony of Saint-Domingue into the free black republic of Haïti. It begins with the attempt of the Assemblée Nationale Constituante to implant civil government in Saint-Domingue and encourage the attributes of civil society. The hopes and aspirations of this attempt are contained in the almanach (shelfmark F.1872(1)) printed at Cap Français (now Cap Haïtien) in 1791 for the year 1792. Its title is full of the promise of constitutional government but these become dreams as both civil and race war break out and as colonists and the armies of former slaves settle the issue in a series of terrible conflicts. By 1797, the inevitable has become clear as we see the black liberator Toussaint Louverture enter history in his negotiations with the French Commissioner Sonthonax (shelfmark FR.407(13)) but only to articulate that the French are politically and militarily beaten and that Saint-Domingue will become an independent black republic.

This is a brief political résumé of a history whose substance, in the volumes above, is the declarations, memoirs and pleas of the people who lived it. Inevitably, these stories are mainly those of the expelled white colonists of all classes. Toussaint Louverture speaks abundantly for his own people and much can be inferred about them. These scores of texts recount the hurried evacuations, subsequent destitution, petitions for restitution, compensation, justice, decrivals of slavery and, eventually, the series of failed attempts at reconquest when even nature turns against the French and destroys Napoleon's army of invasion with illness.

I found them all gripping reading and also, I would suggest, a poorly known and underused resource for historians. I do not claim them as unique – a rare occurrence for any printed item – but, many times, I looked in vain for copies of them elsewhere. Doubtless, this situation will change. I hope, therefore, that my work now allows them to enrich the historiography of Haïti. They join all those voices made possible by the Revolution, which have come down to us and which are still heard. It has been one of the great privileges of my professional life to have had such an intimate and prolonged involvement with them.

### **Some further reading**

Besides the index mentioned above, those interested in this collection may wish to read a more detailed account of its acquisition in:

#### **BRODHURST, Audrey C.**

*The French Revolution Collections in the British Library.* In: The British Library Journal. Vol. 2, no. 2, Autumn 1976

They may also wish to know that the Marat collection assembled by his biographer and bibliographer François Chèvremont forms part of the French collections at the British Library. Their acquisition is described in:

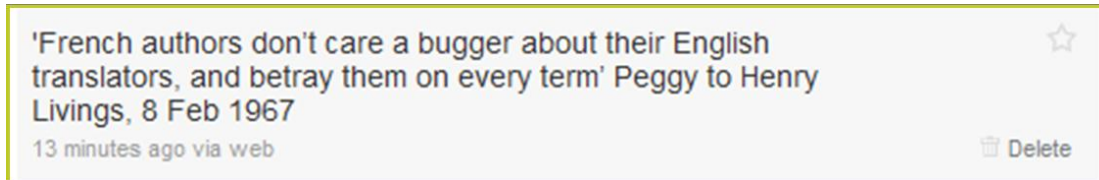
#### **COCK, Jacques de**

*The collections of Marat's bibliographer at the British Library.* In: The British Library Journal. Vol. 19, no. 1, Spring 1993

Anyone wishing to explore the world of print in France during the Revolution will find the following work indispensable:

**REVOLUTION** *in print: the press in France 1775-1800* / Robert Darnton and Daniel Roche, editors. – Berkeley; London: University of California Press in collaboration with the New York Public Library, 1989

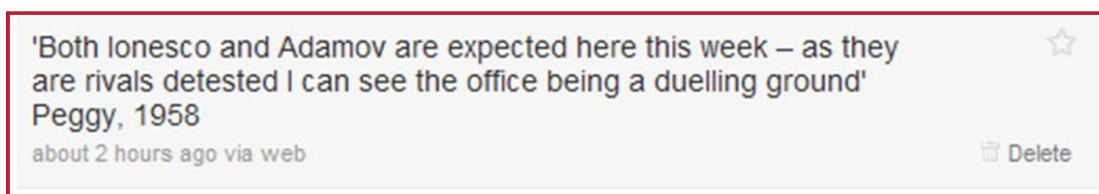




*Tweet from Zoe Wilcox's Twitter page*

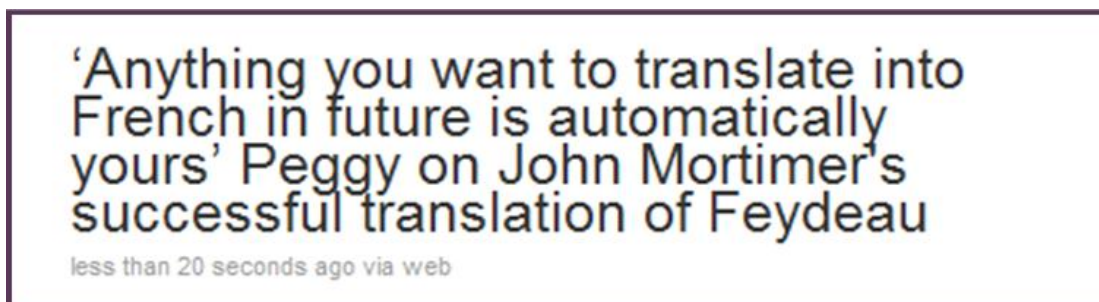
Although representing translations and adaptations didn't offer her much in the way of creative nourishment, she did view this work as vitally important. Since very few London theatre managers spoke French (only Donald Albery according to Peggy), it was impossible for her to interest producers in French plays until they had been translated.

Peggy's interest in foreign work could be attributed to her cosmopolitan upbringing. She was born in New South Wales, Australia and grew up in South Africa. Her family travelled a lot when she was growing up and the time she spent in Japan in particular had a lasting effect on her. She often sought to enthuse others with her passion for Japanese and French art and literature, both in her personal and professional life.



*Tweet from Zoe Wilcox's Twitter page*

Paris for Peggy was synonymous with culture. More of her foreign clients lived in Paris than in any other place, and many of them were émigrés like her. Eugène Ionesco, Arthur Adamov, Fernando Arrabal, Armand Salacrou and Morvan Lebesque were all clients, and she also represented Marcel Aymé, René de Obaldia, Robert Pinget and Boris Vian. In addition, Peggy's roster included translators of French and European work, and in some cases Peggy would represent both the original author and translator of a play. Peggy did however see a distinction between translators who were also dramatists, and those who weren't. She once said that she would not recommend translator (and Peggy's friend) Barbara Wright to do a free adaptation, because she was not a playwright.



*Tweet from Zoe Wilcox's Twitter page*

As a primary source for studying French translation, the archive is probably richest in the correspondence with Peter Meyer, Arthur Adamov, Armand Salacrou, Morvan Lebesque and Barbara Wright. The correspondence gives an insight into:

- Authors view on their translators' work – for instance in the Salacrou file we have his reactions to the work of Barbara Wright, Peter Meyer and others like Lucienne Hill.
- Translators' views of original work – neither Barbara Wright nor Peter Meyer were particularly keen on Salacrou – 'One gets tired of all Salacrou's usual old technical tricks (characters appearing as their younger and older selves, e.g.)' Barbara Wright wrote in a letter to Peggy.
- Contractual negotiations, often indicative of the balance of powers between the source language creative writer and his/her position vis-a-vis the translator in the target language territory, in which the latter's reputation may surpass the former's. When translating Salacrou in 1960, for example, Peggy agreed a 40/60 royalty split between Barbara Wright and Salacrou, after trying for 50/50, since 'of course Salacrou is a great name in France.' However, she followed this up by revealing her trouble establishing him in England: 'Oddly enough, unlike the French avant-garde writers, it has been almost impossible to sell Salacrou over here'

For anyone planning to use the archive of Margaret Ramsay Ltd to research French translation, it's worth looking beyond the obvious. Peggy was marvellously indiscreet and the post-scripts to her letters also contain fascinating tit-bits of gossip about other clients – such as this comment in a letter to an American theatre company:

'Both Ionesco and Adamov are expected here this week – as they are rivals detested I can see the office being a duelling ground', Peggy to Rooftop Theatre 1958.

For more information about the Peggy Ramsay archive, see Zoë's twitter feed at <http://www.twitter.com/PeggyRamsay> or visit the BL's blog at [http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/pinter\\_archive\\_blog/](http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/pinter_archive_blog/)

# Mai 68 forty years on: anniversary books

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With thanks to Daniel Spencer and John Foxall for help with compiling the lists.

In 1998, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'les événements' of May 1968 in France sparked a round of publications focusing on mai 68. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 saw over 70 titles published. As many universities have units which include the study of mai 68, or have whole units on this topic, we have compiled a bibliography drawing attention to items now available in UK libraries. The list below comprises monographs published in 2008 and acquired by the British Library and/or the University of Portsmouth. The list is not exhaustive, but it does give a full indication of the range of publications that marked the anniversary, and we hope that it will prove useful for both teaching and research purposes.

## Overviews of Mai 68 and its heritage

*Dictionnaire de mai 68* / sous la direction de Jacques Capdevielle et Henri Rey. Paris: Larousse, c2008. 9782035837868

*La France des années 68* / sous la direction d'Antoine Artous, Didier Epszajn, Patrick Silberstein. Paris: Syllepse, c2008. 9782849501566

*Mai 68* / Boris Gobille. Paris: La Découverte, 2008. 2707150395 (Repères)

*Les années 68* / Patrick Rotman, Charlotte Rotman. Paris: Seuil, c2008. 9782020913201

*Mai 68: une histoire du mouvement: document* / Laurent Joffrin ; nouvelle préface de l'auteur. Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 2008. 2757807285 (First published in 1988)

*Mai 68: histoire d'un printemps* / Alexandre France, Arnaud Bureau. Paris: Berg International, 2008. 2917191090 (Bande dessinée)

*La France en 1968* / introduction de Serge July; textes de Jean-Louis Marzorati. Paris: Hoëbeke 2007. 9782842302986

*Mai-juin 68* / sous la direction de Dominique Damamme, Boris Gobille, Frédérique Matonti ... [et al.]. Paris: L'Atelier, c2008. 9782708239760

*Le moment 68: une histoire contestée* / Michelle Zancarini-Fournel. Paris: Seuil, 2008. 9782020898911

*68, une histoire collective: 1962-1981* / sous la direction de Philippe Artières et Michelle Zancarini-Fournel. Paris: La Découverte, c2008. 9782707149961



*Mai 68: l'événement Janus* / Jean-François Sirinelli. Paris: Fayard, c2008.  
9782213632384

*Les années 68: le temps de la contestation* / sous la direction de Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand ... [et al.] ; avec la collaboration de Maryvonne Le Puloch ; textes de A. de Baecque ... [et al.]. Bruxelles: Complexe, c2000, 2008. 2870278225

*Choses vues: une éducation politique autour de 68* / Daniel Lindenberg. Paris: Bartillat, c2008. 9782841004324

*Mai 68: un mouvement politique* / Jean-Pierre Duteuil. La Bussière: Acratie, 2008.  
9782909899312

*1968 in Europe: a history of protest and activism, 1956-1977* / edited by Martin Klimke and Joachim Scharloth. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.  
9780230606197

*Mai 68 en France ou la révolte du citoyen disparu* / Christine Fauré. Paris: Les Empêcheurs de penser en rond, 2008. 9782846711746

*Mai 68: la brèche; suivi de, Vingt ans après* / Edgar Morin, Claude Lefort, Cornelius Castoriadis. Paris: Fayard, c2008. 9782213636986  
(*Mai 68: la brèche* originally published by Fayard, 1968 and *Mai 68: la brèche; suivi de, Vingt ans après* originally published by Complexe, 1988)

*1968: fins et suites* / Daniel Bensaïd, Alain Krivine. Paris: Lignes, c2008.  
9782355260155

*Mai 1968 et le mai rampant italien* / Jacques Guigou, Jacques Wajnsztein. Paris: L'Harmattan, c2008. 9782296055308

*Changer la vie? : les classes moyennes et l'héritage de Mai 68* / Marie-Hélène Bacqué, Stéphanie Vermeersch. Ivry-sur-Seine: Les Editions de l'Atelier/Ouvrières, c2007. 9782708239609

*Mai 68 vu de l'étranger: les événements dans les archives diplomatiques françaises* / sous la direction de Maurice Vaïsse ; avec la collaboration de Colette Barbier ... [et al.]. Paris: CNRS, c2008. 9782271066787

*Mai 68* / préface de Daniel Cohn-Bendit. Paris: Denoël, c2008 (Chiefly illustrated).  
9782207260104

*Caen 68: un livre de Jean Quellien et Serge David ; les photographes de Caen 68,*  
Alain Le Berre ... [et al.]. Amfreville: Éditions du Bout du monde, 2008.  
9782952396165

*68 à Caen* / Alain Leménorel. Cabourg: Cahiers du temps, 2008. Delais, Bertrand. *Un si joli mois de mai*. 9782355070020  
(Book and DVD. The DVD consists of a documentary by Bertrand Delais: *Un si joli mois de Mai: Mai 68 en Normandie par ceux qui l'ont vécu*)

### **Photography/Art/Cinema/Theatre**

*Mai 68 en photos* / photographies issues du fonds de la Collection Roger-Viollet, textes et légendes, Janine Casevecchie. Paris: Chêne, c2008. 9782842778408

*Les affiches de mai 68* [catalogue de l'exposition organisée par le Musée des beaux-arts de Dole du 9 mai au 31 août 2008 / commissariat de l'exposition Anne Dary; assistée de Samuel Monier]. Paris: Beaux-arts de Paris, 2008. 9782840562764

*Mai 68 d'un photographe* / Elie Kagan. Paris: Ed. du Layeur ; Nanterre: BDIC, c2008. 9782915118759

*Mai 68, l'affiche en heritage* / Michel Wlassikoff. Photographies de Marc Riboud, Jean-Claude Gautrand, Philippe Vermès. Paris: Alternatives, c2008. 9782862275499

*Mai 68, l'imagination au pouvoir* / [exposition présentée à La Louvière, Centre de la gravure et de l'image imprimée, du 26 avril au 17 août 2008] [commissaire de l'exposition et direction éditoriale, Catherine de Braekeleer; collaboration scientifique et établissement du catalogue, Marie van Bosterhaut & Julie van der Vrecken]. Bruxelles: Luc Pire, c2008. 9782507000585

*Magnum Photos, inc. 1968, Magnum dans le monde: Magnum photos* / textes de Eric Hobsbawm et Marc Weitzmann. Paris: Hazan, 2008. 9782754102902  
("La présente édition reprend à l'identique l'édition originale de 1998, à l'exception des photographies de Raymond Depardon qui a souhaité consacrer un ouvrage à part entière à ses photographies de l'année 1968")

*1968: une année autour du monde* / Raymond Depardon. Paris: Éd. Points, c2008. (Points) 9782757807149

*Lu, vu et entendu en mai 68* / textes réunis par Janine Casevecchie. Paris: Chêne, c2008. 9782842778354

*1968, année surréaliste: Cuba, Prague Paris* / Jérôme Duwa [Paris]: Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine, c2008. 9782908295924

*Mai 68* / Wolinski, Cavanna, Cabu, ... [et al.]. Neuilly-sur-Seine: Lafon, 2008. 9782749908304

*Caméras en lutte en mai 68: par ailleurs le cinéma est une arme* / Sébastien Layerle. Paris: Nouveau monde, 2008. 9782847363340

*Le théâtre en France en 1968: crise d'une histoire, histoire d'une histoire* / Marie-Ange Rauch. Paris: Editions de l'Amandier, c2008. 9782355160493  
(Based on the author's doctoral thesis – Université de Paris X – Nanterre, 1995)

### **Language and Literature**

*Camarades de classe: roman* / Didier Daeninckx. Paris: Gallimard, c2008. 9782070120079

*Demandons l'impossible: roman-feuilleton* / Hervé Hamon. Paris: Éditions du Panama, c2008. 9782755702712

*L'arme à gauche* / David Defendi. Paris: Flammarion, c2008. 9782081213968

*Mai 68, les écrivains, la littérature* / Patrick Combes. Paris: L'Harmattan, c2008. 9782296063402

*Écrire, mai 68* / Emmanuel Adely ... [et al.]. Paris: Argol, c2008. 9782915978360 (pbk.)

*Parole et liberté: la langue et écriture de mai 68* / Giovanni Dotoli. Paris: Hermann, c2008. 9782705668129

*Les slogans de 68* / Jean-Philippe Legois. Paris: First editions, c2008. 9782754007771

*Slogans pour les prochaines révolutions* / Denis Langlois. Paris: Seuil, c2008. 9782020974608

*Mai 68 dans le texte* / Emmanuelle Loyer. Paris: Complexe, c2008. 9782804801410

*Houellebecq au laser: la faute à Mai 68* / Bruno Viard. Nice: Ovidia, c2008. 9782915741339

### **Témoignages et mémoires**

*Mai 68: raconté par des anonymes* / Nicolas Daum. Paris: Editions Amsterdam, c2008. 9782354800130

*Forget 68: entretiens avec Stéphane Paoli et Jean Viard* / Daniel Cohn-Bendit. La Tour d'Aigues: Aube, c2008. 9782752604514

*Mon mai 1968* / Alain Geismar. Paris: Perrin, c2008. 9782262028251

*Résister: de Mauthausen à mai 68* / Georges Séguy. Paris: Archipel, c2008. 9782809800494

*Le jour où mon père s'est tu* / Virginie Linhart. Paris: Seuil, c2008. 9782020913676

*Pays basque nord: mai 68 en memoires* / Gisèle Lougarot. Baiona: Elkar, [2008] 9788497836067

*Mai 68* / Préfecture de police de Paris, directrice de publication Marie Lajus ; coordination Pierre-Charles Hardouin. Paris: La documentation française. 2008. [hors-série de: "*Liaisons*" *Mai 68* (mai 2008)]. 9782110072184

*Entre le deuil du monde et la joie de vivre: les situationnistes et la mutation des comportements* / Raoul Vaneigem. Paris: Verticales; Paris: Gallimard, c2008. 9782070774760

*68 Belges en mai* / Élodie de Sélys. Bruxelles: Luc Pire, [2008] 9782507000462

*Mai 68: frasogn* / Einar Mar Jonsson. Reykjavik: Ormstunga, 2008. 9789979630852

*De mai 68 à LIP: un Dominicain au cœur des luttes* / Jean Raguénès. Paris: Karthala, c2008. 9782811100018

### **Workers and Mai 68**

*La grève générale: mai-juin 1968* / François de Massot. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008. 9782296057623

*(G)rèves de femmes* / Jean-Michel Leterrier. Le Kremlin-Bicêtre: Points sur les i, c2008. 9782915640601

*L'insubordination ouvrière dans les années 68: essai d'histoire politique des usines* / Xavier Vigna. Rennes: Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2007. 9782753504462

*Ouvriers bretons: conflits d'usines, conflits identitaires en Bretagne dans les années 1968* / Vincent Porhel. Rennes: Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2008. 9782753505612

*Notre usine est un roman* / Sylvain Rossignol. Paris: La Découverte, c2008. 9782707154620

*Mai 1968, Renault Billancourt* / Michel Certano. Le Kremlin-Bicêtre: Points sur les i, c2008. 9782915640670

### **Commentaries / Opinion pieces**

*Contre-discours de mai: ce qu'embaumeurs et fossoyeurs de 68 ne disent pas à ses héritiers* / François Cusset. Arles: Actes sud, c2008. 9782742776207

*La pensée anti-68: essai sur une restauration intellectuelle* / Serge Audier. Paris: La Découverte, c2008. 9782707153371

*Faut-il liquider mai 68: essai sur les interprétations des événements* / Henri Weber. Nouvelle édition. Paris: Seuil, 2008. 9782020976329

*Mai 68 expliqué à Nicolas Sarkozy* / André Glucksmann and Raphaël Glucksmann. Paris: Denoël, c20089782207260074

*Mai 68: la philosophie est dans la rue!* / Vincent Cespedes. Paris: Larousse, c2008. 9782035836830

### **Miscellaneous**

*L'accord secret de Baden-Baden: comment de Gaulle et les Soviétiques ont mis fin à mai 68* / Henri-Christian Giraud. Monaco: Le Rocher, c2008. 9782268065007

*Mai 68 à l'ORTF: une radio-télévision en résistance* / Jean-Pierre Filiu. Paris: Nouveau monde , [2008] 9782847363173

*Mai 68: des barricades ou des réformes?* / Alain Griotteray, préface de Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Nouv. éd. augm. Monaco: Alphée, c2008. 9782753802919  
(Une réflexion 40 ans après, avec la version originale de 1968")

*Mai 68 en revues* / Caroline Hoctan. Paris: Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine, 2008. 2908295911

# Chair's report to the FSLG AGM for the year 2008-2009

This year sees the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Studies Library Group since the Group's inaugural meeting was held at the British Library in December 1999. Thanks to Ann Farr, we have a special FSLG celebration cake, baked, iced and decorated to order by a former University of Leeds colleague of Ann's, an archivist turned baker, to mark the occasion.

10 years down the line, we have a strong FSLG Committee. Sarah Burn (Senate House Library) stood down from the Committee as her post has changed. We are very grateful to Sarah for her excellent work maintaining the WESLINE website and acting as production editor of the FSLG *Annual Review*. Heartfelt thanks are due to Christine Anderson who has nobly taken on responsibility for running the WESLINE website. We are delighted to welcome Sarah Brain (UWE), Nick Hearn (Oxford) and Caroline Long (Aston): all were co-opted to the Committee in April and are standing for election at this AGM.

We have continued to develop links with French academic societies in the UK. Anne Cobby's article on the FSLG was published in the *French Studies Bulletin* no. 108 (autumn, 2008). This year has also seen the establishment of formal collaboration with the Association of University Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF). Anne Cobby and I were invited to address the AUPHF Executive Committee meeting of 25 October. We spoke about the FSLG and its work and the funding opportunities for researchers to work on French collections in UK libraries. We are delighted that Professor Russell Goulbourne, AUPHF Membership Secretary, has joined the FSLG Committee as AUPHF observer. A collaborative project to develop a coherent and coordinated collection development policy for contemporary French authors in collaboration with the AUPHF has been initiated under the aegis of David Lowe.

Collaboration with other groups continues under the auspices of WESLINE. The future of WESLINE and its relationship with the individual language groups was discussed by David Lowe, Convener of WESLINE, and the Chairs of the groups at a meeting in February. One focus of the discussion was the complication which arises from annual conferences organised under the WESLINE banner since WESLINE, the umbrella group, has limited human resources and no financial resources of its own, being instead dependent on the hard work put in by the host institution and on the individual language groups for financial underpinning. It was agreed that more discussion with members was desirable.

The 4<sup>th</sup> (2008) WESLINE annual conference was held at the British Library on 1-2 September. The conference, 'Social Studies in Western Europe, Projects and Resources', covered a range of academic and library based case studies and projects and included two excellent and well-received presentations by FSLG members Heather Dawson and Anne Worden. Sarah Wenzel's report on the conference is published in this year's FSLG *Annual Review* (issue 5, 2008-2009).

Teresa Vernon, 28 August 2009

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