Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned chapters by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and nonspecialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Simone de Beauvoir was a philosopher and writer of notable range and influence whose work is central to feminist theory, French existentialism, and contemporary moral and social philosophy. The chapters in this volume examine all the major aspects of her thought, including her views on issues such as the role of biology, sexuality and sexual difference, and evil; the influence on her work of Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Husserl, and others; and the philosophical significance of her memoirs and fiction.

New readers and nonspecialists will find this the most convenient and accessible guide to Beauvoir currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Beauvoir.

CLAUDIA CARD is Emma Goldman Professor at the Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
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The Cambridge Companion to

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

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University of Wisconsin
In memory of Elaine Marks
# CONTENTS

| List of tables                        | xi  |
| Notes on contributors                | xii |
| Acknowledgments                      | xv  |
| Chronology                           | xvii|
| List of abbreviations                | xxiii|

## Introduction

CLAUDIA CARD

1 Beauvoir’s place in philosophical thought
   BARBARA S. ANDREW  24

2 Reading Simone de Beauvoir with Martin Heidegger
   EVA GOTHLIN  45

3 The body as instrument and as expression
   SARA HEINÂMAA  66

4 Beauvoir and Merleau-Ponty on ambiguity
   MONIKA LANGER  87

5 Bergson’s influence on Beauvoir’s philosophical methodology
   MARGARET A. SIMONS  107

6 Philosophy in Beauvoir’s fiction
   MARY SIRRIDGE  129

7 Complicity and slavery in *The Second Sex*
   SUSAN JAMES  149
Contents

8 Beauvoir on Sade: making sexuality into an ethic
   JUDITH BUTLER
   168
9 Beauvoir and feminism: interview and reflections
   SUSAN J. BRISON
   189
10 Life-story in Beauvoir's memoirs
    MIRANDA FRICKER
    208
11 Beauvoir on the ambiguity of evil
    ROBIN MAY SCHOTT
    228
12 Simone de Beauvoir: (Re)counting the sexual difference
    DEBRA B. BERGOFFEN
    248
13 Beauvoir and biology: a second look
    MOIRA GATENS
    266
14 Beauvoir's Old Age
    PENEOPE DEUTSCHER
    286

Bibliography
Index

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TABLE

1 States of existence page 279
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xv  Notes on contributors


Monika Langer, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Victoria, has also taught at Toronto, Yale, Alberta, and Dalhousie. She is the author of several articles and Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception: A Guide and Commentary (1988, 1989). She is currently writing a book on Nietzsche’s The Gay Science.

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Mary Sirridge, Professor of Philosophy at Louisiana State University, is the author of “The Moral of the Story: Exemplification and the Literary Work,” Philosophical Studies, 38 (1980) and other articles on philosophical aesthetics, the philosophy of literature, and dance aesthetics, as well as on St. Augustine, medieval syntax and semantics, and ancient and medieval philosophy of the mind.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Companion is dedicated, in honor and gratitude, to the memory of Elaine Marks (1930–2001), who is world-renowned for her work on Beauvoir, French feminism, and women’s studies. Elaine Marks was a cherished teacher, friend, and mentor to generations of Beauvoir students at the University of Wisconsin. She wrote the first book on Beauvoir in English and edited the first English-language anthology (in book form) of essays on Beauvoir. I sought and received her guidance at the outset of this project. Sadly, she died a few months before its completion.

The advice and suggestions of Beauvoir scholars on three continents (many of whom are also authors of chapters in this book) went into the creation of this Companion. I especially thank Robin Schott and Margaret A. Simons for counsel in the early stages. Eva Gothlin’s sketch of Beauvoir’s childhood, education, and early maturity in her book *Sex and Existence* was very helpful for constructing those parts of the chronology. Consistent support came from my editor Hilary Gaskin. Ann Cothran, Sonia Kruks, Nancy Bauer, and Lester Embree responded promptly and helpfully to queries. Contributors helped frequently with bibliographic matters, especially Susan Brison, Penelope Deutscher, Eva Gothlin, Sara Heinämaa, and Monika Langer. Andrea Veltman, my assistant, provided invaluable help with editing. The introductory chapter benefited immeasurably from her suggestions as well as from suggestions by my colleague Ivan Soll. Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to past and present Beauvoir scholars.
xvi Acknowledgments

who are not directly represented in this volume, especially to Beauvoir's biographers and the editors of other volumes on Beauvoir, for much that was useful in constructing the chronology of Beauvoir's life, devising a system of abbreviations, creating the bibliography, and writing the introductory chapter.
CHRONOLOGY

1908 Born 9 January in Paris to Françoise Brasseur de Beauvoir and Georges Bertrand de Beauvoir; christened Simone Lucie Ernestine Marie Bertrand de Beauvoir.

1910 Birth of sister, Hélène (“Poupette”).

1913–25 Educated at Institut Adeline Désire (Cours Désire), where she meets Zaza (Elizabeth Mabille), who becomes her best friend; awarded Baccalauréat in 1924–25; studies mathematics at Institut Catholique, Paris, in 1925.

1927–28 Degree in literature, Latin, Greek, and philosophy at Institut Sante-Marie, Neuilly.

1928–29 Attends philosophy courses at the Sorbonne and attends lectures at the École Normale Supérieure, where she meets Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Claude Lévi-Strauss, and Jean-Paul Sartre, who becomes a lifelong intellectual companion.

1929 Awarded Agrégée de Philosophie; death of Zaza.

1931–33 Teaching post at Lycée Montgrand, Marseille.

1933–37 Teaching post at Lycée Jeanne d’Arc, Rouen.

1934–35 Reads Husserl in German.


1939 She and Sartre begin serious study of Heidegger; World War Two declared; Sartre drafted.

1940 Reads Richard Wright, Native Son, on recommendation by Sylvia Beach; Sartre captured by invading Germans and sent to POW camp.
1941 Father dies; Sartre released from POW camp; Resistance group “Socialisme et Liberté” (Socialism and Freedom) founded with Sartre and Merleau-Ponty; crosses border with Sartre into Vichy zone hoping to make contact with Resistance but fails; meets André Gide and André Malraux.


### Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Publishes <em>Privilèges</em> (“Faut-il brûler Sade?,” “La Pensée de droite aujourd’hui,” “Merleau-Ponty ou le pseudo-sartrisme”) (Paris: Gallimard); visits Moscow and China with Sartre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1960 Death of friend, Albert Camus; second volume of memoirs, La Force de l’âge (Paris: Gallimard), translated as The Prime of Life by P. Green (Cleveland, OH: World Publishing, 1962; London: André Deutsch and Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1965); meets Sylvie Le Bon, an 18-year-old philosophy student at Rennes, who becomes her companion for the rest of SdB’s life; visit to Cuba with Sartre, spends three days with Castro.

1961 Marches with Lanzmann and Sartre for peace in Algeria.


Chronology

1967

1968
Joins in student street demonstrations.

1970
Publishes La Vieillesse (Paris: Gallimard), translated by Patrick O’Brian as Old Age (London: André Deutsch, 1972) and as The Coming of Age (New York: Putnam, 1972); marches for abortion and contraception rights for women.

1971
On being asked by the Mouvement de la Libération des Femmes (MLF), includes her signature in “The Manifesto of 343,” a list of 343 women declaring that they had all had an abortion (illegal in France), published in Le Nouvel observateur, although her sister Hélène, also a signatory, said in 1987 that neither of them actually had an abortion; Simone had allowed them to be performed in her apartment and had sometimes paid for them.

1972
Fourth volume of memoirs, Tout compte fait (Paris: Gallimard), translated as All Said and Done by Patrick O’Brian (London: André Deutsch and Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1972; New York: Putnam, 1974); becomes president of the society, Choisir, to promote knowledge and availability of contraception.

1974
Becomes president of the Ligue du Droit des Femmes (League of Women’s Rights), to end discrimination against women in speech and in documents.

1975
Accepts the Jerusalem Prize, awarded to writers who have promoted the concept of individual liberty (winners include Bertrand Russell, Jorge Luis Borges, and Ionesco).

1976


1986 Dies on 14 April in Paris of “pulmonary edema,” following a respiratory illness; 5,000 people attend the funeral; buried next to Sartre.


The bibliography at the end of this volume gives full particulars of the works cited below. Where the bibliography gives more than one edition or publisher, or where a chapter cites an edition or publisher other than those listed in the bibliography, the chapter's endnotes give particulars for the editions it cites.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

The bibliography at the end of this volume gives full particulars of the works cited below. Where the bibliography gives more than one edition or publisher, or where a chapter cites an edition or publisher other than those listed in the bibliography, the chapter's endnotes give particulars for the editions it cites.

**AD**  America Day by Day  
**AM**  All Men are Mortal  
**AS**  All Said and Done  
**BI**  Les Belles images  
**BI (tr.)**  Les Belles Images (the English translation)  
**BN**  Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology (Sartre)  
**BO**  The Blood of Others  
**BT**  Being and Time (Heidegger)  
**DB**  Djamila Boupacha: The Story of the Torture of a Young Algerian Girl which Shocked Liberal French Opinion  
**DS I**  Le Deuxième sexe, I, Les Faits et les mythes  
**DS II**  Le Deuxième sexe, II, L’expérience vécue  
**EA**  The Ethics of Ambiguity  
**EN**  L’Etre et le néant: Essai d’ontologie phénoménologique (Sartre)  
**FA**  La Force de l’âge  
**FB**  “Faut-il brûler Sade?”  
**FC**  Force of Circumstance  
**FC h**  La Force des choses  
**FR**  La Femme rompue
List of abbreviations

**Ideas I**  
*Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy, First Book: General Introduction to a Pure Phenomenology* [Husserl]

**Ideas II**  
*Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to Phenomenological Philosophy, Second Book: Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution* [Husserl]

**Ideen II**  
*Ideen zu einer reinen Phänomenologie unter phänomenologischen Philosophie, Zweites Buch: Phänenomenologische Untersuchung zur Konstitution* [Husserl]

**LI**  
*L’Invitée*

**LM**  
“Littérature et métaphysique”

**M**  
*Les Mandarins*

**M (tr.)**  
*The Mandarins*

**MBS**  
*Must We Burn Sade?*

**MD**  
*Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*

**MJF**  
*Mémoires d’une jeune fille rangée*

**MP**  
*“Merleau-Ponty et pseudo-sartriste”*

**MPPS**  
*“Merleau-Ponty and Pseudo-Sartreanism”*

**OA**  
*Old Age* [British title; US title: *The Coming of Age*]

**PC**  
*Pyrrhus et Cinéas*

**PL**  
*The Prime of Life*

**PMA**  
*Pour une morale de l’ambiguïté*

**PP**  
*Phénoménologie de la perception* [Merleau-Ponty]

**PP [tr.]**  
*The Phenomenology of Perception* [Merleau-Ponty]

**PPMP**  
*“La phénoménologie de la perception de Merleau-Ponty”* [Beauvoir]

**QPL**  
*“Simone de Beauvoir” in Que peut la littérature?* [ed. Yves Buin]

**QPS**  
*Quand prime le spirituel*

**SCS**  
*She Came to Stay*

**SNS**  
*Sense and Non-Sense* [Merleau-Ponty]

**SS**  
*The Second Sex*

**SZ**  
*Sein und Zeit* [Heidegger]

**TC**  
*Tout compte fait*

**V**  
*La Vieillesse*

**VED**  
*A Very Easy Death*

**WD**  
*The Woman Destroyed*

**WT**  
*When Things of the Spirit Come First*