

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## Introduction

It is well-known by now that the First World War interrupted the publication of A la recherche du temps perdu, and that as a result it had time to grow from its original 1500 pages to its present 3000.<sup>1</sup> This book, within given limits, describes the development of Proust's great novel after 1914, showing how the volumes from A l'ombre des jeunes filles en fleurs onwards were expanded (Du Côté de chez Swann had, of course, appeared already in 1913). The sources of this study are the near-definitive manuscripts, typescripts and proofs of the 1914-22 period which form part of the Proust manuscript material acquired in 1962 by the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; it is these documents that show not only the conception, but the final stages, of A la recherche du temps perdu.

---

1 Proust's 1911-13 estimates of the length of his then three-volume novel (e.g. his letter in Louis de Robert, Comment débuta Marcel Proust, re-edition ([Paris], 1969), pp.58-59) have been summarised many times. The clearest recapitulation is probably that given by G. Painter, in Marcel Proust: A Biography (2 vols., London, 1959 & 1965), vol. II, pp.234-35. From here on, only the first reference to a book will give full bibliographical details; succeeding ones will use simply the title, or the name of the author, unless confusion could arise. References to articles will normally be similarly abbreviated. Complete details may always be found in the bibliography at the end of Part I.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

The procedure adopted in most of the book is to let the reader see which passages in the present novel were not in the near-definitive drafts. The first chapter of Part I, the text, does, however, summarise the 'base' narrative of each volume before further episodes or themes were added. The rest of Part I then describes the most significant of the late insertions, surveying their general effects (comic ones, for example), and going on to give a more detailed picture of the additions made to the speech of the characters and to the figure of Morel; those elaborating moral characteristics, and situations of uncertainty; those tracing social change and physical decline; and those which extend the rôles of the artists Vinteuil and Elstir.

Some late passages mentioned in Chapter 1 do not figure in the subsequent discussion: given such a wide field, there had to be at least a little selection. I have covered those additions which seemed to me certainly most striking, and revealing consistent pre-occupations, but individual researchers might pick out and emphasise different trends. My approach is, on the whole, thematic, in that I normally group the additions according to similar content, not according to the point in the narrative at which they appear, and not in an attempt to define, for example, the development of single characters (with a few exceptions).

The text of the book makes constant reference to Part II, the second volume. This gives, in table form, the additions to be found in the documents I studied, and their precise location

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

(preceded by a brief description of the research method adopted). These tables, although not, as I shall shortly explain, exhaustive to the smallest detail, are nevertheless very comprehensive. To work continuously through A la recherche with them would be arduous; however, they might be used in the following more feasible ways. A reader might wish to study a small section of the novel, such as the death of the grandmother, or even only a page or two. He could look at the tables to discover the stages of composition of phrases, sentences or paragraphs in that section. Another reader might be writing an article on, say, the Dreyfus Affair in the novel, or on animal imagery; he would already have all his page-references, and could then consult the tables to see which passages were comparatively early and which late. A researcher could gain a fairly accurate impression of the contents of a given Bibliothèque Nationale MS volume - let us say n.a.fr.<sup>1</sup> 16714, the last part of the Sodome et Gomorrhe MS - by seeing, from the right-hand column of the tables, what was added to the MS, and what must have been missing from that MS, as it was added only on the typescript - n.a.fr. 16741 in this case. Finally, these tables may be of some help in the preparation of any critical edition, and will perhaps be useful to the research team projecting a study of the early Cahiers, since this team is

---

1 I.e. 'nouvelles acquisitions françaises', the Bibliothèque Nationale classification.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

to proceed by finding all the versions of separate 'units' in the novel:<sup>1</sup> the tables show exactly where the final few stages of each 'unit' are to be found.

In the material I used, there is room for at least three other studies than mine. First, except in a brief general paragraph in Chapter 1,<sup>2</sup> I have not tried to date individual pages or volumes. Someone more observant may find pointers which I simply missed; but I saw very little which enabled me to place the sections on which I was working, except according to the inner order of composition. Rather than confuse the issue with speculation, I have therefore left the subject for a more complete examination than I could give it, that is, an examination which would correlate the paper of sheets added to the MS with pages of letters, with the paper of the rough Cahiers, etc., and which would deduce chronology on internal evidence. J. Theodore Johnson Jr. suggests that such a correlation could and should be made,<sup>3</sup> and some of George Painter's work might help researchers with the dating.<sup>4</sup>

I have also, generally, left aside the excised material in these documents, reproducing it or referring to it only occasionally. Some of it is most interesting, although perhaps less rich

---

1 See the Proust Research Association Newsletter, no. 6, Fall 1971, p. 25.

2 Below, pp. 18-19.

3 In PRAN no. 2, Summer 1969, p. 26.

4 See his Marcel Proust: A Biography, vol. II, e.g. pp. 303-305, 321.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

than that from the pre-1914 period cited by Maurice Bardèche in his Marcel Proust romancier.<sup>1</sup> At any rate, this again would be a subject for a separate, and long, book.

Finally, related to this second aspect, I felt it was the work of a complete critical edition rather than of this study to provide all minor variants of words or phrases, and to point out the movement of certain passages from their original positions to new ones. Thus, for example, the tables tend not to note the attribution of one speech in turn to different characters. This kind of transfer may be less important in a writer like Proust than in others; as we first knew from André Maurois, some features recorded in Proust's Cahiers are there to be worked in, not necessarily to be attached to one specific figure in the entire gallery.<sup>2</sup>

All conclusions in the following pages must to a certain extent be regarded as conditional on future research on the rough Cahiers, which may, for example, reveal that episodes that according to my material looked late were 'salvaged' from a much earlier series of compositions.

---

1 (2 vols., Paris, 1971)

2 See A. Maurois, A la recherche de Marcel Proust, re-edition ([Paris], 1970), p. 150; also G. Brée, 'Les Manuscrits de Marcel Proust', The French Review, XXXVII (1963), pp. 182-87 (p. 185). Bardèche confirms it too in Marcel Proust romancier, vol. I, p. 344 n.1; vol. II, pp. 80, 124.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## I Documentary Material

The material for A la recherche du temps perdu in the Bibliothèque Nationale Fonds Marcel Proust falls into two sections. In the first, there are sixty-two 'cahiers' and four narrow 'carnets', giving drafts and re-workings from the time of Contre Sainte-Beuve to, probably, the end of Proust's life. In the second, with which this book is concerned, are numerous near-definitive manuscripts, typescripts and proofs: by far the greater number of these documents are post-1914. To make a rough division, the material in the first section could therefore be thought of as that of the genesis of the novel, and in the second, that of its later refinement or expansion. The Bibliothèque Nationale manuscript department itself has separated the documents in this manner, grouping the unbound Cahiers apart from the rest, which are bound.<sup>1</sup>

---

1 J. Theodore Johnson Jr. gives the list of the Fonds Marcel Proust current to August 1971 (under its previous provisional numbering) in PRAN no.7, Spring 1972, pp.15-23, and supplements it with another list of the more recently released volumes in PRAN no.12, Fall 1974, pp. 22-29. These, between them, record the complete holdings of the collection, now under its final classification: nouvelles acquisitions françaises 16611-16781 (hereafter n.a.fr., followed by the relevant volume number).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-08310-2 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', I Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

[More information](#)

Since the BN's acquisition of the Proust collection in May 1962,<sup>1</sup> and the early articles describing it with interest and excitement,<sup>2</sup> most of the research projected or completed on the manuscripts for A la recherche du temps perdu has been concentrated on the first section. One of the main tasks of the recently-formed Équipe Proust in Paris is to work through the rough drafts of A la recherche, 'spécialement les Cahiers et les Carnets', towards an eventual critical edition.<sup>3</sup> The thorough and useful reports on the MSS provided by the Proust Research Association Newsletter have not on the whole focussed on the post-1914 material.<sup>4</sup> Individual articles written since 1962 have reviewed, or made use of, the rough Cahiers rather than the

- 
- 1 'Chronique des bibliothèques françaises: Département des manuscrits: Acquisition des manuscrits de Marcel Proust', Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France, no. 7 (1962), pp.380-81.
  - 2 G. Brée, 'Les Manuscrits de Marcel Proust', The French Review, XXXVII (1963), pp. 182-87; Anon, 'Les manuscrits de Marcel Proust à la Bibliothèque Nationale', BSAMP, no.13 (1963), pp. 70-74.
  - 3 See PRAN, no.6, Fall 1971, pp. 25-26; the Équipe Proust, Centre d'Histoire et d'Analyse des Manuscrits Modernes, was then the Centre d'Études Proustiennes. Its reorganisation, and other activities, are outlined in PRAN no. 12, Fall 1974, pp. 7, 11-13, and no. 13, Spring 1975, pp. 15-16.
  - 4 Except in PRAN no. 2, Summer 1969, pp. 23, 24, 26-28, and in the lists mentioned above in PRAN nos. 7 and 12.

near-definitive MSS.<sup>1</sup> And by far the most important single account, up to the present date, of the BN MSS, that given passim in Maurice Bardèche's two-volume Marcel Proust romancier, has drawn almost solely on the Cahiers and Carnets.<sup>2</sup>

Fragmentary information about the second section is coming to light, in isolated references in a few articles.<sup>3</sup> Jean-Yves

---

1 Three of the most valuable of these are: E.R. Jackson, 'The Crystallisation of "A la recherche du temps perdu" 1908-1909', The French Review, XXXVIII (1964), pp.157-66; A. Barnes, 'Le retour des thèmes dans la Recherche du Temps perdu et l'art de Proust', Australian Journal of French Studies, VI (1969), pp. 26-54; H. Bonnet, 'Esquisse pour une "Prisonnière"', Le Figaro Littéraire, 1-7 février 1971, pp.10-12.

See also 'Portrait de Française: texte inédit publié par J.-Y. Tadié', Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France, 71e année, nos.5-6 (1971), pp.753-64; the contributions of H. Bonnet, J. Theodore Johnson Jr., G. Tupinier and C. Quémard in Études Proustiennes I, published by Gallimard ([Paris], 1973), and that of C. Quémard in Études Proustiennes II ([Paris], 1975); and Anon, 'Un verso de cahier', BSAMP, no.25 (1975), pp.5-6.

2 Bardèche covers or discusses, of course, parts of the significant material published some 20 years previously by A. Maurois in his A la recherche de Marcel Proust, principally pp.141-56, 208-14. See Marcel Proust romancier, vol. I, pp.152n.1, 153, 154, 215, 275n.2, 397-402; vol. II, pp.151n.3, 183. Amongst other books which have made stimulating use of the earlier MS material are H. Bonnet, Marcel Proust de 1907 à 1914 (Paris, 1971), pp.20-21, 64-69, 75, 93, 98-101, 110, 125-26, 197-99; G. Brée, The World of Marcel Proust (London, 1967), pp.110-12; J.-Y. Tadié, Proust et le roman (Paris, 1971), pp.17, 20, 28, 30n.3, 47, 56, 64n.1, 65, 79, 82, 98, 185-86, 204-5, 223, 224n.7, 228, 280n.6, 370, 377, 387, 393.

3 A. Barnes, 'Le retour des thèmes dans la Recherche du Temps perdu et l'art de Proust' (pp.44-48), 'Le Jardin de Marcel Proust: pour le cinquantenaire des "Jeunes Filles en Fleurs"', The Modern Language Review, LXIV (1969), pp.546-54 (pp.549n.2, 552 - here, incidentally, A. Barnes's findings do not tally with mine), and 'A propos d'un paragraphe du Temps retrouvé: Proust et le tragique', BSAMP, no.23 (1973), pp.1609-13 (p. 1610); J. Theodore Johnson Jr., '"La Lanterne magique": Proust's Metaphorical Toy', L'Esprit Créateur, XI (1971), pp.17-31 (pp. 20-21n.3), 'Proust, Ruskin et la petite figure au portail des Libraires à la Cathédrale de Rouen', BSAMP, no.23 (1973), pp. 1721-36 (p. 1734), and in Études Proustiennes I, pp.173-76; J. Milly, 'Le Pastiche Goncourt dans "Le Temps retrouvé"', Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France, 71e année, nos.5-6 (1971), pp.815-35 (p.831); C. Quémard, in Études Proustiennes I, pp. 280-81, 284-89, 291-92, 322-35 (for DCS only).



Tadié makes incidental mention of the post-1914 drafts in his Proust et le roman,<sup>1</sup> and Maurice Bardèche devotes some space to dating and to description of the later documents, with a particularly helpful summary of the state of Proust's typescripts and proofs at the beginning of 1914.<sup>2</sup> None the less, the fact remains that the most complete information on the post-1914 material is still that provided by work done before the acquisition of the relevant documents by the BN, and it is to this that we must continue to turn for an impression of the way Proust's novel developed during the war and until the end of his life. Excised passages from the galley-proofs of Le Côté de Guermantes, the original beginning of Sodome et Gomorrhe I, expansions of the La Prisonnière manuscripts and typescripts, variants on the stay in Venice, the contents of a long rough insertion to be found in the MS of Le Temps retrouvé, and snippets given in an article on punctuation by one of the Pléiade editors, are all in issues of BSAMP published no later than

- 
- 1 Almost all these mentions refer to information already provided by issues of BSAMP or by the Pléiade edition: those which perhaps do not are on pp. 140n.2, 399.
  - 2 Bardèche, vol. II, appendix I, pp. 371-74. The most important other references are in vol. I, pp. 196, 238-39, 244; vol. II, pp. 71-72, 75-77, 92-93, 147, 149, 161-63, 170, 207, 210, 213, 274, 279-82. See also vol. II, pp. 259-260, for some noteworthy general remarks on Proust in the post-1914 period. (Bardèche refers to the bound, later, volumes as the Dossier Proust: see p. 7 of vols. I and II.)

1962.<sup>1</sup> The Pléiade edition, of course, used many of these later documents, but here, indications in notes of reworkings and additions must inevitably be only *ad hoc*, and one of the editors has himself expressed hope of a full critical edition.<sup>2</sup> Anthony Pugh's unpublished thesis offers a fuller exposition of variants and structural shifts during the post-1914 period; nevertheless, both he and M. Suzuki, the author of the BSAMP articles on La Prisonnière, were hampered by their necessary dependence on

- 
- 1 These articles are, respectively: For CG, P. Clarac, 'Les "croyances intellectuelles" de Marcel Proust', BSAMP, no. 8 (1958), pp. 460-68 (pp. 465-68). For SG, 'Première version du début de "Sodome et Gomorrhe I"', présentée par André Ferré', BSAMP, no. 6 (1956), pp. 165-70. For La P, M. Suzuki, 'Le "Je" Proustien', BSAMP, no. 9 (1959), pp. 69-82 (pp. 69-74), and 'Le comique chez Marcel Proust', BSAMP, no. 11 (1961), pp. 377-91, 'Le comique chez Marcel Proust (II)', BSAMP, no. 12 (1962), pp. 572-86. For the stay in Venice, La F, A.R. Pugh, 'Le séjour à Venise, propos sur le texte de "La Fugitive"', BSAMP, no. 9 (1959), pp. 29-43. For TR, 'Un inédit de Proust en marge du "Temps retrouvé", présenté par André Ferré', BSAMP, no. 5 (1955), pp. 9-16. The article on punctuation is A. Ferré, 'La ponctuation de Marcel Proust', BSAMP, no. 7 (1957), pp. 310-29. (See also A. Ferré, 'Quelques fautes de ponctuation dans les éditions de Marcel Proust', Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France, 54e année (1954), pp. 213-18; and there are too some preliminary remarks in L. Pierre-Quint's Comment Travaillait Proust (Paris, 1928), pp. 13-15.)
- 2 P. Clarac, 'Les "croyances intellectuelles" de Marcel Proust', BSAMP, no. 8 (1958), pp. 460-68 (p. 468). For the editors' descriptions of some of the relevant documents, see vol. I of the Pléiade edition, pp. xxiv-xxxvi, and particularly p. xxxiii (cp. my own description below, pp.19-21). In Part II, pp.12-13, I describe a few seeming discrepancies between my documents and the Pléiade editors'.