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978-0-521-08315-7 - Proust's Additions: The Making of 'A la recherche du temps perdu', II Text

Alison Winton

Excerpt

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Introductory Remarks

1 GENERAL

The main aim of this part of the book is to present the additions Proust made to his novel from about 1914 onwards in as clearly assimilable and economical form as possible, and to save the reader the kind of jigsaw-puzzle work required to piece out one section from another on the manuscripts themselves. This presentation has necessitated certain sacrifices, though not, I believe, travesties.

The principal adjustment I have had to make in the tables is to give the first and last words of some added passages not as they appear verbatim on the documents, but as they are now, in their final form in the Pléiade text. I have done this for many reasons.

First, to give the verbatim wording would make the passage very difficult to find in the Pléiade text.¹ If there is a substantial difference between the previous version and the final one, I note it in brackets immediately below.

Second, Proust sometimes, in an early version, does not fuse his additions properly with his main narrative, and slight changes are therefore made on the later versions, but so slight as to be not worth noting; the Pléiade edition gives numerous examples of such lack of co-ordination in the notes to Le Temps retrouvé.

Third, as I said in Chapter 1,² a development in a margin or on a layer may either copy exactly, or rework a little, a crossed-out passage already in the manuscript, and only then does the addition proper start. In such cases it would be a falsification to give the whole marginal text as an addition; I have tried to limit the tables to showing exactly what was added and

1 E.g. II 557a, which, in a margin and layer, 16707:52, starts: Je vous ajouterai même; I give the Pléiade version: J'ajouterai même.

III 947a: Proust has written above the line: à en élargir la blanche superficie; but I give à élargir, as does Pléiade.

III 768-69a: Margin and layer, 16724:46, has, of course, Santois, qui était [...], as III 768n.3 shows; but, again for purposes of clarity, I have given the Pléiade text version: Morel, qui était au bureau [...] etc.

Similarly, I reproduce in the tables almost all punctuation in the Pléiade text adjacent to the addition concerned, to make it easier to locate; in very many cases, this punctuation was not exactly so on the original document. I do, however, give Proust's rather idiosyncratic punctuation in excised passages that are quoted.

2 Part I, p. 20.

no more. Here, then, I have singled out what was definitely not in the excised version appearing either earlier or later in the manuscript.¹

- 1 For example, here is the first version of a passage in III 898, on 16726:17-18:

[...] la pénombre que nous avons dû traverser. Les vérités que l'intelligence cueille à claire voie, devant elle, en pleine lumière, ont des contours plus secs, et sont planes, n'ont pas de profondeur parce qu'il n'y a pas eu de profondeurs à franchir pour les atteindre, parce qu'elles n'ont pas été recréées.

This is written out as the final text (III 898) in a layer, 16726:17; so I give as additions only:

l'indication, marquée ... par l'imitation) (III 898c)
and - même des plus hauts esprits - (III 898d)
and leur valeur peut être très grande; mais (III 898e).

Here, again, is a passage which at first sight seems added: for III 873, the margin of 16725:126 gives the lines:

et où [see Pl.n.1] avec un plaisir égoïste de collectionneur, je m'étais dit en cataloguant ainsi les illustrations de ma mémoire: "J'ai tout de même vu de belles choses dans ma vie." Alors ma mémoire affirmait sans doute [...].

However, not only does the main MS of 16725:126 give, scored through with a line:

[...] les divers lieux où j'avais été. [Ce n'était là en somme qu'un plaisir d'artiste et de collectionneur; et alors même au moment où ma mémoire affirmait] la différence des [lieux, c'était] sensations
 (words in brackets crossed out; those underlined, above-1),

the main MS of 16725:130 also gives, scored through with a line:

Ce n'était pas tellement eux [the places he has seen again in involuntary memory] que j'aimais que la partie de sensation qui leur était commune avec [celle éprouvée actuellement. Et en l'éprouvant je ne me disais pas comme dans] l'endroit où je me trouvais la cour de notre maison, quand je regardais à mon gré, dans ma mémoire, la campagne ou la mer, avec un plaisir égoïste de collectionneur: "j'ai tout de même [été] vu de belles choses dans ma vie", je n'élevais pas plus haut l'idée de mon moi, bien plus je doutais de ce moi.

(words in brackets crossed out; those underlined, above-1).

Since between them these two passages give what is in the margin of 16725:126, I have not counted this addition as an addition proper, except for the phrase 'en cataloguant ainsi les illustrations de ma mémoire' (III 873a), which appears in neither of the main MS versions.

Fourth, in order to save space and, as I have said, to present the additions in their most transparent form, I do not usually quote words or phrases that were crossed out to make room for the new passage. This occasionally leads to a result which readers may find rather bewildering: if one extracts from their context some of the additions as I give them, that is, corresponding precisely to the Pléiade text, and if one then tries to envisage the text as it was, one or two syntactical elements seem to be missing, and the original may appear not quite to cohere grammatically. Unless, however, I specifically state the contrary (e.g. III 487c), or say 'Probably not addition', the first version did always make sense as it stood.¹

¹ For example:

III 822-23a: I give as this addition:
Pendant ce temps ... on s'en fiche) (823).
 The original MS, 16725:45, started the passage on III 823 with, of course, Le patron n'était pas encore venu, but for the sake of brevity I include Le patron in the addition.

III 959a: I give as this addition:
Dès que j'eus ... se saisit de moi et .
 The original MS read: Il me présenta [...] .

III 1045c: The corrected version of 16727:123 has:
 [...] si je n'entreprenais pas, ce dont ma liaison avec Albertine suffisait pourtant à me montrer que sans cela tout est factice et mensonger, de représenter certaines personnes [...]
 and I do not say that the original MS ran:
 [...]si je n'entreprenais pas, ce dont ma liaison avec Albertine suffisait pourtant à me montrer la [nécessité], de [figurer] représenter certaines personnes
 (words in brackets crossed out).

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Finally, however, even if the opening and ending of an added passage are identical on, say, the MS and the present, final, version, and the same point is being made, there may be variants within the original addition not important enough to warrant a detailed tracing-through of the stages of subsequent correction, but substantial enough to make it a misrepresentation to imply that the whole of the present passage, in virtually final shape, was added at this point. For this and the other adjustments, I provide explanatory notes where necessary; but these are the liberties I often cover with the sign \simeq , 'approximately'.

To sum up: as I said in the introduction,¹ I felt that it was the work of a complete critical edition to give minor variants of words and phrases, and to point out the movement of certain passages from one place to another, and I therefore note an addition or correction only where a really new element appeared. I have tried to include as many as possible of those tiny changes that seemed significant, but I had to stop somewhere; and the modifications that were more suitably registered in a critical edition than in a record of important nuances or

1 Part I, p. 5.

expansions, I have left out.¹ For this reason, too, I do not note added punctuation, except in one place where it brought a substantial change - II 560b, where Proust adds rows of stops to denote Charlus's hesitation in his talk with Marcel.

2 SOME DIFFICULTIES

One of the dilemmas posed by the near-definitive drafts is that of the interpretation of the numerous passages to be found not protruding off the page, and hence unmistakably interpolations, but glued on to the centre. On the whole I thought these were not additions, since room had evidently been left for them, the main narrative of the MS flowed on and off them in the same ink, continuing the sentence over the break in many cases, and

1 Such as, say, the reworking of this sentence on III 879:

Et je sentais que ce devait être la griffe de leur authenticité.

Et je sentais que [c'] ce [était la] devait être [probablement] la [signe] griffe de leur authenticité.

(16726:4. Words in brackets crossed out; those underlined, above-1).

Again, I do not note that 16706:81 originally gave the beginning of the duc de Guermantes's speech on II 487 as - C'est très bien, not: - C'est très sain; compare too Plate 2 (Part I, p.260), with the relevant section of the tables.

However, in II 779a, I do note the following: where 16711:48 had: elle a répondu exactement à chaque chose, 16739:45 corrects to: elle a saisi exactement chaque chose. I used this because the revision suggests, more than these other two, a new attitude, implying that the grandmother is more attentive in her response, yet at the same time now silent and not replying.

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finally, even if they had been composed separately, they must have been contemporaneous with the manuscript in order to be incorporated into it in this manner. Sometimes, however, I do note these fragments, especially when they are of the same paper as the layers proper, and where the context shows that they comprise a new theme.¹ In this event, I write in the notation: 'Glued in', and often add in brackets 'Probably not late'. This difficulty arises especially with the MSS for La Fugitive.

The MSS also include sheets which have the appearance of layers, except that they are glued into the notebook, not on to the end of a page; again, these must be partly addition, but it is impossible to know if they are wholly late.²

1 E.g. III 808a, where an unlined fragment glued centrally on to 16725:23 carries the passage

aussitôt, se rappelant sans doute que ... l'ombre de dilettantisme à me reprocher.

On the one hand, both the context and the fact that the MS would otherwise have to break off after 'quelque chose d'analogue à la littérature, car', make it most unlikely that this is a true addition; on the other hand, it contains enough of a slight departure from the rest of Charlus's speech to suggest that it was at least conceived separately. The MSS abound in awkward cases such as this.

2 For example, 16716:29 is a page made up of layers glued into the MS; it gives the first and last lines of the passage running from Certes, à ces moments (III 149) to and including la voir dans sa loge? (III 151). I note this in the table as III 149-51a, but have used discretion in other cases.

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Another difficult case was handwritten pages fixed into typescripts; but normally I do count these as additions, and in most instances it is very obvious that they are.¹

There are, therefore, some passages entered in the tables which may not be late, and others which are certainly not, e.g. II 783-84a. The only way of escaping the risks of this is to supply conspicuous pointers in the tables, and to select for discussion those additions about which there is a minimum of doubt; this is what I have tried to do in Part I.

3 THE PLÉIADE TEXT

The documents in the Bibliothèque Nationale do not always correspond to those from which the Pléiade editors worked. What they refer to as the twenty-volume manuscript for Sodome et Gomorrhe on is clearly n.a.fr. 16708-16727. But sometimes they seem to have had access to documents which are not in the BN - not as yet, at any rate; at other times, the BN has material which they could not consult; and at others, there are curious discrepancies between their descriptions of the manuscript and the

1 Thus, for II 751-52a, 16739:14-16 are glued-in pages, written on in (probably) Céleste's hand, with no type; and for II 851-53a, the added passage is on handwritten pages that must have been interpolated - 16739:114-117 - since the typist has numbered 16739:113 as 82, and 16739:118 as 83. Usually the paper for these additions is of a different kind from the typing paper; so there can have been no question of, say, the typist leaving certain pages blank.

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volumes in the BN, doubtless to be explained by the loss or discovery of various layers or portions of MS since the Pléiade editors worked on them.¹

No doubt a great deal of this will right itself when a complete concordance is set up between the descriptions of the documents given by those who have at one stage or another had access to them.

As the novel goes on, my notation of additions starts sometimes to coincide with the Pléiade notes indicating them, since Proust joins them with the existing MS less and less carefully; but the Pléiade edition does not point them out consistently, as I said in Chapter 1.²

The manuscripts have been cleaned since the Pléiade editors consulted them, and the reading of doubtful words thereby made much easier. I have restricted myself in the tables to correcting

1 For example, I have not been able to find II 755n.1 in the MS for Sodome et Gomorrhe (n.a.fr. 16711), nor III 747d_n in the MS for Le Temps retrouvé (n.a.fr. 16724). On the other hand, page 83 (BN p. 91) of n.a.fr. 16718 most certainly is there - see III 375n.1; so, too, glued in, is 16719:97 - see III 487n.8; 16721:27 seems, in its present state, at least, to be very firmly part of the Cahier - see III 586n.2; and 16722:9 gives the MS for III 655n.2, which the Pléiade editors did not have.

For discrepancies in descriptions, see III 102n.1, where Pl. gives as 16716(Cahier 9):65 and 66 what would be at the beginning of n.a.fr. 16716 as BN has it, between 16716:3-4.

2 Part I, p. 10.

the rare serious Pléiade misreadings only when they fall in additions I cover - to take a short example, in III 911-12a, Proust had written his last temps with a small t, but the Pléiade text gives it a capital.¹

If the Pléiade notes quote an important but eventually discarded development which is in the base version, not added, I do not note it. Similarly, footnotes to which the tables do not refer were part of the main MS.²

Anyone who has worked on the material used by MM. Clarac and Ferré owes a debt of gratitude to them for the labour and patience that must have gone into their virtually impeccable transcriptions; purely from the point of view of the researcher, the outstanding accuracy of both notes and text in the Pléiade edition is invaluable.

1 For a few words or phrases which are now more legible, see:

III 489n.3: this can now be seen to be (probably):
éliminent ou renfoncent, on 16719:103. (See III 489a.)

III 562n.1:16720:102 has: qui se dérobe si mince.

III 569n.1:16720:113 has: lisent mon article.

One important misreading is that Pléiade has, on III 640, hérité de ma grand'mère; whereas 16721:99 has hérité de ma qd (sic) tante.

2 E.g. the footnote running from III 570-71.