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This volume continues to explore the life and works of Auguste Comte during his so-called second career. It covers the period from the coup d'état of Louis Napoleon in late 1851 to Comte's death in 1857. During these early years of the Second Empire, Comte became increasingly conservative and anxious to control his disciples. This study offers the first analysis of the tensions within his movement. Focusing on his second masterpiece, the *Système de politique positive*, and other important books, such as the *Synthèse subjective*, Mary Pickering not only sheds light on Comte's intellectual development but also traces the dissemination of positivism and the Religion of Humanity throughout many parts of the world.

Mary Pickering is Professor of History at San José State University. The author of *Auguste Comte: An Intellectual Biography*, Volumes I, II, and III, she has published in *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Historical Reflections*, *Revue philosophique*, and *Revue internationale de philosophie*.

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Auguste Comte

AUGUSTE COMTE
An Intellectual Biography, Volume III

MARY PICKERING
San José State University



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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521119146

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First published 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Pickering, Mary.

Auguste Comte: an intellectual biography / Mary Pickering.

v. <III>; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Contents: v. III.

ISBN 978-0-521-11914-6

1. Comte, Auguste, 1798-1857. 2. Philosophers — France — Biography.

I. Title.

B2247. P53 1993

194 — dc20 92-44510

[B] CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-11914-6 Hardback

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To Nicolas, Natalia, and Michael

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Acknowledgments

Bringing this thirty-year enterprise to a close requires at least thirty pages of thanks. However, to spare the reader, the publisher, and myself that ordeal, I will limit my words of gratitude. I would like to thank the late Donald Fleming, my history adviser at Harvard, for first suggesting that I write a biography of Auguste Comte. Little did we know in 1978 that it would take almost my entire life to cover Comte's. I am very grateful to all the people at the Maison d'Auguste Comte with whom I have worked: Sybil de Acevedo, Isabel Pratas-Frescata, Gilda Anderson, and more recently, the extremely helpful and kind Aurélia Giusti. Bruno Gentil, the current president of the International Association of the Maison d'Auguste Comte, has also been very generous with his knowledge and support. The former president, the late Trajano Bruno de Berrêdo Carneiro, encouraged me too. My thanks also go to the staffs of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Archives Nationales, Archives de Paris, Archives Départementales du Rhône, Archives Municipales de Lyon, archives of the Ecole Polytechnique (especially Claudine Billoux), Bancroft Library at the University of California (especially Susan Snyder), Balliol Library at Oxford University, Bodleian Library at Oxford University, Harris Manchester College Library at Oxford University (especially Susan Killoran), British Library, British Library of Political and Economic Science at the London School of Economics, University of Birmingham Library, New York Public Library, and Houghton Library at Harvard University (especially Jennie Rathbun). I am grateful to these libraries for permitting me to publish material from their archives. In addition, I reworked material from an essay in the *New Biography* (published by University of California Press) and from articles that I published in the *Journal of Women's History*, *Historical Reflections*, *Revue internationale de philosophie*, and *Revue philosophique*. I thank UC Press and these publications. The Comte scholars Shin Abiko, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, Michel Bourdeau, Jean-François Braunstein, Anastasios Brenner, Zeïneb Ben Cherni-Saïd, Laurent Clauzade, Jean Dhombres, Maria Donzelli, Mike Gane, Juliette Grange, the late Oscar Haac, Johan Heilbron, Angèle Kremer-Marietti, the late Mirella Larizza, Annie Petit, Héglio Trindade, Jean-Claude Wartelle, and Kaat Wils have helped me a great deal. I have appreciated their insights and friendship.

Moreover, I am grateful for the assistance I received from the French government and the Institut Français de Washington, which supported my research in Paris during the academic year 1983–4. Later I was very fortunate to receive a Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which allowed me to begin writing this volume in 1991–2. I would also like to thank Pace University and especially San José State University for granting me released time from teaching. San José State has given me two sabbaticals to write this book. At every step of the way, colleagues, chairs, and deans at San José State have been remarkably supportive of my research. Both the History Department and the College of Social Sciences have given Cambridge University Press substantial subventions to facilitate the publication of this book. I am extremely grateful in particular to Jonathan Roth, George Vasquez, and Tim Hegstrom for finding ways to give me time and financial backing. In addition, my colleagues Mike Conniff, Jack Bernhardt, Margo McBane, and Diane Baker, as well as my former students Thomas Abel and Laura Laife, have aided me in innumerable ways.

Outside of San José State, Jo B. Margadant, Karen Offen, Londa Schiebinger, Lorenza Sebesta, Kathleen Kete, Lynn Wardley, George Sheridan, Edward Castleton, Takashi Sugimoto, and Christine Williams have given me important insights and tips on finding letters and other sources. Naomi Andrews and Jonathan Beecher gave me outstanding advice at all stages of the writing of the manuscript. David and Nicole Manson and Jim and Sylvie Owen always graciously welcomed me to their apartments during my research trips to Paris. My editor, Frank Smith, wins kudos for waiting patiently for fifteen years for this third volume. I thank him profusely for allowing me the space to develop Comte's story in the proper manner. He has been an exemplary editor. William H. Stoddard, Peter W. Katsirubas, and Donna Weiss were gracious and wise in polishing and preparing the manuscript for publication. Steve Siebert at Nota Bene helped with the index. Others who have been encouraging include John and Dawn Pickering, Peter and JoAnne Blasko, Hank and Betty Lauricella, Sherling Lauricella, Sheila Asher, Trish Kubal, Juana Schurman, Tony Ligamari, Edith Tobin, Lucy Gray, and David Thomson. I would also like to remember my parents, Helen and Alec Pickering, who sadly died before this biography was completed.

Finally, I give a huge thanks to my husband, Hank Lauricella, who read draft after draft, and to my three children, Nicolas, Natalia, and Michael Lauricella, who grew up with Comte and never begrudged me the inordinate amount of time I spent with him. I am very grateful to the little ones – now the big ones – for their patience, kindness, and good humor, all of which helped me in more ways than they could ever know.

Abbreviations and Notes

ABBREVIATIONS

Although short titles have generally been used in the citations, several abbreviations warrant explanation:

AN	Archives Nationales
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale
CG	<i>Auguste Comte: Correspondance générale et confessions</i> . Edited by Paulo E. de Berrêdo Carneiro, Pierre Arnaud, Paul Arbousse-Bastide, and Angèle Kremer-Marietti. 8 vols. Paris: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 1973–90.
EP	Archives of the Ecole Polytechnique
MAC	Archives of the Maison d’Auguste Comte, Paris
RO	<i>La Revue Occidentale</i>

NOTES

The correspondence of Comte has been moved to the Bibliothèque Nationale, where it is available on microfilm. The letters from Comte are in N.a.fr. 27092–27096. The letters to Comte are in N.a.fr. 27099–27120. Copies of the letters are kept in the MAC. I have referred to them in the MAC, where I first consulted them in their original form in the 1980s.

For pictures of Comte and his apartment, see the Web site of the Maison d’Auguste Comte: <http://www.augustecomte.org>. Emmanuel Lazinier, the president of the International Positivist Society, also maintains an interesting Web site: <http://membres.lycos.fr/clotilde>.