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’etat 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.

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Auguste Comte
AUGUSTE COMTE
An Intellectual Biography, Volume III

MARY PICKERING
San José State University
To Nicolas, Natalia, and Michael
Contents

Acknowledgments
Abbreviations and Notes

Introduction  
1 The Coup d’Etat and Its Consequences  
2 Comte’s Stumblings  
3 The Vicissitudes of Positivism during the Early Empire  
4 Système de politique positive: Natural and Social Philosophy  
5 Système de politique positive: Comte’s Philosophy of History  
6 Système de politique positive: Comte’s Utopia  
7 The Last Years: Politics and Propaganda  
8 The Last Flurry of Activity: The Testament and Synthèse subjective  
9 The Death of the Great Priest of Humanity and His Influence  
Conclusion  

Bibliography  
Index
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xii

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Abbreviations and Notes

Abbreviations

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

AN Archives Nationales
BN Bibliothèque Nationale
EP Archives of the Ecole Polytechnique
MAC Archives of the Maison d’Auguste Comte, Paris
RO *La Revue Occidentale*

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.