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Landmarks of world literature

Racine

PHÈDRE

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General editor: J. P. Stern

Dickens: *Bleak House* – Graham Storey

Homer: *The Iliad* – Michael Silk

Dante: *The Divine Comedy* – Robin Kirkpatrick

Balzac: *Old Goriot* – David Bellos

Mann: *Buddenbrooks* – Hugh Ridley

Homer: *The Odyssey* – Jasper Griffin

Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina* – Anthony Thorlby

Conrad: *Nostramo* – Ian Watt

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Murasaki Shikibu: *The Tale of Genji* – Richard Bowring

Sterne: *Tristram Shandy* – Wolfgang Iser

Shakespeare: *Hamlet* – Paul A. Cantor

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Pound: *The Cantos* – George Kearns

Beckett: *Waiting for Godot* – Lawrence Graver

Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales* – Winthrop Wetherbee

Virgil: *The Aeneid* – K. W. Gransden

García Márquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* – Michael Wood

Cervantes: *Don Quixote* – A. J. Close

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Boccaccio: *Decameron* – David Wallace

Wordsworth: *The Prelude* – Stephen Gill

Eliot: *Middlemarch* – Karen Chase

Hardy: *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* – Dale Kramer

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Flaubert: *Madame Bovary* – Stephen Heath

Baudelaire: *Les Fleurs du mal* – F. W. Leakey

Zola: *L'Assommoir* – David Baguley

Boswell: *The Life of Johnson* – Greg Clingham

Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin* – A. D. P. Briggs

Dostoyevsky: *The Brothers Karamazov* – W. J. Leatherbarrow

Galdós: *Fortunata and Jacinta* – Harriet S. Turner

Aeschylus: *The Oresteia* – Simon Goldhill

Byron: *Don Juan* – Anne Barton

Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers* – M. H. Black

Swift: *Gulliver's Travels* – Howard Erskine-Hill

Milton: *Paradise Lost* – David Loewenstein

Mann: *Doctor Faustus* – Michael Beddow

Racine: *Phèdre* – E. D. James and G. Jondorf

Joyce: *Ulysses* – Vincent Sherry

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RACINE

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Prefatory note

The text of *Phèdre* which we have used is that contained in the *Théâtre complet* of Racine, edited by J. Morel and A. Viala in the Classiques Garnier series (Paris, 1980). Readers using other editions will find very little variation in the text, but a good deal in the punctuation, which is largely a matter of editorial choice.

The task of composition has been shared as follows: Dr Jondorf has been responsible for the sections on Structure and Language, Dr James for the rest. We have, however, discussed and revised the whole work together.

Thanks for some helpful suggestions are due to the reader for the Cambridge University Press. Mrs Heather Henchie of the Cambridge University French Department is especially thanked for processing Dr James's manuscript.

E. D. J.

G. J.

Chronology

Tragedy: writers and critics

Castelvetro, *Poetica d' Aristotele vulgarizzata*.
 Garnier, *Hippolyte*.

1562
 1570
 1573
 1589
 1593

Pierre Corneille born.

1598
 1606
 1607
 1610

1614
 1615
 1619
 1622
 1624
 1627
 1630

La Pinelière, *Hippolyte*.
 P. Corneille, *Le Cid*. Rotrou, *Antigone*.
Les Sentiments de l'Académie sur 'Le Cid'.

1635
 1637
 1638

Cultural and historical events

Beginning of French Wars of Religion.

Assassination of Henri III.
 Henri IV renounces Protestantism and enters Paris.
 Edict of Nantes. End of Wars of Religion.

Honoré d'Urfé, *L'Astrée*, t.1.
 Henri IV assassinated. Succeeded by Louis XIII, with Marie de Medici as regent. Honoré d'Urfé, *L'Astrée*, t.2.

Majority of Louis XIII.
 Louis XIII marries Anne of Austria.
 Honoré d'Urfé, *L'Astrée*, t.3.
 Molière born.

Richelieu *chef du conseil du roi*.
 Honoré d'Urfé, *L'Astrée*, t.4 and 5.
 Marie de Medici exiled.
 Foundation of the Académie Française.

Birth of the future Louis XIV.

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- 1639 Jean Racine born.
- 1640 P. Corneille, *Horace*.
- 1640–1 P. Corneille, *Cinna*.
- 1642 P. Corneille, *Polyeucte*.
- 1642–3
- 1643
- 1644–5 P. Corneille, *Rodogune*.
- 1644–50
- 1646 Gilbert, *Hippolyte*.
- 1648
- 1648–9
- 1649–53
- 1650–3
- 1651
- 1652 P. Corneille, *Pertharite*.
- 1653
- 1654–60
- 1655 Racine attends school at the Granges of Port-Royal.
- 1656 Th. Corneille, *Timocrate*.
- 1656–7
- 1657 D'Aubignac, *La Pratique du théâtre*.
- 1658 Racine leaves Port-Royal for a year's Logic at the Collège d'Harcourt in Paris.
- C. Jansen, *Augustinus*.
- Richelieu dies.
- Louis XIII dies. Succeeded by Louis XIV.
- Regency of Anne of Austria. Mazarin first minister.
- La Calprenède, *Cassandre*, 10 vols.
- Treaty of Westphalia. End of Thirty Years War.
- Fronde parlementaire.
- Madeleine de Scudéry, *Artamène ou le grand Cyrus*, 10 vols.
- Fronde des Princes.
- Majority of Louis XIV.
- Condemnation of five propositions attributed to Jansen.
- Madeleine de Scudéry, *Clélie*, 10 vols.
- Pascal, *Lettres provinciales*.

- 1659 P. Corneille, *Œdipe*.
- 1660 after P. Corneille, *Discours*.
- 1660 Racine translates parts of Aristotle's *Poetics*.
- 1661 Quinault, *Astrate, roi de Tyr*.
- 1664 Racine, *La Thébaïde*.
- 1665 Racine, *Alexandre le Grand*.
- 1666 Racine quarrels with Port-Royal over the denunciation of the writings of novelists and playwrights by P. Nicole in *Les Visionnaires*.
- 1666–7 Racine, *Andromaque*.
- 1667 Racine, *Britannicus*.
- 1668 Racine, *Bérénice*.
- 1669 Racine, *Bajazet*.
- 1670 Quinault, *Bellérophon*.
- 1672 Th. Corneille, *Ariane*.
- 1673 Racine received into the Académie Française.
- 1674 Racine, *Mithridate*.
- 1675 Racine, *Iphigénie*.
- 1675 P. Corneille, *Suréna*.
- 1675 Bidar, *Hippolyte*.
- 1675 Pradon, *Tamerlan*.
- 1675 Quinault, *Thésée* (music by Lully).
- Peace of the Pyrenees. Louis XIV marries Maria Teresa, daughter of the King of Spain. Louis XIV assumes personal reign.
- Mazarin dies.
- Molière, *Le Tartuffe*, first version.
- La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes* (first edition).
- Molière, *Dom Juan*.
- Molière, *Le Misanthrope*.
- P. Nicole, *Traité de la comédie*.
- 'Peace of the Church' with Jansenists begins.
- Pascal, *Pensées*.
- Louis XIV wages war on the Dutch.
- Molière dies.
- Boileau, *L'Art poétique*.

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- 1677 Racine, *Phèdre*.
Pradon, *Phèdre et Hippolyte*.
Subligny, *Dissertation sur les tragédies de 'Phèdre et Hippolyte'*.
Racine appointed (with Boileau) Historiographer Royal.
- 1679
- 1678
- 1682
- 1683
- 1684
- 1685
- 1688
- 1689
- 1691
- 1697
- 1699
- 1707
- 1712
- La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes*, fifth and definitive edition. Madame de Lafayette, *La Princesse de Clèves*.
Peace of Nijmegen. Persecution of Jansenists resumes.
P. Bayle, *Pensées diverses sur la comète*, speculates on the relation between beliefs and moral conduct.
- Revocation of Edict of Nantes.
War of the League of Augsburg begins.
- War of the League of Augsburg ends. Treaty of Rijswijk. P. Bayle, *Dictionnaire historique et critique*.
- Racine dies in Paris.
Edmund [Neale] Smith, *Phaedra and Hippolytus*.
Ambrose Philips, *The Distrest Wife*.

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| 1713 | Treaty of Utrecht. |
| 1714 | Fénelon, <i>Lettre à l'Académie</i> . |
| 1715 | Louis XIV dies. Succeeded by Louis XV.
Regency of Philippe d'Orléans begins. |
| 1716 | Majority of Louis XV. |
| 1723 | Prévost, <i>Histoire du chevalier Des Grieux et de
Manon Lescaut</i> . |
| 1731 | Racine, <i>Athalie</i> (public performance). |
| 1733 | J.-Ph. Rameau, <i>Hippolyte et Aricie</i> , libretto by
Pellegrin. |