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978-0-521-51325-8 - Auguste Comte: An Intellectual Biography, Volume II

Mary Pickering

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This volume begins to explore the life and works of Auguste Comte during his so-called second career, the controversial period that began in 1842 and lasted until his death. This volume covers the years from 1842 to 1852, when Comte transformed his positive philosophy into a political and religious movement. It represents the first in-depth study of that movement. Focusing on key books, such as the *Discours sur l'ensemble du positivisme*, Mary Pickering connects Comte's intellectual development to the tumultuous historical context and to episodes in his personal life, especially his famous relationship with Clotilde de Vaux. The book examines for the first time why workers, doctors, women, and famous writers, such as John Stuart Mill, George Henry Lewes, and Emile Littré, were drawn to his thought.

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

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MARY PICKERING

*San José State University*



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521513258](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521513258)

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First published 2009

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog 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. <II>; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Contents: v. II.

ISBN 978-0-521-51325-8

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

I. Title.

B2247. P53 1993

194 - dc20 92-44510

[B]

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-51325-8 hardback

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*To Hank*

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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, Zeineb Ben Cherni-Saïd, Laurent Clouzade, 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.

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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 second 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 three children, Nicolas, Natalia, and Michael Lauricella, and most of all to my husband, Hank Lauricella, who for thirty years has teased me about the "other man" in our marriage. Words cannot express my gratitude to him for never doubting that I would finish this biography and for helping me graciously every step of the way.



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## 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>.