

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

An Intellectual Biography, Volume II

MARY PICKERING

San José State University



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To Hank

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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
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>.