

Commemorating the Dead in Revolutionary France

From the fall of the Bastille in 1789 to the coming of Napoleon ten years later, the commemoration of the dead was a recurring theme during the French Revolution. Based on extensive research across a wide range of sources, this book is the first comprehensive study of the cultural politics of commemoration in Revolutionary France. It examines what remembrance meant to the people who staged and attended ceremonies, raised monuments, listened to speeches and purchased souvenirs in memory of the Revolution's dead. It explores the political purposes these commemorations served and the conflicts they gave rise to, while also examining the cultural traditions they drew upon. Above all, it asks what private ends did the Revolution's rites of memory serve? What consolation did commemoration bring to those the dead left behind, and what conflicts did this relationship between the public and the private dimensions of remembrance give rise to?

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Commemorating the Dead in Revolutionary France

Revolution and Remembrance 1789–1799

Joseph Clarke

Trinity College, Dublin





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List of abbreviations

AHR American Historical Review

AHRF Annales Historiques de la Révolution Française

AM Ancien Moniteur
AN Archives Nationales

Annales ESC Annales – Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations

AP Archives Parlementaires

BHVP Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris

BL British Library

BN Bibliothèque Nationale

CIP Guillaume, Procès-verbal du Comité d'Instruction Publique

CSP Aulard, Recueil des actes du Comité de Salut Public

DHS Dix-Huitième Siècle
FHS French Historical Studies
JMH Journal of Modern History

OC Oeuvres Complètes P&P Past and Present

RHMC Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine SVEC Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century