

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-00512-9 - The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Paris  
Edited by Anna-Louise Milne  
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
THE LITERATURE OF PARIS

No city more than Paris has had such a constant and deep association with the development of literary forms and cultural ideas. The idea of the city as a space of literary self-consciousness started to take hold in the sixteenth century. By 1620, where this volume begins, the first in a long line of extraordinary works of the human imagination, in which the city represented itself to itself, had begun to find form in print. This collection follows that process through to the present day. Beginning with the 'salon', followed by the hybrid culture of libertinage and the revolutionary hotbeds of working-class districts, it explores the continuities and changes between the pre-modern era and the nineteenth century, when Paris asserted itself as cultural capital of Europe. It goes on to explore how this vision of Paris as a key capital of modernity has shaped contemporary literature.

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CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1610	Assassination of Henri IV, rue de la Ferronnerie; Louis XIII comes to the throne.
1612	The Place Royale, future Place des Vosges, is inaugurated.
1615	Work begins on the Luxembourg Palace for Marie de Médicis.
1622	The windmill called Moulin du Palais, later to become the Moulin de la Galette, is built on the hillside of Montmartre.
1624	Cardinal Richelieu becomes King's Councillor; work begins on the Hôtel Sully in the Marais.
1629	Work begins on the Palais Cardinal, future Palais-Royal, which will be Richelieu's residence.
1631	Théophraste Renaudot launches the first newspaper, <i>La Gazette de France</i> .
1632	A bridge, later called Le Pont Royal, is built to replace the boat or 'bac' that linked the Left Bank to the Louvre and Tuileries Palaces. The 'bac' left its name to the rue du Bac, key access route to the Faubourg Saint-Germain.
1634	Pierre Corneille's comedy <i>La Place royale</i> is performed in the Marais.
1635	Richelieu founds the Académie Française.
1637	J.-L. Guez de Balzac publishes his <i>Nouvelles lettres</i> ; Pierre Corneille's tragicomic play <i>Le Cid</i> causes a scandal.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1641	Descartes publishes his <i>Meditations</i> and a theatre opens within the Palais Cardinal (Palais-Royal).
1643	Louis XIII dies; Louis XIV comes to the throne, aged 5. France is governed by Prime Minister Mazarin.
1645	Malherbe publishes his <i>Lettres</i> .
1646	Madame de Sévigné begins writing her letters to her daughter.
1648	The beginning of the Fronde; the Court of Louis XIV leaves Paris for Saint-Germain-en-Laye until August 1649.
1649	Madeleine de Scudéry's first novel, <i>Artamène ou le Grand Cyrus</i> is published.
1653	The period of the Fronde is over and Louis XIV's power consolidated.
1661	Molière's troupe takes up residency in the Palais-Royal.
1662	The first 'carosses à cinq sous', a horse-driven form of public transport, take to the streets of Paris.
1665	First edition of <i>Les Maximes</i> by La Rochefoucauld.
1666	First production of Molière's <i>Le Misanthrope</i> and <i>Le Médecin malgré lui</i> .
1667	First production of Racine's <i>Andromaque</i> in the Louvre.
1668	La Fontaine publishes his first <i>Fables</i> .
1670	Work begins on the Hôtel des Invalides in what is now the 7th arrondissement.
1670	Port-Royal publishes Pascal's <i>Pensées</i> .
1671	Louis XIV leaves Paris to take up residency for the rest of his life in Versailles.
1672	The first café opens in the Saint-Germain market; the first issue of the 'magazine' <i>Mercure gallant</i> , subsequently renamed <i>Mercure de France</i> , appears. It will start publishing texts on fashion and fashionable life in 1678.
1673	Lully's <i>Cadmus et Hermione</i> is performed at Versailles, marking the beginning of French opera.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1678	Madame de La Fayette publishes <i>La Princesse de Clèves</i> .
1682	Colbert, Secretary of State under Louis XIV, gives orders for all Protestants in Paris to be put on file.
1685	The revocation of the Édit de Nantes, forcing French Protestants into exile.
1715	Beginning of the Regency following the death of Louis XIV; Philippe II, Duc d'Orléans, establishes his rule until Louis XV comes of age in 1723. The Court returns to Paris.
1718	Work begins on the Hôtel d'Evreux, future Élysées Palace, in what would become the 8th arrondissement, on the Right Bank.
1720	Work is completed on the Place Louis-le-Grand, later called the Place Vendôme.
1722	The Hôtel Matignon is built in the Faubourg Saint-Germain. Instruction in oriental languages begins at the Collège Louis-le-Grand with the aim of facilitating trade between France and the East.
1723	A royal ordinance restricts all printing activities to the area round the University.
1728	The first street signs appear in Paris, and the first issue of the clandestine Jansenist publication, <i>Les Nouvelles ecclésiastiques</i> is published. The King bans printing on roller presses, which are too difficult for the police to keep under surveillance.
1731	Voltaire begins publishing his <i>Lettres philosophiques</i> from Rouen having fled the capital. The book will be banned and the publisher imprisoned in the Bastille.
1734	Montesquieu publishes his <i>Lettres persanes</i> .
1745	First authorisation to publish granted to the <i>Encyclopédie</i> ; it will extend to thirty-five volumes containing entries by, among others, Diderot, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Condillac. Parliament outlaws all handwritten gazettes.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1749	Buffon begins publishing his forty-volume <i>Histoire naturelle</i> .
1752	The Archbishop of Paris condemns the <i>Encyclopédie</i> .
1762	Rousseau publishes <i>Le Contrat social</i> .
1763	The Place Louis XV – now the Place de la Concorde – is inaugurated.
1774	Louis XV dies and Louis XVI comes to the throne.
1775	First performance of Beaumarchais's <i>Barbier de Séville</i> .
1779	Houses start to be numbered all across Paris; work begins on the Odéon theatre near the Luxembourg gardens.
1781	The first pavements are built, on the rue de l'Odéon.
1782	First publication of the Marquis de Sade's <i>Cent vingt journées de Sodome</i> ; the Marquis has been imprisoned in the Vincennes dungeon since 1777.
1783	The first ruling on the dimensions of streets and the height of buildings is passed into law: a street must be at least 30 feet (9 metres) in breadth.
1784	The Fermiers généraux wall is built, imposing a toll on goods entering and leaving the city.
1786	The first restaurant is opened by Antoine Beauvilliers in the Palais-Royal.
1789 (23 April)	General Assembly of Parisian electorate at the États Généraux.
1789 (14 July)	The Bastille falls.
1789 (6 October)	Louis XVI, having recognised the new municipality, returns to Paris to take up residence in the Tuileries Palace.
1791	The Parisian populace learns that the King has fled.
1792	The Tuileries Palace is invaded and occupied by the people of Paris; Year 1 of the Republic is declared.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1793 (21 January)	Louis XVI is guillotined in the Place de la Révolution; the Louvre Palace is opened to the public as a permanent museum, 'le tutoiement' (the use of the 'informal' pronoun 'tu') is decreed obligatory in Paris, and all churches are closed.
1794	Robespierre takes control of the city; the months of June and July are marked by an exacerbation of the Terror; Robespierre is guillotined on 28 July (10 Thermidor).
1795	The last uprising in the eastern Faubourgs; the rule of the Directory begins.
1799	Bonaparte overthrows the Directory in the Coup d'État of the 18 Brumaire.
1800	Paris loses its single mayor and is organised under twelve mayors, two prefects and forty-eight police commissioners; the Passage des Panoramas, one of the most popular shopping arcades of the nineteenth century, opens on the boulevard Montmartre.
1800	Madame de Staël publishes her 'manifesto' for romanticism <i>De la littérature</i> .
1802	Chateaubriand publishes his <i>Génie du christianisme</i> , having returned from his exile in England.
1804	Bonaparte is crowned Napoleon I, Emperor of France.
1806	Napoleon I lays the first stone of the Arc de Triomphe.
1810	The Vendôme Column is finished.
1814	Siege of Paris by the English, Germans, Austrians and Russians.
1814	The Municipal Council forces Napoleon to abdicate and Louis XVIII returns to the capital, which is occupied by the coalition armies.
1820 (13 February)	Assassination of the Duc de Berry at the Opéra.
1822	Géricault paints the 'Radeau de la Méduse'.
1824 (16 September)	Louis XVIII dies; (27 September) Charles X, brother of Louis XVI and Louis XVIII, arrives in Paris.
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CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1824	Delacroix paints 'Massacre à Scio'.
1825	The Canal Saint-Martin is linked to the Villette port enabling easier shipping access to the city.
1827	Violent street-fighting and barricades in the rue Saint-Denis; the first giraffe arrives in Paris, a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to Charles X.
1827	Victor Hugo publishes his Preface to the historical drama <i>Cromwell</i> .
1829	Gas-lighting is turned on for the first time in Paris.
1830 (July)	'Les Trois Glorieuses', a popular uprising lasting three days against Charles X, who abdicates and retreats to Saint-Cloud. Louis-Philippe d'Orléans is declared King of France by eighty-nine votes against ten in the Chamber of Lords.
1830	First performance of Hugo's <i>Hernani</i> which sparks the 'battle' between the adepts of romanticism and the proponents of classicism.
1830	Berlioz's <i>Symphonie fantastique</i> is performed for the first time, issuing in a new era in French music.
1830	Auguste Comte begins publishing his <i>Cours de philosophie positive</i> .
1831	Balzac publishes <i>La Peau de chagrin</i> .
1835	Tocqueville begins publication of <i>De la démocratie en Amérique</i> .
1836	Musset publishes his autobiographical <i>Confessions d'un enfant du siècle</i> .
1836	The obelisk from Luxor is installed in the Place de la Concorde.
1837	The first train line between Paris and Saint-Germain-en-Laye opens on the site that will become the Saint-Lazare Station.
1838	Stendhal publishes his <i>Memoires d'un touriste</i> after a stay in the capital.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1840	Napoleon's coffin is transferred to the Invalides and the monument to the fallen of the 1830 uprising is inaugurated on the Place de la Bastille.
1842	Balzac regroups his novels into <i>La Comédie humaine</i> , which will ultimately comprise ninety novels; Eugène Sue begins his <i>Mystères de Paris</i> .
1843	Train travel is developing fast: a new line is opened to Orléans and Rouen. The first experiments in electric lighting are carried out at the Place de la Concorde.
1845	The construction of the fortifications around Paris, known as the Thiers Wall and later as 'les fortifs', is completed.
1848	A popular uprising forces Louis-Philippe to abandon the throne; the Second Republic is declared.
1848	The chemical processes enabling reinforced concrete are developed in France, enabling the construction of much higher buildings in future decades.
1850	Courbet's painting of a rural funeral, 'Un enterrement à Ornans', creates a scandal when it is exhibited at the Salon.
1851 (2 December)	President of the Republic, Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, declares himself Emperor Napoleon III; the Second Empire begins (2 December 1852).
1855	The first department store in Paris, Au Louvre, opens for business.
1857	Baudelaire publishes the first edition of <i>Les Fleurs du mal</i> ; Flaubert publishes <i>Madame Bovary</i> . Both works are incriminated by the State censor along with Eugène Sue's <i>Les Mystères du peuple</i> .
1858	The boulevard de Sébastopol is inaugurated, followed three years later by the boulevard Malesherbes. Work has begun on the future avenue de la République and the boulevard Voltaire.
1860	The thirteen suburban communes are absorbed within the administrative structure of the city, which rises to twenty arrondissements.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1861	Nadar takes some of the first photographs using artificial light in the catacombs of Paris.
1862	The long construction of Garnier's Opéra begins; it will open for business in 1875. Victor Hugo publishes <i>Les Misérables</i> while still in exile on the island of Guernsey.
1863	Daumier paints 'La Blanchisseuse', part of a long series of depictions of everyday life in the city.
1865	Manet's painting 'Olympia' causes a huge outcry at the Salon.
1867	Opening of the Universal Exhibition in Paris with a <i>bateaux mouche</i> service inaugurated to transport visitors to the site on the Champ-de-Mars.
1870	France defeated by the Prussian army at Sedan; Paris under siege.
1871 (March)	The Prussian army marches up the Champs-Élysées.
1871 (18 March)	Declaration of the Paris Commune.
1871 (May)	The Tuileries Palace and the Hôtel de Ville are burned to the ground in the last stand of the Commune known as the 'semaine sanglante' [bloody week], 21–7 May.
1871	Thiers becomes the first President of the Third Republic
1871	Zola begins the Rougon-Macquart series on the 'natural and social history of a family under the Second Empire'.
1872	Monet paints 'Impression, soleil levant', which will prompt the designation of a new school of painting, impressionism, in 1874.
1872	Sarah Bernhardt rises to prominence on the Parisian stage in Victor Hugo's <i>Ruy Blas</i> .
1873	The project to build a basilica on the hill of Montmartre is approved by Parliament.
1873	Rimbaud publishes <i>Une Saison en enfer</i> .
1876	Degas paints 'L'Absinthe', a picture of a woman sitting alone in a Parisian café.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1881	The Chat Noir nightclub opens on the boulevard Rochechouart.
1884	The first public swimming pool opens on the rue Château-Landon in the 10th arrondissement.
1885	Victor Hugo's funeral, for which the church Sainte-Geneviève is renamed the Panthéon, dedicated to 'the great men' of the nation.
1889	Opening of the Universal Exhibition in Paris and inauguration of the Eiffel Tower.
1890	Van Gogh paints the church at Auvers-sur-Oise.
1894	Durkheim publishes his <i>Règles de la méthode sociologique</i> .
1894	The beginning of the Dreyfus Affair.
1895	The Lumière brothers reveal the first machine enabling the projection of films; the first public cinema screening takes place in the basement of the Grand Café, boulevard des Capucines.
1897	Rodin's sculpture of Balzac is revealed to the public, provoking mixed reactions.
1898	Zola publishes 'J'accuse' in defence of Dreyfus.
1900	The first metro line is opened between Vincennes and Maillot for the Universal Exhibition, which receives over 50 million visitors; the Pont Alexandre III and the Gare d'Orsay, later to become the Musée d'Orsay, are built for the occasion.
1902	First production of Debussy's <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> at the Opéra-Comique; first projections of Méliès's <i>Voyage dans la Lune</i> .
1907	Picasso paints 'Les Demoiselles d'Avignon' in the artists' community of the Bateau-Lavoir established up in Montmartre.
1910	The Ballets Russes (the Russian National Ballet) are at the Théâtre du Châtelet under the direction of Diaghilev, with Nijinsky delighting the audiences.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1913	Proust begins the long composition of <i>À la recherche du temps perdu</i> .
1914 (31 July)	Jean Jaurès is assassinated on the rue Montmartre.
1914 (August)	War is declared; the government leaves the capital for Bordeaux only to return two weeks later.
1916	Chinese labourers arrive in Paris to work in the Renault factories where the first armoured tanks are being built.
1918 (11 November)	The Armistice is signed; the war is over and people celebrate in the streets.
1919 (14 July)	The Marshalls of France lead the Victory parade from the Porte Maillot to the Place de la Concorde; the first commercial airline opens between Paris and Brussels.
1921	The first refrigerators are installed in Les Halles, the central Parisian market.
1922	Man Ray starts producing 'surrealist' photographs and Max Ernst depicts the 'surrealist' coterie in his painting 'Au rendez-vous des amis'. The first traffic lights are introduced on the crossroads between the rue de Rivoli and the boulevard de Sébastopol.
1925	The Decorative Arts Exhibition opens and the Eiffel Tower is lit up with adverts for Citroën cars for the occasion; Le Corbusier exhibits his first major plan for Paris, Le Plan Voisin, which projected the wholesale demolition of Le Marais.
1927	Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic to arrive in Paris.
1930	The military zone ringing Paris is decommissioned and absorbed within the city boundaries.
1931	The Colonial Exhibition takes place in the Vincennes forest, attracting 8 million visitors; the Surrealists stage their counter exhibition in opposition to colonialism.
1934 (6 February)	Right-wing riots in the Place de la Concorde.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1936	Victory of the Popular Front in the legislative elections followed by a massive strike movement which obtains significant reductions in the working week and paid holidays for salaried employees.
1937	International Exhibition of Arts and Technology, which attracts 34 million visitors; the Chaillot and Tokyo Palaces at the Trocadéro are built for the occasion.
1938	Sartre publishes his first novel, <i>La Nausée</i> .
1939	Hitler declares war.
1940 (14 June)	The German army occupies Paris.
1942 (18 July)	12,884 Jewish people of all ages are arrested all across Paris and transferred to the Vélodrome d'hiver in Paris before being deported.
1944 (19 August)	The people of Paris rise up against the occupying army; (26 August) de Gaulle marches triumphantly down the Champs-Élysées.
1945 (29 April)	Municipal elections and French women vote for the first time.
1946	The Fourth Republic is declared.
1949	Piaf entrances her audiences with her inimitable brand of popular Parisian song; Simone de Beauvoir publishes <i>Le Deuxième sexe</i> .
1953	Beckett's <i>En attendant Godot</i> is performed for the first time.
1954	War begins in Algeria; Abbé Pierre launches his appeal in the name of the massive homeless population, many living in shanty towns in the outskirts of Paris.
1955	Lévi-Strauss publishes his <i>Tristes tropiques</i> ; a decree is passed instituting a policy of 'decentralisation' in the wake of J. F. Gravier's book, <i>Paris et le désert français</i> [ <i>Paris and the French Desert</i> , 1947].
1957	Work on the <i>boulevard périphérique</i> , the high-speed ring road around Paris, begins, and prefabricated concrete starts to be used massively in the construction of housing.

CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1958	De Gaulle returns to power at the height of the Algerian War; beginning of the Fifth Republic; the business district La Défense is inaugurated.
1959	La Nouvelle Vague in cinema begins to transform the way the city is filmed, starting with Truffaut's <i>Les quatre cents coups</i> .
1961	The 'Battle of Paris' takes place between Algerian demonstrators and police, resulting in the death by drowning of tens of Algerian protestors, if not more.
1968	Student uprising in the Latin Quarter followed by mass strikes.
1969	The central market, Les Halles, closes and is transferred to Rungis.
1970	Work begins on the controversial Tour Montparnasse.
1977	Jacques Chirac is elected mayor of Paris, the first single mayor for the whole of Paris since 1871 when Jules Ferry and Étienne Arago had briefly governed the city in the wake of the collapse of the Second Empire; the Centre Pompidou opens its doors and the metro-RER station Châtelet-les Halles is inaugurated.
1981	The Socialist Party comes to power for the first time since the Popular Front; the first TGVs appear on French railways, reducing travel times between Paris and other major cities such as Lyons, Tours and Bordeaux.
1985	The Parc de la Villette opens, emblematic of a new 'deconstructed' architecture and the changing relation between Paris and its periphery.
1988	The Louvre Pyramid is inaugurated.
1995	Beginning of a series of scandals surrounding the attribution of social housing in fashionable districts to members of the political class.
1998	France wins the World Cup; huge crowds celebrate on the Champs-Élysées.
2005	Three weeks of rioting in the Parisian suburbs spreading to other major French cities.