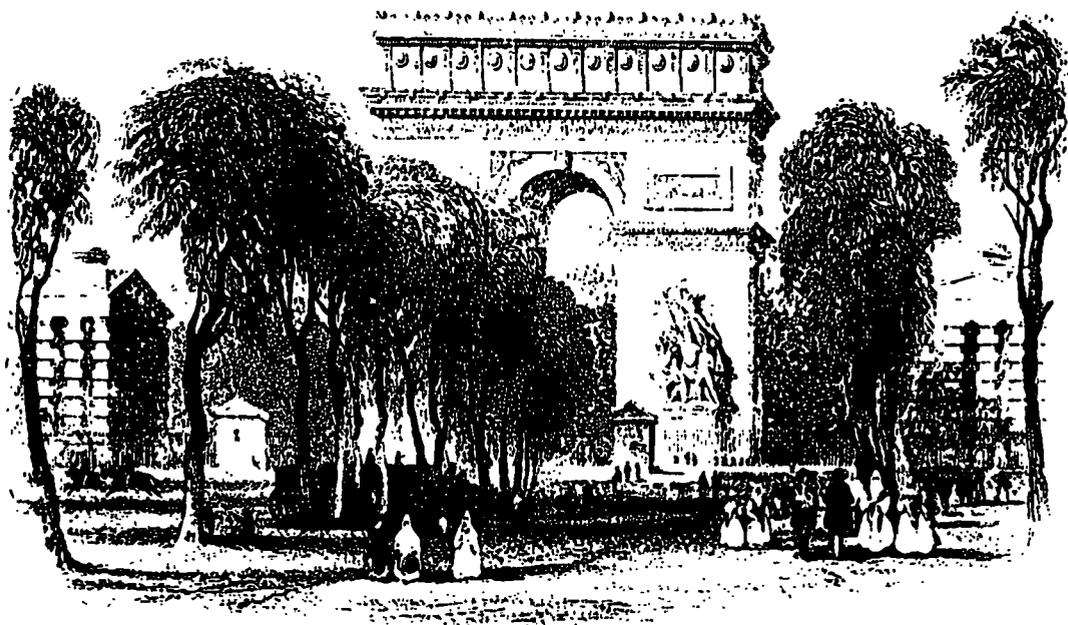


P A R I S
C I T Y O F
R E V O L U T I O N S



**AN EXHIBITION OF BOOKS ON PARIS
PUBLISHED BEFORE THE
20TH CENTURY
9TH JUNE - 31ST JULY 1939
MONASH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

PARIS, CITY OF REVOLUTIONS

When the question of commemorating the bicentenary of 14 July 1789 arose, Monash University Library was forced to admit that the collections in its Rare Book Room contained relatively little that could be described as original and contemporary documentation on the French Revolution. It was clear then that the task of illustrating that momentous series of events and social and political changes would have to be left to the State Library of Victoria and to the University of Melbourne's Baillieu Library, both of which have interesting holdings of relevant pamphlets, monographs and journals. On the other hand, the city of Paris has been the focus of teaching and research for some members of the Monash Departments of Romance Languages and of History since the early 1970s. Why not compose a small exhibition of some of the primary sources acquired over the years to support these activities?

The present display is intended to realize the modest aims of a salute to the happenings of 1789 (and indeed of the preceding and following years) and of another glimpse of the way well chosen special collections can serve the University's teachers and students. With the addition of volumes drawn from the libraries of individuals connected with the University, "Paris, City of Revolutions" attempts to show something of the history and fascination of the greatest urban concentration of continental Western Europe. As more than one item included demonstrates, Paris knew several upheavals between 1789 and 1871. Despite the primacy of the great Revolution of the eighteenth century, 1830, 1848 and 1871 cannot and should not be forgotten. However, revolution and the violent overthrow of hated or ineffectual regimes are far from being the only preoccupations of late eighteenth- and of nineteenth-century writers in, on and about Paris. Other concerns of an entirely different character deserve to be visible and are included therefore in the exhibition.

Since space is severely limited, many themes are merely suggested by what is laid out in the upright and flat cases available. Two nineteenth-century maps (one a facsimile) and a few late eighteenth-century plans folded out from guide books have to do duty for the precise indications of urban topography that are indispensable in an exploration of this kind. Facsimiles of Revolutionary posters of the 1790s, reproductions of views of popular street life in the eighteenth century and photographs of engravings (and two more plans) taken from books on display are meant to recreate in a summary fashion on the panels surrounding the cases a little of the atmosphere of the monumental Paris so familiar to tourists then as now.

What can be emphasized in a selection of not many more than fifty items? The writers represented fall—a little unevenly—into five broad cat-

egories: tourists, travellers and their guides; historians and antiquaries; littérateurs and mythmakers; sociologists or, more properly, their statistically minded forebears; participants and actors in the events.

Although Monash cannot offer the depth of the Esmond de Beer collection in the Library of the University of Otago, it is nonetheless the first group that is the most prominent. The guide books—in French and in English—cover more than a century of the life of a rapidly changing and expanding city. The picturesque and the practical are allotted equal shares. Amateurs of art, theatregoers and devotees of circulating libraries—in their Parisian heyday under the Restoration—are given special attention. The manuals assume the leisure, the taste and the stamina of tourists of another age. The travellers, whether they be writers of letters, keepers of journals or self-consciously intent on shaping their observations into treatises, live up to these expectations. Lemaistre reports on Paris at the beginning of Napoléon's rule. John Scott looks at the city in some detail both before and after Waterloo. Mrs Trollope examines the world of the July Monarchy, while Vandam and Adolphus propose gossip about and insights into the capital of France later in the century. Alongside an ex-Lyonese resident like Prudhomme and a provincial visitor like Boissière, the foreigners provide a useful quarry for the student of Parisian social history.

Such inquiries were far from the minds of the historians of the second category. From Du Breul early in the seventeenth century through to Hopkins and Sophia Beale at the end of the nineteenth they are antiquaries above all else, obsessed with churches, dungeons and the stages on which grand and memorable events take place. New approaches to Paris's past had to wait till the twentieth century, for example till Maurice Halbwachs's study in 1909 of expropriations between 1860 and 1900.

The native men of letters present among the chosen exhibits were also fated to attract the attention of modern historians, notably of culture and of "mentalities", that slippery notion of the so-called *Annales* school. Restif, Mercier, Théveneau de Morande, Nougaret, Dubreuil and Chaussard belong in many ways—and despite the growing fame of the first two—to the subterranean regions explored by Robert Darnton. These were the Parisian equivalents of the writers of Grub Street, the pens for hire for scurrilous pamphlets and all sorts of dubious work. Consequently there are good reasons to weigh with equal critical doubt burlesque epics, solemn verse commemorations of the institutions of social welfare and would-be candid exposés of big city vice and corruption.

That scepticism was certainly expressed by Parent-Duchâtelet, the genuine social scientist of the selection offered. The Lazares' dictionary is

no doubt an administratively respectable compilation, but the specialist in public health succeeded in creating a classic whose renown—as evidenced by early library catalogues—spread quickly as far as the nineteenth-century Australian colonies.

Finally, with the makers of the Revolutionary posters, with the actors depicted by *L'Illustration*, with the signatories of the Paris Treaty of 1814, with Proudhon and Louis Blanc, with the imitators in 1871 of Hébert's *Père Duchêne* of 1790, we have the participants, themselves as conscious as all the other categories of the weight of tradition. The students of the "events" of May 1968 were as much attuned as the men and women of the Commune to the appropriate Parisian revolutionary gestures.

We no longer—or only quite exceptionally—approach Paris travelling up the Seine, as J.F. Smith did, but in most other respects we relive the scenes and situations so often shown in the exhibition's cases. The power of the past is with us at every turn in the great city, whether or not we draw on the convenient historical clichés of the modern manuals for tourists in a hurry. Even a small sampling of the vast literature devoted to Paris may suggest why the visitor's understanding will be enhanced by a sense of what has gone before in two millennia of human settlement and civilized living.

W.K.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

1. Reproduction of contemporary plan of Paris from the facsimile edition of Adolphe Joanne, *Le Guide parisien*, Paris, Hachette, 1863.
2. Charles Picquet, *Plan géométrique de la Ville de Paris*, London, Samuel Leigh, [circa 1820?].
3. Facsimiles of contemporary posters from *Les Femmes dans la Révolution française*, Paris, Edhis, 1982.
4. Plates (facsimiles of contemporary engravings and sketches) from the album of Marguerite Pitsch, *La Vie populaire à Paris au XVIIIe siècle*, Paris, Picard, 1949.
5. Jacques Du Breul, *Le Théâtre des Antiquitez de Paris*, Paris, Pierre Chevalier, 1612.
6. Translation of Germain-François Poullain de Saint-Foix, *Essais historiques sur Paris* (1st edition, 1754-5) in D.Y., *Translations from the French*, Lynn, 1770.
7. Pierre-Thomas-Nicolas Hurtault, *Dictionnaire historique de la ville de Paris*, Paris, Moutard, 1779, 4 volumes.
8. Jèze, *Etat ou tableau de la ville de Paris*, Paris, Prault, 1760.
9. Jacques-Antoine Dulaure, *Nouvelle description des curiosités de Paris*, Paris, Lejay, 1786.
10. Thiéry, *Le Voyageur à Paris*, 8th edition, Paris, Gattey, 1790, 2 parts in 1.
11. *Le Guide du voyageur à Paris*, Paris, Gueffier, 1802.
12. F.-M. Marchant, *Le Nouveau Conducteur de l'étranger à Paris en 1819*, 7th edition, Paris, Moronval, 1819.
13. Louis-Sébastien Mercier, *Tableau de Paris*, new edition, Amsterdam, 1783-8, 12 volumes in 6.
14. Nicolas-Edme Restif de La Bretonne, *Le Palais Royal*, London, 1792, 3 volumes.
15. Philip Thicknesse, *A Year's Journey through France and part of Spain*, Bath, Cruttwell, 1777, 2 volumes in 1.
16. Laurence Sterne, *Voyage sentimental* (new translation by Jules Janin of *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*, 1768), Paris, Ernest Boursin, no date (XIXth century).
17. John Moore, *A Journal during a residence in France from the beginning of August, to the middle of December 1792*, London, Robinson,

- 1793, 1 volume only.
18. J.G. Lemaistre, *A Rough Sketch of Modern Paris; or, Letters, on Society, Manners, Public Curiosities, and Amusements, in that Capital, written during the last two months of 1801 and the first five of 1802*, London, J. Johnson, 1803.
 19. *Paris à travers les âges. Aspects successifs des monuments et quartiers historiques de Paris depuis le XIIIe siècle jusqu'à nos jours* (illustrations by T.J.H. Hoffbauer, text by E. Fournier, P. Lacroix, A. de Montaiglon and others), Paris, Firmin-Didot, 1875-1882, 2 volumes.
 20. Du Sommerard, *Notices sur l'Hôtel de Cluny et le Palais des Thermes*, Paris, Ducollet, 1834.
 21. *Journées illustrées de la Révolution de 1848*, Paris, aux Bureaux de *L'Illustration*, [1848] (extra-illustrated copy).
 22. *La Grande Colère du Père Duchêne*, [1871].
 23. Du Bois de Saint Gelais, *Description des tableaux du Palais Royal*, Paris, d'Houry, 1727.
 24. *Almanach royal, année MDCC.LXXVIII*, Paris, Le Breton.
 25. Alphonse Ducongé Dubreuil, *La Pucelle de Paris*, London [= Paris], 1776.
 26. Charles Théveneau de Morande, *Le Gazetier cuirassé*, "Imprimé à cent lieues de la Bastille, à l'enseigne de la Liberté", 1785.
 27. Pierre Jean-Baptiste Nougaret, *Les Astuces de Paris*, London/Paris, Cailleau, 1775.
 28. Pierre Jean-Baptiste Nougaret, *Les Sottises et les folies parisiennes, aventures diverses, etc., avec quelques pièces curieuses et fort rares*, London/Paris, Vve Duchesne, 1781.
 29. L. Prudhomme, *Miroir historique, politique et critique de l'ancien et du nouveau Paris*, Paris, Prudhomme, 1807, 6 volumes in 4.
 30. Galignani's *Travellers' Guide through France*, Paris, Galignani, 1825.
 31. Pierre Jean-Baptiste Chaussard, *Le Nouveau Diable boiteux, tableau philosophique et moral de Paris*, Paris, F. Buisson, an VII, 2 volumes.
 32. L. Alhoy, *Promenades poétiques dans les hospices et hôpitaux de Paris*, Paris, Trouvé, 1826.
 33. *Traité de Paix entre le Roi et les puissances alliées, conclu à Paris le 30 mai 1814*, Paris, Imprimerie royale, 1814.

34. Félix Lazare & Louis Lazare, *Dictionnaire administratif et historique des rues et monuments de Paris*, Paris, *Revue municipale*, 1855.
35. Alexandre Jean-Baptiste Parent-Duchâtelet, *De la prostitution dans la ville de Paris*, Brussels, Société belge de librairie, 1836, 2 volumes in 1.
36. Alexandre Jean-Baptiste Parent-Duchâtelet, *De la prostitution dans la ville de Paris*, Brussels, Société encyclographique des sciences médicales, 1838.
37. Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, *La Révolution sociale démontrée par le coup d'état du 2 décembre*, 5th edition, Paris, Garnier, 1852.
38. Louis Blanc, *La Révolution de février au Luxembourg*, Paris, Michel Lévy, 1849.
39. Emile Boissière, *A travers Paris. Souvenirs d'août 1871 par un Alsacien français*, Mulhouse, Imprimerie Ve L.L. Bader, 1871.
40. Un Parisien, *Paris et ses environs*, Paris, Librairie illustrée, [no date].
41. *Guide dans les théâtres*, Paris, Paulin & Le Chevalier, 1855.
42. Auguste Lepage, *Les Cafés artistiques et littéraires de Paris*, Paris, Martin Boursin, 1882.
43. René Ménard, *Les Curiosités artistiques de Paris. Guide du promeneur dans les musées, les collections et les édifices*, Paris, Librairie Ch. Delagrave, 1878.
44. Frances Trollope, *Paris and the Parisians in 1835*, London, Bentley, 1835, 2 volumes.
45. Mariana Starke, *Travels in Europe between the years 1824 and 1828*, Leghorn, Masi, 1828, 2 volumes.
46. *Paris: its Historical Buildings and its Revolutions*, new edition, London, Cox, 1849.
47. Tighe Hopkins, *The Dungeons of Old Paris. Being the Story and Romance of the most Celebrated Prisons of the Monarchy and the Revolution*, London & New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1898.
48. S. Sophia Beale, *The Churches of Paris from Clovis to Charles X*, London, W.H. Allen & Co. Limited, 1893.
49. John Scott, *A Visit to Paris in 1814; being a Review of the Moral, Political, Intellectual, and Social Condition of the French Capital*, 4th edition, London, Longman, Hurst etc., 1816.
50. John Scott, *Paris Revisited, in 1815, by way of Brussels: including*