

Abstracts

MICHAEL BENNETT

Curing and Inoculating Smallpox: The Career of Simeon Worlock in Paris, Brittany and Saint-Domingue in the 1770s

La variole fut une cause majeure de décès et d'invalidité en France au XVIIIe siècle. Dès les années 1730, Voltaire, parmi d'autres philosophes, exhorta ses compatriotes à adopter la pratique anglaise d'inoculation, une procédure prévoyant l'immunité à la maladie, mais à certains risques. A la fin des années 1760 l'attitude officielle devint plus positive. Simeon Worlock attira l'attention comme l'un des premiers inoculateurs anglais à exercer son métier en France. Tout d'abord il se fit un nom à Paris, mais, dès le départ, pour ses guérisons, prétendument «arrachant des patients des bras de la mort». En Bretagne, il inocula à grande échelle grâce à sa tactique de champ de foire. A Saint-Domingue il fit fortune en inoculant quarante mille esclaves. Tout au long de sa carrière, Worlock semble avoir bénéficié d'une protection de haut niveau et d'une bonne couverture médiatique. Sa représentation de lui-même comme guérisseur, et sa dépendance de la crédulité quasi-mystique qu'il inspirait chez ses patients, vont à l'encontre du récit associant l'adoption de l'inoculation à l'avance de la raison.

ELIZABETH ANDREWS BOND

Science, Technology, and Reform in the French Countryside: The Role of Provincial Officials in the Eighteenth-century Press

This paper investigates the role of provincial government officials concerning agricultural reform in eighteenth-century French print culture. Recent historiography has argued that reform-minded officials were active in shaping public opinion. A growth in print publications fed public interest and allowed officials a space to work out ideas for the implementation of new projects concerning agronomy. Indeed, in the second half of the eighteenth century, officials negotiated reform rather than imposing it. Letters to the editor printed in late eighteenth-century newspapers (known as *affiches*) provided a forum for debate among writers from diverse backgrounds. Provincial officials, especially mayors and intendants, were active participants in such published conversations. Indeed, officials wrote to the paper to stimulate public conversations for social and agricultural reform in much the same way they posed questions for essay contests held by provincial Académies. Through how-to letters, administrators offered advice about agricultural improvement. The press acted as a critical conduit to work out practical problems. For the readers of the *affiches*, agricultural reform was situated within a more widespread practice of observation and experimentation at the heart of the Agricultural Enlightenment.

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GREG BURGESS

The Repatriation of Soviet Prisoners of War and Displaced Peoples from the Auvergne after the Second World War

The repatriation of prisoners of war and displaced persons liberated during the allied advance across France in 1944 is a little examined issue in the history of Liberation France. Soviet prisoners of war and other displaced Soviet nationals were placed in camps until their repatriation could be arranged with the Soviet government. The repatriations from the Auvergne provide one of the better documented histories of the politics of repatriation. This article examines the issues faced in the Auvergne with the presence of many thousands of Soviet nationals awaiting return to the Soviet Union, and the larger context in which the repatriations took place. It argues that the repatriations had an important role in the reformation and consolidation of political and administrative structures through the vertical integration of the state from the periphery to the center, and therefore helped assert post-war Republican sovereignty.

SIMON BURROWS

Forgotten Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France

This paper explores some of the initial findings from the industrial scale database-empowered study of the French book trade in the late Enlightenment now be undertaken by a team of scholars at Western Sydney University. It discusses the various methods past scholars have used to attempt to chart the production and dissemination of the best-selling texts of the enlightenment era, both in the analogue and the digital ages, and why they have and continue to offer such radically divergent results. It demonstrates how by combining, understanding and analyzing multiple digital datasets we are beginning to get an understanding of the printed output of francophone Europe in the enlightenment and hence gain new understandings of the production, circulation, reception and uses of print in the eighteenth century. And it introduces some of the most popular best-sellers of the era, works concerned with the humdrum ordinary business of living, making money and dying, arguing that more attention needs to be paid to their cultural significance and its implications. When we do that, important new understandings of the culture of the era begin to emerge.

ELODIE DUCHÉ

Captives in Plantations: British Prisoners of War and Visions of Slavery in Napoleonic France and Mauritius

Inspired by the emerging prisoner of war studies and new ambitions to write a global history of the Napoleonic conflicts, this article explores the neglected colonial ties that underpinned Franco-British contacts in war captivity during the period. British prisoners held in Napoleonic France recurrently invoked slavery in letters, memoirs and poems penned about their detention. Despite their relative comfort, which enabled such writings, these captives narrated their experiences through the prism of colonial servitude, a much-debated topic in Britain at the time. These views were nourished by their relations with the French: the exchange of books with locals, and their exposure to plantation life in colonial outposts such as Mauritius (then

known as *Île de France*). These captives' reflections offer an insight into their global outlook, and the trans-imperial nature of war captivity itself, as a space of colonial intersection, not only reflecting but also shaping ideas about coerced mobility.

SUSAN FOLEY

The Christmas Tree Becomes French: From Foreign Curiosity to Philanthropic Icon, 1860-1914

The Christmas tree was largely a foreign curiosity in France until France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 saw Alsace and large parts of Lorraine subsumed into the German Empire. From 1872, exiles from Alsace organized the "Christmas Tree of the Alsatians and Lorrainers," an annual charity event to aid refugee children from those regions. Thanks to the popularity of this event, which received wide publicity, the Christmas tree (associated with Alsace) became an emotion-laden symbol of the "Lost Provinces." It kept the cause of their recovery in the public mind and associated that cause with the Republic. Its popularity also led to the Christmas tree's adoption for other causes. It gradually became a symbol of republican social welfare measures, receiving official support. The public roles played by the Christmas tree in France pre-dated its widespread domestic use: a reversal of the pattern in other Western societies such as Germany and America.

DAVID GARRIOCH

Fires and Firefighting in 18th and 19th-century Paris

Before Napoleon, most histories tell us, the Paris fire service was totally inadequate. This changed only with the creation of the *sapeurs-pompiers*, a well-trained military force that became the model for other nineteenth-century fire brigades. Before the introduction of paid, uniformed firemen, fire-fighting arrangements are dismissed as brave but amateurish and ineffective. French histories, often written by former *pompiers*, invariably praise the military model as superior to all others. Looking at specific examples of fires in Paris, this paper argues that across the eighteenth century they were controlled and extinguished with growing success. Subsequently, however, the nature of fires in Paris changed as new industries, new products, and new types of buildings appeared. The creation of a modern fire service was, at least in part, a response to a new problem rather than to an eternal one. Even so, the Napoleonic model of organization was not as different from the old system as a reading of the regulations alone might suggest. Its introduction was also far more gradual, as authorities and urban populations struggled to understand and to adapt to the changes taking place.

HAMISH GRAHAM

"Seeking Information on Who was Responsible": Policing the Woodlands of Old Regime France

By examining the work of eighteenth-century forest guards, this article aims to highlight some themes in the history of rural policing, and thereby contribute to discussions about the consolidation of the justice system in pre-revolutionary France. It begins by surveying scholars'

work on the forest service of the Old Regime monarchy, the Eaux et Forêts. From there, the article summarizes some themes in the history of police and policing, and how they might fruitfully be extended to encompass the Eaux et Forêts. The issues identified are then illustrated from a sample of documented interactions between forest guards and other officials who were involved in policing the woodlands, mostly in the south-western provinces of Guyenne and Gascogne. In this way the paper suggests that developments in the policing of woodlands made useful contributions to the growing integration of law enforcement in eighteenth-century France. However there remained several crucial areas of tension and opposition, not least from judges and other court officers, which raise doubts about the overall cohesiveness and consistency of criminal justice under the Old Regime monarchy, even as late as the 1780s.

JACINTHE DE MONTIGNY

Le Canada dans l’imaginaire colonial français (1754-1756)

Dans le présent texte, nous nous proposons d’étudier la manière dont le cas canadien est présenté à la population française. En interrogeant des gazettes étrangères de langue française, telles que la *Gazette de Leyde* et la *Gazette d’Amsterdam*, ainsi que le journal principal de France, la *Gazette*, entre 1754 et 1756, nous souhaitons découvrir quelles sont les informations disponibles dans la presse à propos du Canada. Cette analyse permettra aussi de démontrer l’évolution des sentiments des Français au sujet de leurs colonies nord-américaines. De plus, nous souhaitons démontrer la présence d’une opinion publique française forte et marquée qui définit la vision française du Canada, et ce, malgré la présence de la censure dans les écrits en France. L’objectif principal est donc de comprendre comment le Canada s’inscrit dans l’imaginaire français en relation avec l’image de cette colonie qui se développe en Angleterre.

ALICIA C. MONTOYA

Middlebrow, Religion, and The European Enlightenment: A New Bibliometric Project, *MEDIATE* (1665-1820)

Evidence from eighteenth-century library auction catalogues suggests that among the most widely-circulated books in the eighteenth century was a category of religious-pedagogical works constituting an eighteenth-century “middlebrow literature”. This paper argues, firstly, that these texts meet the criteria often proposed to define middlebrow: female overrepresentation, mediating function between “high” and “low” culture, supposedly “middling” literary quality, and pedagogical intent. Secondly, their commercial success drew on their synthesis of elite ideals of reason and local, traditional practices of faith, foregrounding a supra-confessional natural theology, toleration, and civic notions of social utility. Thirdly, these texts were part of a transnational literary system of center-periphery relations between higher- and lower-prestige texts, nations, and authors. Interrogating the secularization paradigm of the Enlightenment, this paper therefore proposes a bottom-up approach to debate on the nature of “the” Enlightenment, and draws on an innovative DH-supported book history project, *MEDIATE*, to do so.

DANIEL NETHERY

Boundaries of Solidarity: Territoriality and French Social Security for the Self-Employed During the Fourth Republic

Among the most salient aspects of French social security established by the Liberation ordinances of October 1945 was the principle of territoriality, which tied eligibility to residence in the *métropole*. This represented an important concession to the immigrant workers on whom the reconstruction effort was to rely so heavily, but also had unexpected outcomes, especially when applied to subsequent arrangements for the self-employed, a broad sector of the workforce which included artisans, shopkeepers and the liberal professions. As the records show, territoriality disqualified from a pension people who had worked in France before retiring abroad, whether to Algeria or to Belgium, as well as people who had worked abroad, whether in Morocco or in Switzerland, before retiring to France. In the Liberation ordinances, the principle of territoriality stood for solidarity; it also circumscribed boundaries of solidarity with ramifications for the legitimacy of the Fourth Republic and the French Union.

BRONWYN REDDAN

Scripting Love in Fairy Tales by Seventeenth-century French Women Writers

More than one hundred fairy tales were written by French authors between 1690 and 1709. Women writers, the *conteuses*, produced more than two-thirds of this corpus, and their tales articulated a series of emotion scripts that reflect on the effects of love on the lives of women in seventeenth-century France. This paper examines the vocabulary of emotion in the *conteuses*' scripts for love as evidence of the formation of an emotional community in the sense defined by Barbara Rosenwein. The *conteuses*' conversations about love drew on semantic innovation in seventeenth-century French emotions discourse to represent love as a tender, turbulent passion and a social negotiation of gender politics. Their emotion scripts suggest that love is not a natural or instinctive phenomenon but a gendered, cultural code with a history reflecting the values and beliefs of the society in which it is felt.

CHARLES SOWERWINE

The Far Right in a Neo-Liberal Age: Pessimism, Sexism and Racism in Modern French Thought

This paper analyses the influence of the far-right publicists known as *néoréacs* led by Éric Zemmour, showing how it extends into the domain of fiction in the writings of the best-selling author Michel Houellebecq. It places Zemmour in the context of neo-liberalism as analyzed by Thomas Piketty. It contrasts Zemmour not only with Piketty but also with the *déclinistes*, the strand of thought which argued that France was doomed unless it followed the Anglo world into neo-liberalism. It emphasizes the racism and misogyny at the basis of *néoréac* thought and at the basis of Houellebecq's fiction. It suggests that, while explicit racism is common to the French and Anglo far right, the French writers' explicit misogyny points to the less explicit misogyny at the heart of the Anglo far right.

TIMOTHY VERHOEVEN

The Drama at Lille: Republicans, Catholics and Sexual Crime at the Fin-de-Siècle

In February 1899, the sexual assault and murder of a twelve-year-old boy in the northern city of Lille triggered a bitter clash between republicans and Catholics. When a Christian teaching brother was taken into custody, republicans and socialists seized the chance to denounce a model of Catholic masculinity centred on the celibate vow. Catholics, however, rallied to the defence of the accused brother, and articulated a rival vision of masculinity. The Flamidien Affair reveals the importance of masculinity in the clash that historians have called the War of Two Frances.

WILLIAM WEBER

Resistance to Rossini and Government by Newspapers in Restoration Paris

Histories of the Paris Opéra often recount how popular the super-star composer became in Paris when in 1823 he came to lead the Théâtre-Italien, supposedly crushing all loyalty to the old canon of works by C.-W. Gluck and Antonio Sacchini. But a closer look at press reports discloses that several newspapers whose front pages displayed theater schedules—chiefly the *Corsaire* and the *Courier des théâtres*—led an intense campaign against the effort to expand Rossini's influence in Paris and championed the tradition of French opera dating from the arrival of Gluck there in 1774. Oriented toward middle-class people who could not afford many tickets to the Opéra, the papers in effect supported the opposition to the government, using attacks on Rossini as a means by which to advance the cause of political opposition. Best seen as defensive and patriotic, this movement came from a middle-class readership different from the educated elite which read the *Journal des débats* and included leaders of the liberal faction who focused their taste on Rossini. In 1827 the *Corsaire* openly opposed the government in the wake of its criticism of *Le Siège de Corinthe*, thereby establishing strong public opposition to the Rossinian repertory at the Opéra.