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Claude Coquard, ed., *Annales historiques de la Révolution française: Tables du Centenaire 1908-2007*. Paris: Société des études robespierristes, 2008. Introduction plus CD-Rom. 29 € (pb). ISBN: 978-2-908327-68-7.

Review by Jack Censer, George Mason University.

Unparalleled in its commitment to studying the French Revolution, the *Annales historiques de la Révolution française* (*AhRf*) must be regarded as the most important periodical in this field. In part to applaud the contributions of this journal, its organizers decided to publish a bibliography of its first one hundred years. This book (and accompanying CD-Rom) provides several different indexes for the *AhRf* and its predecessor (*Annales révolutionnaires*, 1908-1923) as part of this centennial review. In addition to encompassing two periodicals, the index reflects the impact of world events, especially World War II, on the publication schedule of the periodical. It also builds on several previous indexes, all of which focused on specific limited periods.

Most significant for the subjects covered in this volume were the variations in content introduced by changes in the historical profession over time. In fact, those shifts in the journal surely deserve a full scale study as the periodical has been managed and/or heavily influenced by some of the lions of the profession, including Albert Mathiez, Georges Lefebvre, Albert Soboul, Michel Vovelle, and most recently, Philippe Bourdin. To be certain, that the *Société des études robespierristes* published the *AhRf* for a long time guaranteed a certain point of view that supported the revolution as a whole, including the Terror, by justifying the latter as necessitated by circumstances. Furthermore, until relatively recently the journal published little on the revolution outside of France and less by or about historians outside of France. But changes in emphases followed the trends of historical scholarship and the particular interests of the leader. The 1989 accession of Vovelle in particular opened up the publication to the wider profession. Prior to that point, the journal had a personal tone in the past in which friendships and alliances meant more.

However much one might welcome the changes Vovelle introduced, the earlier period, with its partisan attitudes and cliques, actually published much of interest, including special attention to political events and individuals. And despite political rigidities and lack of access to many, the *AhRf* in this earlier period undeniably possessed a polemical spark that has been lost in the last twenty years. Even those believing in balanced treatment (even if this reality cannot be attained), would have to admit that the earlier journal had greater verve. In fact, because the French Revolution has in the post-Mitterrand years lost a certain political resonance and with it a competitive spirit, one longs somewhat for that earlier day when the struggle over its meaning—embedded in current conflicts—was sharp and direct. The journal has replaced these rapier thrusts, usually at foes whose own writings had to appear elsewhere, with a strong sense of inclusion and an overriding professionalism. English and American authors are much more in evidence and open support for the revolution is no longer required.

Charting all the articles, notes, and entries of all sorts in the *Annales*—which inevitably chronicle the history of the period—is the *Tables du centenaire, 1908-2007*, divided in three parts. The first index includes all the authors who have published over the century and the second provides a list of all the “ouvrages et articles” analyzed in the same period. However, these latter works are arranged in alphabetical order according to the name of the author of the work under analysis. Under each author, other information follows: extended or brief analysis; the location in the *AhRf*; and the individual (if stated in the periodical) responsible for the analysis. After these sections comes the bibliography for various foci of study, divided into sections—dates, subjects (e.g., Old Regime, Belgians, peasantry), places, and proper names. What makes this last section very complicated is that the references are in shorthand. The schema sends the user back into the earlier sections of the book to find the relevant bibliographical detail, and this can be quite cumbersome. Finally, the book concludes with a list of the various periodicals cited one or more times in the *AhRf*. Under the name of each journal, one finds the specific articles listed not by name, but by page and date.

Accompanying the book is a CD-ROM which provides more data and functionality. Accessible only digitally are the titles of works merely footnoted in the *AhRf*. One finds these by creating a search using a key word. Depending on the kind of keyword one chooses, one may search by author, subject matter, or both. The search turns up not only relevant titles in the data bank of footnotes but also whatever is useful either in the published studies or bibliography of analyzed works that constitute parts one and two in the printed book. Essentially, all this allows the user a personalized search—a very useful aid different than the one provided in the third part of the book. This is still a limited search because it only uses keywords from the titles in all three book sections. Nevertheless, it has extra value because it does include materials that reside only in the footnote section of the CD-Rom. Unfortunately, however, the CD-Rom does not reliably work on all computers. Although I only tried it on a limited number of machines, it appeared inoperable on computers using Microsoft Vista or on Apple Macintosh. This is regrettable as it may deny scholars access to one of the most potent parts of this exhaustive work that, indeed, potentially provides easy access to a vast array of important materials.

Jack R. Censer  
George Mason University  
jcenser@gmu.edu

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