conteuses précieuses de la génération 1690 : dialogue intertextuel ou querelle masquée?”


This article analyses Lambrichs’s fascinating novel about the psychological effects of an abortion, set against the backdrop of the Holocaust, in respect of (i) the relations between the individual and history, and between the private and the public in relation to traumatic events; (ii) the ethics and aesthetics of testimony and bearing witness, and the role of fiction in this respect; and (iii) contemporary France’s troubled relationship with its wartime past.

**Slawy-Sutton, Catherine.**


---

**Bibliographie Critique**

1. Eighteenth-Century Women Novelists at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century - PART II

A Selected Bibliography

By Marijn S. Kaplan,

University of North Texas
This bibliography forms the sequel to my Eighteenth-Century Women Novelists at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century: A Selected Bibliography, which appeared in this Newsletter in the Spring of 2007 (9-22). Here I will provide an overview of the most important French women writers of the eighteenth century who did not write novels primarily. Readers may consult the previous bibliography for information regarding the following authors: Benoist, Charrière, Cottin, Épinay, Genlis, Graffigny, Riccoboni, Souza, and Tencin.

In order to be consistent and so that the two bibliographies may easily be used in conjunction, I have observed the same general format and guidelines: since this bibliography is aimed foremost at instructors and scholars not specializing in the eighteenth century, I list only modern editions of texts and relatively recent, peer-reviewed criticism (published in 2000 or later, in principle). Although this obviously led to the exclusion of many authors—both eighteenth-century writers and modern critics—instructors can thus locate texts for classroom use that are current and therefore usually more readily available. Literary criticism perpetuates itself by its nature and so the modern criticism listed here will automatically refer interested readers to its predecessors. This bibliography does not claim to be exhaustive yet we can deduce from its length that a decade into this new millennium, our discipline has made tremendous progress towards hearing, and more importantly, listening to, these women writers’ voices.

Although the novel was the most popular literary genre during the eighteenth century and the one practiced most commonly by women, numerous other genres counted female authors among their practitioners. Indeed, women wrote plays (theatre), letters (correspondence), short stories, translations, poetry, political pamphlets, scientific texts, fairy tales, philosophical texts, religious texts and memoirs.

Electronic versions of some texts unavailable in modern editions can be found in the digital catalogue of the Bibliothèque nationale (http://gallica.bnf.fr/). Samia I. Spencer’s Writers of the French Enlightenment (see below under General Bibliography) also offers extensive information on earlier editions.

**GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Goodman, Dena. *Becoming a Woman in the Age of Letters*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2009. The author analyzes the role played by letter writing in the lives of many eighteenth-century women, challenging the age-old connection between women and love letters specifically. Consult for work on, among others, Manon Roland (Phlipon) and Catherine de Saint-Pierre.


Mistacco, Vicki. *Les femmes et la tradition littéraire. Anthologie du Moyen Âge à nos jours*. 2 vols. New Haven, London: Yale UP, 2006. Thoroughly researched, this anthology of French women writers fills a void in the market for up-to-date (under)graduate textbooks in French. The eighteenth century is included in Part One and comprises Jeanne Marie Le Prince de Beaumont, Gabrielle de Villeneuve, Françoise de Graffigny, Isabelle de Charrière, Julie de Lespinasse, Sophie de Condorcet, Anne-Thérèse de Lambert, and Olympe de Gouges (p. 367-533). For each author there are a detailed biography and excerpts as well as an individual bibliography with both recent modern editions and critical texts. In addition, the book contains a considerable general bibliography.

Shapiro, Norman, trans. *French Women Poets of Nine Centuries. The Distaff and the Pen*. Introd. Roberta L. Krueger, Catherine LaFarge, Catherine Perry. Foreword Rosanna Warren. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 2008. This monumental, meticulously documented and annotated 1183-page anthology features original French poems with their English translations on the opposing page, from Marie de France to Albertine Sarazin. It includes a very extensive bibliography on French women’s poetry throughout the centuries as well as various indices. For the eighteenth century, readers will find Elisabeth Guibert (1725-1787), Marie-Amable de la Férandière (1736-1819), Marie-Emilie Maryon de Montanclos (1736-1812), Fanny de Beauharnais (1737-1813), Stéphanie-Félicité de Genlis (1746-1830), and Marie-Madeleine Joliveau de Segrais (1756-1830). Due to the dearth of modern editions and scholarship for these poets, none of them are mentioned below.

**GENERAL WEBSITES**

*A Celebration of Women Writers.*
http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/

Large database in English with information on women writers, searchable by name, dates, country, and ethnicity.

*Société Internationale pour l’Étude des Femmes de l’Ancien Régime.*
http://www.siefar.org/

Frequently updated, this site offers a wide range of information in French related to women
writers, such as biographies, conferences, publications, etc.

Biographical and bibliographical information on women writers in pre-1900 Europe, many of them lesser-known. Includes references to websites and is searchable by name, work, and reception.

GENRES (in alphabetical order, with authors in alphabetical order by last name)

CORRESPONDENCE

MARIE-AUTONINETTE, QUEEN OF FRANCE (1755-1793)

Biography
Marie-Antoinette’s story is quite familiar: born in Austria, she was the hated and beloved Queen of France from 1774-1793, when she fell victim to the guillotine. Her correspondence sheds more light on her relationship with her mother, Marie-Thérèse of Austria, and her husband, Louis XVI.

Correspondence
Correspondance. Ed. Évelyne Lever. Paris: Éditions Tallandier, 2005. At 911 pages, this edition is quite comprehensive, but the one below (288 pages) is better suited for classroom use.


Criticism


Miscellaneous
Restored in 2008, Marie-Antoinette’s beautiful domaine in Versailles is now “available” on-line through pictures and videos: http://www.chateauversailles.fr/domaine-marie-antoinette. The Musée Carnavalet possesses memorabilia related to the Queen’s stay in prison and final days. Several recent films also exist: Marie-Antoinette (A&E Biography, 2000) and Marie-Antoinette (Sofia Coppola, 2006). For classroom use, I have found the former to be more authentic and useful, but it would be an interesting exercise to compare the two in class, especially in the context of the literary criticism the latter has elicited.

MARIE DE VICHY-CHAMROND DU DEFFAND (1697-1780)

Biography
Although she never received a formal
education, she ran a famous salon in the rue Saint-Dominique after separating from her husband, a distant cousin. She had numerous correspondents, such as Montesquieu, d’Alembert, Voltaire and Horace Walpole. Later in life, she suffered from blindness, which is one of the reasons why she invited Julie de Lespinasse into her salon (see below).

**Correspondence**


**Criticism**


**JULIE DE LESPINASSE (1732-1776)**

**Biography**

Listed among famous natives of Lyon as “L’Amoureuse”, the illegitimate daughter of the Comtesse d’Albon became governess to her sister’s children after her mother’s death. Her sister’s husband was the brother of Mme Du Deffand who introduced Lespinasse to her salon where she met and inspired famous Encyclopedists; her own salon then surpassed it in popularity. She is remembered most for two passionate love affairs (and the accompanying love letters) that ended tragically as one lover died and the other married.

**Correspondence**


**Criticism**


Redien-Collot, Renaud. “La Série épistolaire: Figure de répression ou de participation pour les femmes écrivaines du XVIIIe siècle?” *Romanic Review*, 2004 May; 95 (3): 293-313.


**Miscellaneous**

For samples of her correspondence from 1774-75 related to Gluck’s *Orphée*, see [http://www.taieb.net/auteurs/Lespinasse/1774-5_lettres.html](http://www.taieb.net/auteurs/Lespinasse/1774-5_lettres.html).

**MANON ROLAND (PHLIPON)** (1754-1793)

**Biography**

Born in Paris the daughter of an engraver, she was educated in a convent. During the Revolution she and her husband were members of the Girondist party and participated in political life. When she opposed the King’s execution, she was arrested and eventually guillotined. Roland wrote her *Mémoires* while in prison.


**Correspondence**


**Other texts**


**Translations**


**Criticism**

Diaz, Brigitte. “De la lettre aux *Mémoires*: les fonctions


Miscellaneous
There is a 1989 movie made for TV (98 minutes) entitled Manon Roland and directed by Edouard Molinaro. Sabine Haudepin plays Madame Roland.

Catherine de Saint-Pierre

Biography
She is the relatively unknown sister of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre (1737-1814), famous author of Paul et Virginie, who was active around 1766 and died in 1804.

Correspondence

Criticism


FAIRY TALES

Jeanne Marie Le Prince de Beaumont (1711-1780)

Biography
Born in Rouen in a middle-class family, she was educated in a convent. Earning her living as a governess at the court in Lunéville (where she met Graffigny and Châtelet), she married, had a daughter, and separated from her husband. She then moved to England (1748-1763) where she wrote fairy tales, using fiction as a pedagogical tool. Her version of La Belle et la Bête was not the first (see below, Villeneuve) but became the better known one.


Texts


Translation
La Belle et la Bête has been translated into most languages.

Criticism


Miscellaneous
Film: Naturally, La Belle et la bête has been frequently adapted for the screen. The most famous cinematic versions are perhaps those by Jean Cocteau and Disney.

Website: The Chawton House Library offers a biography list on-line of women writers which includes Leprince de Beaumont as one of the very few French ones: http://www.chawton.org/Beaumont2.html It contains extensive biographical and bibliographical information provided by Peggy Schaller.

GABRIELLE DE VILLENEUVE
(~1695-1755)

Biography
Widowed and living in Paris, she supported herself by writing. She wrote the first version of La Belle et la Bête in 1740.

Texts


Criticism


MEMOIRS

JEANNE-LOUISE-HENRIETTE CAMPAN (GENET) (1752-1822)

Biography
After a brief marriage and having entered the royal household at age fifteen, she became Marie-Antoinette’s companion and first lady’s maid. After the Revolution, she founded a school for girls and later became superintendent at
an academy Napoleon created for girls related to the Legion of Honor.

**Texts**


**Translations**

**Criticism**

**ELISABETH VIGÉE LE BRUN**
(1755-1842)

**Biography**
By age twenty, she was Marie-Antoinette’s official court painter. She married, had a daughter, and left her husband when escaping from Paris during the Revolution. In exile for more than a decade, she traveled to various countries, including Russia, the memories of which can be found in her *Souvenirs*, written in the 1830s.


**Texts**


**Translations**

**Criticism**


**Miscellaneous**
This very comprehensive website in five languages offers, among other things, pictures of the artist’s paintings, on-line access to her *Memoirs* in English (1903; see above) and to some digitized pages of the original manuscript, as well as to older articles and books on the painter: [http://www.batguano.com/vigee.html](http://www.batguano.com/vigee.html).

**PHILOSOPHICAL TEXTS**

**SOPHIE DE CONDORCET (DE GROUCHY)**
(1764-1822)
**Biography**
This well-educated *salonnière* and feminist, the wife and then widow of the mathematician and philosopher Nicolas de Condorcet, was also a friend of Olympe de Gouges. In 1798 she translated Adam Smith’s *Theory of Moral Sentiments*.


**Texts**

**Translations**

**Criticism**


**ANNE-THERESE DE LAMBERT**
(1647-1733)

**Biography**
This essayist, who became a *salonnière* as the age of sixty-three, addressed many of her writings to women and criticized their poor education. She was a widow and a mother. Her salon, attended by many intellectual women, had close connections with the Académie française, which gave her a certain amount of power.

**Texts**


**Translations**

**Criticism**

**POLITICAL PAMPHLETS**

**OLYMPE DE GOUGES (MARIE GOUZE)**
(1748-1793)

**Biography**
Poorly educated, she dictated many of her texts, signing them with the name
she invented for herself. Although bourgeois, she included “de” in her last name, because she said her real father was a nobleman. Widowed young and with a son, she moved to Paris and started to write. Having become a political activist during the Revolution, she died at the guillotine.


**Texts**


**Other texts**


**Translations**


**Criticism**


Nielsen, Wendy C. ”Staging Rousseau’s
Republic: French Revolutionary Festivals and Olympe de Gouges.”


**Miscellaneous**

In 2008, *Le Monde diplomatique* organized a colloquium on the author, in collaboration with UNESCO and the city of Montreuil. All contributions, including several by specialists mentioned above, can be heard on-line: http://www.mondespontificatique.fr/document/olympedegouges. This site also lists links to a biography, a Revolution time line, political documents (including the *Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne* at : http://eleuthera.free.fr/html/143.htm.

**SCIENTIFIC TEXTS**

**ÉMILIE DU CHÂTELET** (1706-1749)

**Biography**

Although frequently cast merely as Voltaire’s mistress, du Châtelet deserves to be famous in her own right: talented in languages, math, and sciences, she translated Newton’s *Principia* from Latin into French. Well-educated by her father and tutors, brilliant Emilie was married off at age nineteen in an arranged marriage. She had three children and lived a separate life from her husband. Voltaire lived at her *château* for fifteen years during which they became lovers and collaborated professionally. She did research and wrote scientific papers, a rare accomplishment for a woman at the time. She died at the premature age of forty-two as the result of another pregnancy (not by Voltaire).


**Texts**


**Correspondence**


**Translations**


**Criticism**


Bonnel, Roland. “La correspondance scientifique de la marquise Du Châtelet: la ‘lettre-laboratoire.’” *Femmes en toutes lettres: Les épistolières du XVIIIe siècle.* Introd. Marie-France Silver and Marie-


**Miscellaneous**

The exhibit “Emilie du Châtelet, une femme de sciences et de lettres à Créteil” held in 2006 at the Université Paris 12 for the author’s 300th anniversary has a wonderful website offering a wealth of information regarding her life and her work: [http://www.univparis12.fr/scd/duc] (http://www.univparis12.fr/scd/duc) hantelet/. Also, the website for the Château de Cirey contains information on her, focused on her relationship with Voltaire: [http://www.visitvoltaire.com/emilie_du_chatelet_bio.htm](http://www.visitvoltaire.com/emilie_du_chatelet_bio.htm). A play exists named *Emilie’s Voltaire* and directed by Arthur Giron.

**THEATRE**

**MARIE-ANNE BARBIER**  
(1670-1745)

**Biography**

One of the most successful female playwrights of her time, she had four full-length tragédies performed at the Comédie Française during the first decade of the eighteenth century. Her work was quite feminocentric. She also practiced other literary genres such as fiction, opera, and comedy.

**Texts**


**Criticism**


ANNE-MARIE DU BOCCAGE (1710-1802)

Biography
A bourgeois native of Rouen, Normandy, she was married at age seventeen to a tax collector with literary interests and talents. Very well educated, she published mostly plays and poetry, and later became a salonnière. She was elected to the academies of Rouen and Lyon, as well as Rome, Bologna and Padua. As a playwright, she tackled the genres of tragedy and epic usually reserved for men. She also wrote poetry, such as La Colombiade.

Texts


Other texts

Correspondence
Lettres sur l’Angleterre et la Hollande. Brionne, Normandy: Gérard Monfort, 2005. Although initially written in 1750 as private letters to her sister from England and Holland, these can be read as early travel narratives.

Criticism


LOUISE-GENEVIÈVE DE SAINTONGE (1650-1718)

Biography
Well-educated and married to a lawyer, she wrote novels, poetry, and librettos, but is best known for her plays.

Texts

Criticism
Miscellaneous

TRANSLATIONS

ANNE DACIER (1654-1720)

Biography
Educated by her father as a classical scholar, she first produced editions of classical literature and later published French translations of Greek and Latin texts by Sappho, Homer, and Aristophanes, among others. Married to another scholar, André Dacier, she was not elected to the Académie Française like he was, but did become a member of the academy of Padua.

Translations

Criticism

