

FRENCH STUDIES: A GUIDE TO RESEARCH RESOURCES IN THE JOHN RYLANDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF MANCHESTER*

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JOHN RYLANDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF MANCHESTER

The John Rylands University Library of Manchester boasts fine research and working collections in all the Romance languages and not least in the area of French studies. From early manuscripts and printed books to publications of the modern era, in fields as diverse as literature, theology, printing and history, the Library has much to offer the student of French culture and civilization. It is the purpose here to draw attention to notable holdings and collections and in so doing to provide the inspiration for possible research projects. It must nevertheless be emphasized that the French material described below does not represent the totality of French resources in the Library. Full appreciation of the range and depth of these holdings, evident in virtually every section of the stock, can only be gained through close inspection of the Library's extensive catalogues which provide access to some 3.4 million printed books, well over one million manuscript items and some 800,000 titles in microform.¹

For the purposes of this article it should be assumed that, unless otherwise stated, all references are to material located in the Library's Special Collections Division, the former private John Rylands Library, now home of most of the rare book and manuscript collections. Catalogue call numbers are given, where appropriate, for individual manuscripts, and, in the case of relevant finding aids and handlists, reference is made to Chadwyck-Healey's on-going microfiche project *National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United Kingdom* (hereafter *NIDS UK*).

MIDDLE AGES

Over fifty languages including French are represented in the Library's rich stock of primary source material which dates from the third

* I am indebted to my colleagues David Riley, Clive Field and Peter McNiven in the Library and David Adams and Steve Wharton of the University's Department of French Studies for their invaluable help, advice and comments during the preparation of this article.

¹ Full details of catalogues can be found in the Library's *General Research Guide* (Manchester: JRULM, 1988), 5-13.

millennium BC to the present day. The French manuscripts range in date from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries and in content from the historical, legal and literary, to the devotional, genealogical and armorial. Descriptions of 129 French manuscripts are to be found in *Hand-List of the Collections of French and Italian Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, 1930*² and its continuation *Supplementary Hand-List of Western Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, 1937*,³ compiled by former librarians M. Tyson and F. Taylor respectively. These publications draw attention to a whole host of noteworthy items of the medieval period including the following: a *Bible Historiée* (French MS 5), consisting of a series of forty-eight full-page paintings, representing scenes from Genesis and Exodus, on a background of burnished gold, and written about the middle of the thirteenth century; a fine copy of *Lancelot du Lac* (French MS 1), with seventy-four miniatures and numerous illuminated initials, written about 1300; an early fifteenth-century copy of the *Chroniques* of Jean de Courcy (French MS 4); an illuminated fifteenth-century manuscript of the *Chroniques de Saint Denys* (French MS 62), its coverage of French history ending with the beginning of the reign of Charles VI; a very beautiful manuscript of Guillaume de Guilleville's *Pèlerinage de Vie Humaine* (French MS 2), written in a fine fourteenth-century hand, and enriched with more than 170 miniatures; and a fine manuscript of the *Roman de la Rose* (French MS 66), of the fourteenth century, in which a miniature depicts Jean de Meung, the continuator, at work.

Since publication of these handlists a further thirteen items have been added to this French sequence, including a sixteenth-century manuscript of the Statutes of the Order of S. Michel (French MS 141). The manuscript, entitled *Le Livre de l'Ordre du Treschrestien Roy de France Loys XI^{me} à l'Honneur de Saint Michel*, contains the statutes of an order established in 1469 by Louis XI, is decorated throughout with initials and line-fillers in gold and colour, and includes two fine miniatures.⁴ Also of note is a manuscript of *La Vie et les Miracles de Saint Edmund Roy* (French MS 142), dating from the late thirteenth century or early fourteenth century, and providing an account in Anglo-Norman verse of the life of St Edmund, King of the East Angles, who was martyred by the Danes in the ninth century.⁵

There are also valuable Latin manuscripts of French origin, including a fifteenth-century Book of Hours (Latin MS 164), said to be affiliated with the School of the Bedford Hours, and a Psalter (Latin

² NIDS UK, 0.063.011.

³ NIDS UK, 0.063.013.

⁴ A description of this manuscript can be found in *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* (hereafter *Bulletin*), 38 (1955–56), 271–2.

⁵ Further details concerning this manuscript can be found in *Bulletin*, 58 (1975–76), 1–2, and in W. Rothwell, 'The Life and Miracles of St Edmund: A Recently Discovered Manuscript', *Bulletin*, 60 (1977–78), 135–80.

MS 22), written in the mid-thirteenth century and valuable for its exquisite illuminated capitals, its five pages of miniatures, its calendar and its historical associations with Joan of Navarre, second Queen Consort of Henry IV of England, whose autograph it contains. These manuscripts are recorded in F. Taylor's revised edition of M.R. James's *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Latin Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library at Manchester* (Munich, 1980).⁶

Notable French material is likewise to be found in the Library's Charter Rooms. Of particular interest to researchers of French history are the Beaumont Charters which relate to abbeys in Normandy and which form part of a collection assembled by the Abbé de la Rue (1751–1835). The documents, which number 113 items, comprise for the most part deeds, licences, grants and legal agreements in respect of land belonging to the Abbeys of Notre Dame at Ardenne and Barbéry, and to abbeys at Caen, Fécamp, Fontenay-le-Tesson, Gouffern, Troarn and Vignats. Much of the material dates from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries although the four succeeding centuries are also represented. The collection is described in detail by R. Fawtier in *Handlist of Charters, Deeds, and Similar Documents in the Possession of the John Rylands Library*, Vol. 1 (Manchester, 1925).⁷

Fawtier, in the same work, describes the Phillipps Charters which comprise miscellaneous deeds and charters from the collection formed by Sir Thomas Phillipps at Middle Hill. Alongside documents relating to towns and villages in England there are some 190 items of French and Belgian interest. These records are mainly of an ecclesiastical and legal nature, and date from the twelfth to the seventeenth centuries. They include two significant groupings, the first, comprising approximately sixty documents (thirty-three of them fragments), relating to land and persons in Tournai, Belgium, and dating from the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, the second, numbering twenty-eight items, associated with places in Aquitaine and dating almost exclusively from the fourteenth century. The remainder are linked with a wide range of places including important ecclesiastical centres such as Beauvais, Saint-Omer, Senlis and Lisieux.

Also held in the Charter Rooms are the temporal archives of the Brothers of the Hospital of St Christopher at Liège and of the English Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre who took over the House in Liège and the property of the Brothers. These archives, acquired in 1951, form a continuous series from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. They comprise estate records, consisting of more than 120 volumes of registers, manuals and accounts, and over 650 deeds relating to the property and finances of the two religious communities. Records relating to the Brothers, perhaps better known as the Frères

⁶ NIDS UK, 0.063.005.

⁷ NIDS UK, 0.063.016.

Coquins, date from the thirteenth century to 1655; those associated with the Canonesses, established by Susan Hawley (1622–1706) in 1642, from the second half of the seventeenth century to the eighteenth century. Of special interest are some of the miscellaneous documents which include a brief, dated 13 June 1654, of Pope Innocent X, suppressing the Coquins and authorizing transfer of their property to the nuns; a list of lands sold by the Sepulchrines in 1699; and an eighteenth-century map of properties belonging to the Canonesses, this last item forming a most important key to the understanding of the order's finances and accounts.⁸

The French contribution to the early history of printing is well illustrated by fine specimens of the printer's art held in the Library's notable collection of approximately 4,500 books printed before 1501. More than 3,000 of these adorn the shelves of the Early Printed Book Room where they are arranged in Proctor Order to indicate the spread of printing across Europe from its beginnings in Germany, through Italy and beyond. Included in the collection are 178 incunabula printed in France. They represent more than sixty different printing presses in thirteen French towns and are distributed as follows: Paris (122), Lyons (39), Toulouse (3), Rouen (3), Angers (2), Albi (2), Vienne (1), Caen (1), Chambéry (1), Tréguier (1), Abbeville (1), Besançon (1), Dijon (1).

Two important firsts emerge from these holdings, a copy of the *Epistolae* of Gasparinus Barzizius (c.1370–1431), the first book printed in France in 1470 by the three Germans, Gering, Krantz and Friburger, and a copy of the first edition of the Latin Vulgate text of the Bible to be printed in France in 1476 by the same printers. The celebrated printers Philippe Pigouchet (died c.1518) and Antoine Vérard (c.1450–c.1519) are represented by six and eight items respectively, including the former's *Horae ad Usum Parisiensem* (Paris, 1491) and the latter's *Les Nobles et Cleres Dames* (Paris, 1493), a French translation of Boccaccio's *De Claris Mulieribus*. Both these works are vellum copies extensively rubricated and illuminated. Mention must also be made of Nicolas Jenson (c.1420–c.1480), a Frenchman working in Venice, whose beautiful roman type, in the words of former Rylands librarian H. Guppy, 'has never been surpassed and seldom equalled'.⁹ The Library holds forty-four productions from Jenson's Venetian printing press, including a copy of the 1470 edition of Cicero's *Epistolae ad M. Brutum, ad Quintum Fratrem, ad Octavium et ad Atticum*, the first book printed from the press, and an edition of his Latin Vulgate text of the Bible, printed in 1476. Amongst the many translations of the Bible into French we may

⁸ A description of this collection can be found in *Bulletin*, 34 (1951–52), 244–5. See also *NIDS UK*, 0.063.128 for a brief handlist of these archives.

⁹ H. Guppy, *The John Rylands Library, Manchester, 1899–1935: A Brief Record of its History with Descriptions of the Building and its Contents* (Manchester: University Press, 1935), 40.

note, following H. Guppy, the 'Lyons editions of 1475 and 1500, Vérard's Paris edition of 1517, three editions of Olivetan's Protestant translation, of which the first is of 1535, and Calvin's revision of the same, printed at Geneva in 1565'.¹⁰

The primary resources are supplemented by much secondary critical material of French interest, the majority of which is housed in the Main Library at the heart of the University campus. These working collections, especially rich in the fields of history, language and literature, reflect the research strengths of the University's teaching departments. A singular debt is owed to staff in the Department of French Studies who have developed a consistent and systematic book and periodicals acquisition policy for themes such as the Arthurian legend. The Department's long-established expertise in this discipline is reflected in the Library's substantial collections of textual, bibliographical and critical material relating to the figure of Chrétien de Troyes (c.1135–c.1183) and his imitators. The Library's catalogues reveal no less than 320 entries for the author of *Erec et Enide* and *Le Chevalier de la Charrete*. 126 of these relate to editions of Chrétien's works, the remainder to works of a critical nature. A second major French literary figure of the Middle Ages, François Villon (1431–c.1463), is also more than adequately represented. There are approximately eighty catalogue entries for works of this colourful poet, in French or in translation. They range in date from a 1723 edition of Villon's *Oeuvres*, printed in Paris, to the Textes Littéraires Français editions of *Le Lais* and *Le Testament*, published in the 1970s, and Lanly's modern French translation of the *Oeuvres*, dating from 1969. Nineteen of these editions came to the Library in 1965 from E.F. Chaney, Villon scholar and contributor to the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*. From the same source came ten critical works relating to Villon, and these are to be found among the 113 reference works listed under the poet's name in the Library's catalogues.

The Library also maintains a substantial collection of works relating to Old French and Anglo-Norman. In the first category more than 350 items are recorded in the catalogues and for the latter a further seventy. This material is for the most part located in the Main Library as are the working files on Anglo-Norman of the late Professor J.P. Collas. These files consist of many thousands of handwritten slips of paper arranged alphabetically by word in three filing cabinets and several catalogue drawers. Each slip has as its heading a word followed by its usage in a quoted context. The whole provides a vast databank which is now utilized by William Rothwell, former professor in the University of Manchester's Department of French Studies and currently editor of the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, 46.

RENAISSANCE

‘Students of the French Renaissance are singularly fortunate if they are placed in Manchester’. Such is the opening sentence of the Library’s *The Renaissance in France*¹¹ exhibition catalogue which includes descriptions of significant items held in the Christie Collection, the private library of Richard Copley Christie (1830–1901), bequeathed to the University Library in 1901. The collection comprises more than 8,000 volumes of printed books and manuscripts and reflects the collector’s interest in the classical Renaissance of France and Italy. It is rich in first editions of classical authors and of translations of those authors into French. There are some 800 volumes relating to Horace alone in the form of editions, part editions, translations and critical works about the poet.

Many aspects of French Renaissance thought and learning are illustrated, with emphasis placed on scholars such as Etienne Dolet (1509–46), Guillaume Postel (1510–81), Petrus Ramus (1515–72) and Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540–1609). No less than forty-five books written and printed by Dolet are included, ranging from the *Orationes Duae in Tholosam*, printed by Gryphius for Dolet in 1534, to editions of the *Gestes de Francoys de Valois Roy de France*, printed in 1540 and 1543. There are approximately 600 products of the printing presses of Sebastian Gryphius (1493–1556) at Lyons, these, according to Christie in the introduction to the printed catalogue of his collection, constituting ‘in themselves a remarkable and distinguished history of learning in the South of France during 40 years’.¹² Eminent literary figures such as Guillaume Budé (1468–1540), Symphorien Champier (1472–1539), Henri and Robert Estienne (c.1531–98 and 1503–59 respectively), Clément Marot (1496–1544) and François Rabelais (c.1494–c.1553) also feature prominently. Several rare and early Rabelais editions are held including the controversial 1542 edition of *Pantagruel*, *Roy des Dipsodes* and *Les Oeuvres* of 1553, the first edition of Rabelais’ works to appear under a collective title. Dolet’s 1542 edition of Marot’s *Les Oeuvres* is held, and from the same year and printer an edition of *L’Enfer*, Marot’s vehement attack on judges and advocates.

The Christie Collection also contains a few manuscripts,¹³ some relating to Horace and one taking the form of a catalogue, written on cards, of the Chevalier d’Eon’s collection of Horace. There is a small amount of material relating to the Reformed Churches of France, dating from the seventeenth century, and from the seventeenth and

¹¹ Manchester University Library, *The Renaissance in France: [Catalogue of an Exhibition held in the] University of Manchester Library, [1968]* (Manchester: University Library, 1968).

¹² C.W.E. Leigh, *Catalogue of the Christie Collection, Comprising the Printed Books and Manuscripts Bequeathed to the Library of the University of Manchester by the late Richard Copley Christie, LL.D.* (Manchester: University Press, 1915), x.

¹³ NIDS UK, 0.063.150.

eighteenth centuries several anonymous anthologies of French songs, letters, poems and aphorisms as well as interesting alchemical works such as the 'Recueil de Secrets Seurs & Eprouvés de Médecine, de Chymie, et d'Alchymie pour les Hommes et les Métaux'.

The Library's holdings of relevance to the French Renaissance are not restricted to material in the Christie Collection. Reference to the catalogues shows that authors such as Pierre de Ronsard (1524–85), Joachim du Bellay (1522–60), Robert Garnier (1534–90) and Pontus de Tyard (1521–1605), and printers such as Geoffroy Tory (c.1480–1533) have not been neglected. They and many other eminent figures of the period are represented by rare early editions as well as by more recent works of a critical and bibliographical nature. In the case of Tory the Library holds a number of his *Horae* and other liturgical works, together with two variant copies of his own authoritative *Champfleury* (Paris, 1529), which is the seminal work on French printing and the design of letters.

SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

French classicism and the Enlightenment have been the subject of Library exhibitions in recent years, and it is through the pages of the catalogues published for these occasions that a conspectus of the Library's resources for this period can best be appreciated.¹⁴ Many aspects of intellectual life in France are covered, notably literature, history, philosophy, science, music, art and architecture, with literature and history once again predominant. Four special collections are of particular importance for students of these two centuries.

The Mazarinades Collection comprises more than 1,800 pamphlets, printed for the most part between 1649 and 1652. They are tracts, often scurrilous and mainly anonymous, written in protest at, or sometimes in defence of, the policies of Cardinal Mazarin (1602–61) at the time of the Fronde. They cast fascinating light on the political and social turmoil of the time and number more than one third of the Mazarinades listed in the standard bibliographies of Célestin Moreau and Robert O. Lindsay and John Neu.¹⁵ An edition of Moreau's bibliography, annotated with library locations, is available, and shows that many of the pamphlets held are qualified as rare or very rare. These include the early *La Résolution des Bons François Addressée au Roi, & à la Reine* of 1649 (Moreau, 3511), and from 1652 the undoubtedly scurrilous verse composition *Requête de la Justice au*

¹⁴ *Seventeenth-Century France: Catalogue of an Exhibition held in Manchester University Library and in John Rylands Library in March, 1971* (Manchester: University Library, 1971) and *Eighteenth-Century France: An Exhibition held in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, 1974* (Manchester: JRULM, 1974).

¹⁵ C. Moreau, *Bibliographie des Mazarinades* (Paris: Renouard, 1850–51) and R. O. Lindsay & J. Neu, *Mazarinades: A Checklist of Copies in Major Collections in the United States* (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1972).

Parlement contre un de ses Principaux Ministres, ses Adhérens & Complices, Papetiers & Torche-Cul du Mazarin, avec les Noms des Principaux Mazarins qui y ont Assisté [sic] (Moreau, 3471). Further items of note are the daring *Avis à la Reyne d'Angleterre, & à la France* of 1650 (Moreau, 471) and the rare *Les Particularitez de la Chasse Royale faite par sa Maiesté le Jour de St. Hubert et de St. Eustache, Patrons des Chasseurs, Accompagnée de Plusieurs Seigneurs de Marque de sa Cour* of 1649 (Moreau, 2709).

The Mazarinades, which were acquired in four separate batches between 1954 and 1961, are interspersed with portraits of political figures, a few coloured, and some the work of the celebrated engraver Balthasar Moncornet (?1600–68). Figures picked at random include Henri II, Louis XIV, Pierre Broussel (c.1575–1654), César de Choiseul (1598–1675) and François de la Rochefoucauld (1613–80). These portraits augment the value of a collection which also incorporates a few rare official documents of the period as well as pamphlets relating to Cardinal Richelieu (1588–1642).¹⁶

Despite the removal from stock in 1988 of a substantial collection of French Revolutionary pamphlets, the Library's holdings of printed sources relating to this and the Napoleonic period of French history are outstanding. The French Revolution Collection, which also includes material relating to the Restoration and the Paris Commune, now numbers approximately 40,000 items including at least 15,000 proclamations, broadsides and bulletins, as well as contemporary periodicals and newspapers (more than 1,000 titles). There are substantial runs of official laws and decrees and much critical and bibliographical material besides to support the many different types of contemporary printed source material.¹⁷

The broadsides and proclamations, for the most part mounted, fill more than 100 folio binders and range in date from 1789 to 1871. They illustrate political, social, national and local events and provide a wealth of colourful information about the impact of the Revolution and its propaganda. There are approximately 3,500 proclamations from the period 1789 to 1799, more than eighty of which are dated 1789. Of these the following four items provide at least an impression of the range and variety of material available: an announcement of a sale of goods entitled *Vente de Vin, Porcelaine, Tableaux, Estampes, Beaux Meubles & Effets*; an *Extrait des Registres du Comité Général National de la Ville de Bayeux*; an *Extrait des Délibérations Consulaires de la Ville de Lyon*; and, issued by the mayor of Paris, an *Ordonnance de Police Municipale, Concernant les Porteurs-d'Eau*.

¹⁶ For further details about the Library's collection of Mazarinades see *Bulletin*, 37 (1954–55), 8–9; 38 (1955–56), 5–6; and 44 (1961–62), 280–1.

¹⁷ For a general survey of the French Revolution collection see A. Goodwin, 'French Revolutionary Collections in the John Rylands Library', *Bulletin*, 42 (1959–60), 8–14. This article should be read with the utmost caution as many of the pamphlets and journals referred to have since been removed from stock.

The journals, periodicals and newspapers offer good representative coverage, and include many rare and extremely valuable items. The original folio edition of the *Moniteur* (1789–1815) is held, together with mounted folio copies of the *Bulletin de la Convention Nationale*,¹⁸ complete sets of Le Hodey's *Journal des Etats Généraux* (April 1789–September 1791) and Mirabeau's *Lettres à ses Commettants* and *Le Courrier de Provence* (May 1789–September 1791). There are further, seemingly complete, sets of newspapers such as Richer-Serizy's *L'Accusateur Public* (1794–98), Desmoulins' *Le Vieux Cordelier* (1793–94) and Mallet du Pan's *Mercure Britannique* (1798–1800) as well as evidence of Marat's early forays into journalism in *Le Moniteur Patriote* (?August 1789). These journals, all noted in the article by A. Goodwin,¹⁹ and holdings of many more relevant titles are listed in [Bibliotheca Lindesiana], *Journaux et Publications Périodiques de la Révolution Française, le Premier Empire et la Restauration* (n.pl., 1911). They constitute a fine research resource for the historian who will also welcome recent acquisitions such as substantial runs of the periodicals *La Décade Philosophique, Littéraire et Politique* and *Bulletin National ou Papier-Nouvelles de Tous les Pays et de Tous les Jours*, the former covering the years 1795 to 1807 and strengthening existing holdings of a rare and respected journal founded by J.B. Say, Horace Say and P.L. Guinguené, the latter, edited by Jean Pierre Gallais (1756–1820), comprising some 1,000 issues mainly for the years 1794 to 1797.

Many laws and decrees of the French Revolutionary period are also held including a single collection of some 2,700 items issued during the period 1789 to 1792. This incorporates many variant editions printed throughout the provinces of France and has recently been supplemented by the acquisition of a further 242 items dating from 1790 to 1793. The whole collection is further enhanced by the availability of a wealth of secondary bibliographical and critical material, shared between the Special Collections Division and the Main Library, where a recent stock check has shown that the open shelves carry as many as 800 volumes classified at numbers relating to the French Revolution.

Also worthy of consideration by students of the French Revolutionary period is a group of twelve autograph letters written by the Marquis de Saint-Maurice, Sénéchal de Montpellier, Député de la Noblesse à l'Assemblée Constituante de 1789. These letters, dated 1789 to 1790 and addressed to J.J. Régis de Cambacérès, relate chiefly to political events of the time and, as indicated on their catalogue entries, present the history of the Revolution from the standpoint of a

¹⁸ The Library's holdings of the *Bulletin de la Convention Nationale* are marked in an annotated copy of *Bibliotheca Lindesiana, Collations and Notes*, No. 6: I. *Bulletin de l'Assemblée Nationale*, 5–21 September, 1792, II, *Bulletin de la Convention Nationale*, 22 September, 1792 – 4 Brumaire An IV. [26 October, 1795] (n.pl., 1902).

¹⁹ Goodwin, 'French Revolutionary Collections in the John Rylands Library', 12–13.

comparatively liberal-minded member of the nobility. An alternative perspective is offered by the printed and manuscript resources associated with the political adventurer Charles d'Eon de Beaumont (1728–1810). The catalogue of the Christie Collection lists nineteen printed-book titles under the name of Eon de Beaumont,²⁰ and elsewhere in the Library there are a further fifty manuscript items of relevance to this enigmatic secret agent, lawyer, diplomatist and fencing-master. Forty-eight of these are short, uncatalogued letters, dated 1786 to 1791, and addressed to Mademoiselle la Chevalière d'Eon by François, Marquis de Barthélemy (1747–1830), ambassador in England at the outbreak of the French Revolution. These items shed interesting light on the career of a versatile man who from 1756 to 1760 was attached to the French Embassy in Russia, where he assumed the dress and character of a woman at the court of the empress Elizabeth. He also served in England between 1762 and 1765, and returned to live permanently there in 1785.

The Library's French holdings have been substantially enhanced since 1987 by the arrival of a large part of the private library of the late Robert Shackleton (1919–86), one-time Librarian of the Bodleian Library and Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature at the University of Oxford. The collection, purchased during Shackleton's lifetime, but only acquired at his death, contains more than 3,000 items published before 1850. Of these the eighteenth-century publications were of greatest importance for the Library and a prime motive for purchase, as they not only reflected the collector's principal field of research, but also provided a means of consolidating an existing area of strength within the Library's holdings. Preliminary sorting of the, as yet uncatalogued, collection has not only confirmed this general consolidation process, but has also disclosed several significant new groupings of material.

Of special note is the preponderance of collected works from the eighteenth century. Many authors, French and Italian, are represented by these collected editions, including Algarotti (1712–64), le Comte de Caylus (1692–1765), Fontenelle (1657–1757), Houdar de la Motte (1672–1731), Le Sage (1668–1747), l'abbé de Mably (1709–85), Marmontel (1723–99), Maupertuis (1698–1759), Piron (1689–1773), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–78), Sarpi (1552–1623) and Voltaire (1694–1778). The range of the collection and its full European dimension is shown by similar eighteenth- and nineteenth-century holdings of works in English and French translation by philosophers and scholars such as Joseph Addison (1672–1719), Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679), David Hume (1711–76), Samuel Johnson (1709–84), John Locke (1632–1704), Isaac Newton (1642–1727), Alexander Pope (1688–1744) and Algernon Sidney (1622–83).

²⁰ Leigh, *Catalogue of the Christie Collection*, 155.

A second significant category of material relates to the concept of the encyclopaedic dictionary. Together with a first edition of Diderot and d'Alembert's *Encyclopédie* and the edition of Lausanne and Bern, 1780 to 1782, there are copies of the 1698 and 1740 Amsterdam editions of *Le Grand Dictionnaire Historique* of Louis Moreri (1643–80) and the 1752 Paris edition of the *Dictionnaire Universel François et Latin*, compiled by the Jesuits and better known as the *Dictionnaire de Trévoux*. Also deserving of note among the many reference works to be expected in a scholar's working library are the *Biographie Universelle Ancienne et Moderne* (Paris, 1811–28), in fifty-two volumes, and the *Biographie Toulousaine* (Paris, 1823), in two volumes.

A third, much smaller, category of material which could be isolated from the whole is that of the travel book. This category is represented by a good number of modern twentieth-century volumes such as Guides Bleus and Baedekers, but also by several less familiar earlier titles such as the following: *Le Guide, ou Conducteur de l'Etranger à Bordeaux* (Bordeaux, 1825), James Beeverell's *Les Delices de la Grand' Bretagne, & de l'Irlande* (Leiden, 1727), Samuel Sorbière's *Relation d'un Voyage en Angleterre où sont Touchées Plusieurs Choses qui Regardent l'Estat des Sciences et de la Religion et Autres Matières Curieuses* (Cologne, 1666) and Michael Clancy's *The Memoirs of Michael Clancy, M.D. containing, his Observations on Many Countries in Europe* (Dublin, 1750).²¹

It is in the realm of these and many other individual works that the real strength of the Shackleton collection lies. Shelf after shelf is lined with volumes at first sight unprepossessing, but containing within their bindings treasures of literature and historical bibliography from France and indeed the whole of Europe. Space permits reference to only a few more French examples quoted more or less at random. There is a copy of the rare first and only edition of Bruys' *Histoire des Papes, depuis St. Pierre jusqu'à Benoit XIII. inclusivement* (The Hague, 1732–34). There are early editions of major literary works such as *Mémoires et Avantures d'un Homme de Qualité* (Amsterdam, 1735) by Prévost (1697–1763) and *La Vie de Marianne* (Paris, 1742) by Marivaux (1688–1763). Minor literary authors are also extremely well represented, as illustrated by the presence of works such as *La Colombiade, ou la Foi Portée au Nouveau Monde* (Paris, 1756) by Madame Du Boccage (1710–1802) and the rare 1803 Paris edition of *Héloïse et Abeilard* by Loaisel de Tréogate (1752–1812). There is an edition of *De la Sociabilité* (Yverdon, 1770) by l'abbé Pluquet (1716–90), of the *Mémoires Secrets* (London, 1777–86) by Bachaumont (1690–1771), as well as a series of editions of *Le Chef d'Oeuvre d'un*

²¹ This work by Clancy was ordered from a bookseller in May 1986, just four months before Shackleton's death, thereby providing interesting evidence of the collector's lifelong passion for books.

Inconnu by Thémiseul de Saint-Hyacinthe (1684–1746), including those of The Hague (1714–32) and of Paris (1807).

The range of titles is broad and is not restricted to the eighteenth century. Many famous authors of preceding and later centuries also feature in the collection, for example Pierre Corneille (1606–84), Ronsard, Racine (1639–99), Hugo (1802–85), Balzac (1799–1850), Rimbaud (1854–91), Sartre (1905–80) and Verne (1828–1905), who may be represented by early or first editions or by modern critical editions in series such as Gallimard's *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*, or, indeed, by both. Notable monograph series such as the *Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Idées* are held as are many periodical titles, some of these duplicating existing holdings, but others – such as the *Actes de l'Académie Nationale des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts de Bordeaux*, the *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Etude du XVIIIe Siècle* and *Revue Française d'Histoire du Livre* – providing additional valuable research material. There are also some twenty-five manuscript items, the majority dating from the eighteenth century and including interesting examples of clandestine works.

The whole Shackleton collection therefore constitutes a vast and varied resource for the student of the history of ideas in eighteenth-century France and Europe. Assembled by a scholar it is certain that it will yield many treasures for researchers of the future, although none may be as outstanding as the *Oratio Habita in Aede D. Petri in Epiphania* of Alexander Cortesius, an incunabule recently discovered in its midst and found to be a unique copy in the United Kingdom of the 1483 Herolt edition.

A fourth and final collection of relevance for this period was donated to the Library by A. Preston Pearce between 1952 and 1954. The gift comprises at least 5,500 items, as yet uncatalogued, the majority manuscripts, with approximately 400 printed items interspersed among them. The documents were originally assembled with the purpose of compiling as complete a collection as possible of revenue stamps, introduced by Colbert in 1673. However, their importance to a large research library extends far beyond this restricted aim and resides rather with the wide and varied nature of documents to which these stamps were applied. Among the vast array of documents which come from regions of France as far apart as Savoy, Brittany, Lorraine, Paris and Corsica, there are wills, marriage contracts, muniments of title, leases, petitions, certificates and a whole host of legal documents relating to land, civil and ecclesiastical, as well as a small number of newspapers and posters advertising events such as auctions of land or sailing schedules of steamers belonging to the *Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes*. The whole provides a fascinating research resource for the student of French social and economic life during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and especially for the century leading up to the French Revolution. The philologist and legal historian will also find much of interest in the wording of these

varied documents which acquire added significance through accompanying autographs which are said to include that of François de Salignac Fénélon (1651–1715).

NINETEENTH CENTURY

It is in the field of literary studies that the Library has most to offer the student of nineteenth-century France, although once again it must be stressed that much material of relevance to this period of French history is held throughout the Library's general stock. The literary collections for the most part reflect the teaching interests of the Department of French Studies, and for this reason all major French authors of the nineteenth century are well represented in the printed book stock. However, some leading writers, as well as some lesser-known figures, form the basis of noteworthy collections of printed books and manuscripts, and it is these individual groupings which are briefly described below.

For Alexandre Dumas *père* (1802–70) there is a small collection of manuscripts, mainly letters (18 items), together with approximately 300 volumes from the Dumas collection formed over many years by Douglas Munro, compiler of three definitive Dumas bibliographies.²² The entire Munro Alexandre Dumas Collection, which numbers more than 2,500 volumes and includes many rare items in printed book, manuscript and pictorial format, will eventually be housed in the Library, where it will provide a unique and unparalleled resource centre for students of this prolific author. The volumes at present in stock comprise modern French editions of Dumas' works, English translations, adaptations for children and also copies of the newspaper *Le Monde Illustré* for the years 1857 to 1860. This last title contains information relating to Dumas' dramas as well as certain of his works published in serial format. Dumas' own journal, *Le Mousquetaire*, is also held in its entirety for the years 1853 to 1857. These printed books remain for the most part uncatalogued, although the manuscripts referred to are by and large listed, together with several items concerning the younger Dumas, Alexandre Dumas *fils* (1824–95), author of *La Dame aux Camélias*. The single most important manuscript item, and that a very recent acquisition, is a fragment of a play written in the hand of Dumas *père* which matches the description of a supposedly lost fairy play, *Gulliver*, composed in the early 1850s but never published nor performed.

The Library's fine collections of printed books and manuscripts relating to Victor Hugo have formed the basis of two exhibitions, the most recent of which was staged in 1985 to coincide with an

²² D. Munro, *Alexandre Dumas Père: A Bibliography of Works Published in French, 1825–1900* (New York: Garland, 1981); *Alexandre Dumas Père: A Bibliography of Works Translated into English to 1910* (New York: Garland, 1978); *Alexandre Dumas Père: A Secondary Bibliography of French and English Sources to 1983, with Appendices* (New York: Garland, 1985).

international Hugo conference held in Manchester in celebration of the centenary of the author's death. The two exhibition catalogues, *Victor Hugo, 1802–1885: An Exhibition of Autograph Letters, Manuscripts, Prints and Books* (Manchester: University Library, 1965) and *Victor Hugo: A Story of Resistance* (Manchester: JRULM, 1985), give some indication of the scope of the Library's Hugo resources, both of manuscripts and printed books. The former category numbers approximately 150 letters and documents in the hand of Hugo together with some 800 letters addressed to him, and the latter, excluding periodical articles, comprises in excess of 1,100 volumes, these shared between the Special Collections Division and the Main Library site. Hugo's autograph letters are catalogued,²³ and at the time of writing some 650 of the letters addressed to Hugo had been listed, of which approximately one third are recorded on the *NIDS UK* file.²⁴

The manuscripts include four page-proofs of the first edition of *Châtiments* with holograph corrections by Hugo, a manuscript of *La Voix de Guernesey*, dated 1867, and a famous watercolour drawing by Hugo, produced as a New Year card, dated January 1856, and incorporating the artist's name within the design. Identifiable within the correspondence are several significant groupings such as the six letters to and from Louis Blanc (1811–82) relating to Hugo's involvement with the Shakespeare Tercentenary celebrations of 1864. A further nine letters to Hugo reflect his political activities and focus on a visit made to Brussels during the Paris Commune of 1871 and the controversial offer of asylum to all *communards*. Other categories of correspondence include letters written to Hugo by prominent French writers of the period such as Théodore de Banville (1823–91, 6 items) and Alfred de Vigny (1797–1863, 1 item), these throwing light on patterns of nineteenth-century French literary thought. Hugo's personal life is highlighted by letters such as the five written by his mistress Juliette Drouet (1806–83) and the six addressed to Madame Victor Hugo by Ulric Guttinguer (1785–1866). Letters of thanks, congratulation and supplication form a further category within the in-correspondence and include sometimes pitiful entreaties such as the plea by Adélie Gervais for influence to obtain financial help, dated 1851, or the appeal by aspiring actor Charles Hubert for a role in one of Hugo's plays, dated 1842.

The printed books are more or less evenly divided between editions of texts and critical works and include in the former category a good number of first editions and English translations. There are, for instance, first editions of *Les Misérables* (Brussels, 1862) and *William Shakespeare* (Paris, 1864) as well as a copy of *Hans of Iceland* (London, 1825), translation of Hugo's first published novel, with illustrations by

²³ See *NIDS UK*, 0.063.162.

²⁴ See *NIDS UK*, 0.063.163–4.

Cruikshank.²⁵ Also of interest is an edition of the controversial *Napoléon le Petit* (London, 1852), disguised as a prayer book with the word 'paroissien' on the binding.

A collection of 100 books relating to nineteenth-century French literature, donated to the Library by K.G. Millward in 1971, included some sixty volumes by and about Joséphin Aimé Péladan (1859–1918), the playwright and novelist, who in the late 1880s became associated with a revival of Rosicrucianism. Numbered among these items are copies of Péladan's first novel, *Le Vice Suprême*, and fifteen volumes from the *La Décadence Latine* series. Interesting Péladan correspondence, as yet uncatalogued, is also held, and comprises thirty-four autograph letters, dated 1903 to 1913, from Péladan to H. Bauquier, editor of *Le Petit Méridional*. The correspondence concerns Bauquier's articles on Péladan and the staging at Nîmes in 1904 of Péladan's most successful play *Sémiramis*.

Amable Tastu (1798–1885), the poetess, translator and writer of educational books and stories for children, is represented in the Library's catalogued manuscript collections by some forty items, including versions of three poems and thirty-two letters, dated 1827 to 1865.²⁶ Seven of these latter are addressed to L.E. Audot, one to actress and poet Marceline Desbordes-Valmore (1786–1859) and one to Victor Hugo. A limited selection of printed book material by and about this author complements the small collection of manuscripts.

The Library holds an interesting exchange of correspondence between literary figures prominent in French Symbolist and English Decadence circles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with particular reference to the poet John Gray (1866–1934) and his friend André Raffalovich (1864–1934).²⁷ There are sixteen letters, dated 1890 to 1913, written by Félix Fénéon (1861–1944), editor of the *Revue Indépendante*, to John Gray and concerned mainly with literary matters; eleven letters, dated 1892 to 1899, from Pierre Louÿs (1870–1925) to John Gray; two autograph letters of Jean Lorrain (1856–1906) and a manuscript copy of the sonnet *Les Paons Blancs*; four letters, dated 1878 to 1884, from Gustave Moreau (1826–98), a painter much appreciated by the Symbolists, to Marie Raffalovich; and four letters, dated 1897 to 1903, from Rachilde, pseudonym of Marguerite Vallette (1860–1953), co-founder of *Le Mercure de France*, to André Raffalovich. This literary correspondence, well supported by

²⁵ For some locations of English translations of Hugo's works in the Library, see D.J. Adams & A.R.W. James, 'Bibliographie Sommaire des Oeuvres de Hugo Traduites en Anglais de son Vivant', *Victor Hugo et la Grande-Bretagne: Actes du Deuxième Colloque Vinaver, Manchester, 1985*, ed. A.R.W. James (Liverpool: F. Cairns, 1986).

²⁶ See *NIDS UK*, 0.063.166.

²⁷ See *NIDS UK*, 0.063.155 for the Gray papers and *NIDS UK*, 0.063.165 for the Raffalovich manuscripts. Reference to this exchange of correspondence is also made in Manchester University, *A General Exhibition of Books and Manuscripts in the Library of the University of Manchester* (Manchester: University Library, 1964), 32–3.

printed book resources, casts interesting light on a lively and influential *fin de siècle* interchange of ideas between English and French men and women of letters. This cross-fertilization of ideas is further illustrated by a smaller grouping of nineteen autograph letters of Yvette Guilbert (1867–1944), the singer immortalized in the sketches and lithographs of Toulouse-Lautrec. Seventeen of these letters, dated 1894 to 1924, are addressed to Arthur Symons (1865–1945), author of the influential *The Symbolist Movement in Literature*, one of the first books to introduce authors such as Rimbaud, Verlaine, Huysmans and Mallarmé to an English audience, the remaining two to Alexandre Natanson, editor of the Symbolist periodical *La Revue Blanche*.

Finally, it should be noted that the overall strengths of the Library's French printed-book collections of this period are supplemented by further manuscripts relating to the following nineteenth-century authors: Emile Deschamps (1791–1871, 4 items); Théophile Gautier (1811–72, 3 items); Edmond de Goncourt (1822–96, 1 item); Alphonse de Lamartine (1790–1869, 2 items); Guy de Maupassant (1850–93, 1 item); Octave Mirbeau (1848–1917, 6 letters addressed to the author); Ernest Renan (1823–92, 3 items); George Sand (1804–76, 2 items); and Eugène Scribe (1791–1861, 2 items).

TWENTIETH CENTURY

The nineteenth-century literary exchange of correspondence referred to above continues in some cases into the twentieth century. For example, seventeen autograph letters of Alphonse Daudet's son, Lucien (1883–1946), to André Raffalovich are held, several of them concerning publication of the novel *Le Chemin Mort*. Presentation copies of this and other works by Lucien Daudet such as *La Fourmilière* and *Le Prince des Cravates* are also of note in this context.

The Library holds one eight-page autograph letter from Marcel Proust (1871–1922) to the poet and aesthete Robert de Montesquiou (1855–1921) and two short manuscript notes, one of which constitutes the following simple instruction concerning coffee: 'Je voudrais encore du café au lait. Je me servirai moi-même, mais rapprochez de moi le sucre et le pot au lait et le cafetière'. These manuscripts supplement the substantial printed-book holdings relating to Proust both in the Special Collections Division and at the Main Library site. The holdings at the former location include approximately 120 volumes, by or about Proust, donated to the Library in 1974 by Marie Riefstahl-Nordlinger, friend of the writer and model, it is thought, for some episodes featuring Albertine in *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*. The collection comprises editions of Proust's writings and many secondary works which, although not in themselves valuable, can be considered unique as they carry the signature of Marie Nordlinger. The greater printed-books strength for Proust studies is without a doubt located at the Main Library site where the catalogue records some 430 entries for

editions and critical works under Proust's name and where the open shelves carry more than 400 volumes on this author alone.

It would be invidious and misleading to single out further collections relating to individual authors of the twentieth century. It is simpler to state that the holdings for this period are wide-ranging and representative not only of literature produced in France and other European French-speaking countries, but also of French imaginative literature produced in Africa and other parts of the francophone world. In terms of quantity the Main Library site holds sufficient texts and critical works by and about individual modern French poets, dramatists and novelists to fill as many as 250 shelves, thereby offering for immediate use some 7,000 volumes. This forms almost exactly one third of the total French literary studies stock of 21,060 volumes available on open access at the Main Library site, according, that is, to figures calculated at the time of a 1988 SCONUL survey.

The Main Library site also offers extensive resources for the student of the modern French language. French dictionaries of many types are available as are linguistic atlases, including the *Atlas Linguistiques de la France par Régions* series published by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Important holdings of secondary material including relevant bibliographies, monographs and periodicals ensure that the collection caters for the needs of all types of user from undergraduate to senior member of academic staff. The Main Library further houses a separate individual collection of some importance to students of the contemporary French language. The Harmer Collection consists of Professor Lewis Charles Harmer's papers, 'card indexes (which alone carry some 40,000 examples of 20th century French), newspaper cuttings, notes on loose sheets – and books from his library . . . also six folders containing material which Harmer was preparing for revised versions of the six chapters of *The French Language Today*.' The papers, described in a detailed inventory compiled by F.J. Norris, author of the words quoted above, are accompanied by 1,040 as yet uncatalogued novels and texts which illustrate many of the examples listed.

The expanding subject area of communication studies has led to the acquisition of a considerable quantity of material relating to radio, film, television and the press, much of it relevant to the student of French. The Library subscribes to the daily newspaper *Le Monde* and holds some back issues, mainly for the years 1982 to 1984, of other newspapers such as *Figaro*, *France-Soir*, *Humanité*, *Libération*, and *Midi-Libre*. The Library also records in its catalogues holdings of many of the newspapers and magazines held by the French Media Documentation Centre, located within the University of Manchester's Department of French Studies. Here access is possible to a wide and unique range of modern French media including the first four of the titles listed above as well as *La Croix*, *Les Echos*, *Le Journal de Genève*, *Lettre de la Nation*, *Le Parisien Libéré* and *Ouest-France*, holdings in

most cases dating back to October 1987. Also available are television recordings and more than thirty magazines and journals including *Auto Journal*, *Elle*, *Express*, *Marie Claire*, *Le Nouvel Economiste*, *Le Point*, *Salut*, *Science et Vie* and *La Vie du Rail*. Another significant information resource for the student of French media is to be found in the European Institute for the Media, established within the University of Manchester in 1983. The Institute's Library, open to members of the University Library at the discretion of its Director, maintains good collections of media-related periodicals as well as a coordinated collection of press cuttings, pamphlets and documents arranged by subject, for example, media policies, print media, radio, film, TV, cable, satellite, telecommunications, etc., and within subject by country.

The Library's general European collections are reinforced by the holdings of the European Documentation Centre, established in 1973 when Great Britain joined the Common Market. The Centre, located at the Main Library site, maintains a solid collection of reference books and other works on European economics, history, politics and law, and offers a comprehensive collection of official Community documents as well as a vast range of publications of a general and statistical nature. Full supporting collections of the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations provide a wealth of additional material of interest to researchers. Further information on these European collections can be obtained from Library Reader Guides GS.6, *European Documentation Centre* and GS.7, *United Nations, OECD and FAO*.

The student of twentieth-century France may also find material of interest in the foreign correspondence section of the *Manchester Guardian* Archives which are housed at the Main Library. Holdings include letters, reports and memoranda from France by correspondents of the stature of Charles Lambert, Alexander Werth, F.A. Voigt and Robert Dell. This material, especially strong for the years 1932 to 1939, provides insight not only into the workings of the *Manchester Guardian*, but also into the political situation obtaining in Europe during the years immediately preceding the outbreak of World War II. Although some of the several hundred letters and documents are concerned with deadlines, travel expenses and editorial policy, others deal in depth with political events viewed at close quarters. Examples of interest include a letter of Charles Lambert, dated 19 July 1939, in which the foreign correspondent expresses his views on Europe's immediate future, stating that 'the French take a black view as to the likely course of events this summer'. A letter of Dell, dated 8 November 1936, elaborates the author's views on the Franco-Russian pact and another by Werth, dated 29 November 1936, refers to the Spanish Civil War and the 'impression in France that the Rebels cannot win the war'.

The Labour Party Pamphlets and Reports Collection and Labour Party Newspaper Cuttings Collection, both located at the Main

Library and between them covering the years 1900 to 1983, provide yet more raw material for students of modern France and its political, social and economic role. The unpublished index to the cuttings, J.F. Laidlar, *The Labour Party Newspaper Cuttings Collection, Volume One: List and Index of Material Acquired before December 1982* (Manchester: JRULM, 1983) shows France as a frequent subdivision of topics ranging from European War, 1939–45 to Press, and from Trade to Labour: Wages. These cuttings, together with the *Manchester Guardian* Archives, should be set against the background of the Library's vast collection of British newspapers, including virtually complete runs of *The Times*, the *Manchester Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Manchester Evening News*, all of which in their own style contribute material for the study of 'that sweet enemy, France'.

TYPES OF MATERIAL

The Library maintains impressive collections of French bookbindings ranging from the Renaissance to modern times. There are no less than 177 bindings executed for the collector Jacques Auguste de Thou (1553–1617), French magistrate and historian, thirty-four of them in the Christie Collection. A further eleven volumes can without doubt be said to have been bound for French treasurer-general Jean Grolier (1479–1565), all bearing on the front or back covers the characteristic ownership mark 'Io Grolierii et amicorum'. Examples of the work of Parisian binder Claude de Picques are held as are books bound by Clovis Eve and Le Gascon, two more craftsmen of the sixteenth century. The Library's collection of French royal bindings is equally impressive. It includes volumes bound for Charles IX, Henri II (with Catherine de Médicis), Henri II (with Diane de Poitiers), Henri IV (2 items), Louis XIII (3 items), Louis XIV (15 items), Louis XV (14 items), Louis XVI (7 items) and Louis XVIII (2 items). French eighteenth-century bindings are represented by significant collections of the *dentelle* style (Nicolas Derome, better known as Derome Le Jeune), the highly-coloured Lyonnais mosaic style signed unusually on the spine by Devers, and the French Revolution style of Alexis Pierre Bradel, usually referred to as Bradel l'Aîné. For the nineteenth century there are substantial collections of bindings of Bozerian, Thouvenin, Trautz-Bauzonnet and Henri Marius-Michel. Further details concerning these and other European bookbindings can be found in *A Catalogue of an Exhibition of European Bookbindings, 1467–1899, in the John Rylands Library* (Manchester: John Rylands Library, 1972).

The Library's extensive stock of more than 200,000 individual microforms represents some 800,000 titles and volume equivalents, of which a not insubstantial portion is of interest to students of French. The microform material, all housed at the Main Library site, comes in many shapes and sizes ranging from single reels of film containing complete dissertations or manuscripts to vast series of fiches representing the contents of library catalogues or archival collections.

It is impossible to provide a complete list of individual titles of microform theses and dissertations of relevance to French studies. Instead it should be stated that they have been purchased in many subject areas, as the following two examples show: J.P. Amy, 'Contribution à l'Etude de la Migration du Ruthenium-106 dans les Sols' (Université de Nancy, 1971) and P.B. Eargle, 'An Edition of Christine de Pisan's *Livre du Chemin de Lonc Estude*' (University of Georgia, 1973). It is also impracticable to list all microform reproductions of manuscripts, although it should be noted that the Library holds copies of as many as twenty-nine manuscripts in this form from the Bibliothèque Nationale's Fonds Français series and another six from the Nouvelles Acquisitions Françaises collection. The Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal is represented by ten items, and there are further microfilm reproductions of manuscripts from libraries and museums in Amiens, Chantilly and Tours. Several French periodicals are held on microfilm including the newspaper *Le Monde* (1944–) as well as *L'Ermitage: Revue Mensuelle de Littérature et d'Art* (1890–1906) and *Le Globe* (1824–32). The Library's excellent stock of statistical source materials on microfiche includes series such as the *Annuaire Statistique de la France* (1878–1965) and the Belgian equivalent *Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique* (1870–1963).

Four major microform titles perhaps deserve a more detailed description, all of them acquired since 1986: Saur's *Archives Biographiques Françaises*; Chadwyck-Healey's *Catalogue Général des Livres Imprimés, Auteurs 1897–1959, Supplément sur Fiches* and *BIPA: La Banque d'Information Politique et d'Actualité*; and Inter Documentation Company's *Les Tracts de Mai 1968*.

When complete the *Archives Biographiques Françaises* will provide information on approximately 150,000 individuals within a single alphabetical sequence of biographie. It reproduces some 200 books of French biographical reference published between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries and in its final form will considerably enhance the Library's French reference holdings, some of which are described in more detail below. Holdings of catalogues of other major libraries have been similarly reinforced by the arrival of the supplementary catalogue on microfiche of the card catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale. This makes available more than one and a quarter million cards not included in the printed catalogues and covers a large number of twentieth-century publications as well as other printed books acquired since 1896. Access to a further 175,000 works held in the Bibliothèque Nationale has been made possible thanks to the acquisition of another microfiche catalogue, the *Catalogue Général des Livres Imprimés: Anonymes, XVIe–XVIIIe Siècles*. This lists works published anonymously between 1501 and 1800 and also includes certain categories of pseudonymous material.

The two remaining titles are of particular interest to students of French twentieth-century history. *BIPA*, located in the French Media

Documentation Centre, is issued quarterly and can best be described as a database of current affairs in France. In the words of Chadwyck-Healey's publicity brochure it 'is not only the most comprehensive index to the French press ever published, but also provides a unique record of politics in France through the texts of official statements and communiqués, an authoritative bibliography of French official publications [and] a valuable chronology of recent events in France'. As for *Les Tracts de Mai 1968*, this reproduces more than 10,000 documents relating to the Paris revolts of 1968, all of them held in the Bibliothèque Nationale. It includes pamphlets, posters and periodicals and other related ephemera. The material is divided into three categories, 'Paris', 'Région Parisienne' and 'Province' and, within the first and by far the largest of these divisions, is further classified under five main headings: 'Monde Etudiant et Lycéen', 'Vers les Travailleurs', 'Le Monde du Travail', 'Mouvements et Partis Politiques' and 'Autres Tracts'. In all it presents a fine harvest of source material for the students of this key epoch of French history.

Le Monde is just one among approximately 300 current French-language journals received in all subject areas from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and North Africa. In total the Library subscribes to more than 9,000 periodicals and at the same time maintains collections of reference works for purposes of journal identification, location, indexing and abstracting. These holdings include standard works such as *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*, the *British Union Catalogue of Periodicals* (London, 1955–81) and its sequel *Serials in the British Library*, and, of prime importance for the location of journals in France, the Bibliothèque Nationale's *Catalogue Collectif des Périodiques du Début du XVIIe Siècle à 1939* (Paris, 1977–81). The Library also subscribes to many indexes to individual titles, notably in this context to the index to *Le Monde*, published in different forms by a variety of publishers and covering the years 1944–51, 1965–68 and 1985 to the present.

Dispersed throughout the Library's stock there is a vast array of reference works of use to students of French. Confines of space permit mention of only a small number of key general works, specifically relating to France, and additional to those titles referred to elsewhere in this survey. Among the encyclopaedias at the Main Library are an edition of the famous *Grand Dictionnaire Universel* (Paris, 1866–90), the first of the celebrated Larousse series of encyclopaedias; the *Encyclopaedia Universalis* (Paris, 1970–75) and its annual supplement *Universalis* (1974–); the *Grand Dictionnaire Encyclopédique Larousse* (Paris, 1982–85) and the single-volume annual *Quid*. There is an abundance of dictionaries of many types, including language dictionaries such as Paul Robert's *Dictionnaire Alphabétique et Analogique de la Langue Française*, second edition (Paris, 1985) and the *Trésor de la Langue Française* (Paris, 1971–), currently being published by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. There is no shortage of

biographical dictionaries such as the annual *Who's Who in France* or the continuing *Dictionnaire de Biographie Française* (Paris, 1933–). Supplementing and complementing France's national library catalogue, referred to above, is *Bibliographie Nationale Française*, the national bibliography and official list of French publications. Trade catalogues such as *Livres Disponibles*, *Canadian Books in Print* and *Das Schweizer Buch* permit speedy access to titles currently in print within their respective countries of origin.

The Library's stock is rich in bibliographical sources of all types. If the subject area is restricted to French language and literature a whole host of titles is worthy of immediate mention. General titles include D.C. Cabeen, *A Critical Bibliography of French Literature* (Syracuse, 1947–83); O. Klapp, *Bibliographie der Französischen Literaturwissenschaft* (Frankfurt am Main, 1960–); R. Rancoeur, *Bibliographie de la Littérature Française du Moyen Age à nos Jours* (Paris, 1964–82); and *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* (London, 1931–). Key works of reference for the historical bibliographer are also stocked, in particular J.M. Quérard, *Les Supercheries Littéraires Dévoilées*, second edition, bound with A.A. Barbier, *Dictionnaire des Ouvrages Anonymes*, third edition (Paris, 1869–89), as well as J.C. Brunet, *Manuel du Libraire et de l'Amateur de Livres*, fifth edition (Paris, 1860–65). There is likewise a plentiful supply of period bibliographies such as R. Bossuat, *Manuel Bibliographique de la Littérature Française du Moyen Age* and supplements (Melun, 1951–86); A. Cioranescu, *Bibliographie de la Littérature Française du Seizième Siècle* (Paris, 1959), *Bibliographie de la Littérature Française du Dix-Septième Siècle* (Paris, 1965–67) and *Bibliographie de la Littérature Française du Dix-Huitième Siècle* (Paris, 1969); G. Lanson, *Manuel Bibliographique de la Littérature Française Moderne*, new edition (Paris, 1921); H. Talvart and J. Place, *Bibliographie des Auteurs Modernes de Langue Française* (Paris, 1928–) and *French XX Bibliography* (New York, 1949–).

Works specifically tailored to the indexing and abstracting of periodicals include the Modern Language Association of America's *International Bibliography of Books and Articles on the Modern Languages and Literatures* (New York, 1964–) and the more specialized *Bulletin Analytique de Linguistique Française* (Paris, 1977–). The first of these titles is one of the many bibliographical works available in computerized form via terminals located in the Library's Rylands Information Centre, situated at the Main Library site. Through this Centre (the work of which is described in more detail in the Library's *General Research Guide*, section 3.1) and the expertise of its staff access is possible to hundreds of databases covering many different subject areas and including in their number FRANCIS, an international, multidisciplinary database produced by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

A final category of reference works which justifies separate

treatment is the thesis for which bibliographical control is complex. For Ph.D and M.A. theses submitted to the University of Manchester there is no difficulty as a copy of each thesis presented is held in the Main Library. A separate thesis catalogue lists titles by Department and for the University's Department of French Studies reveals some 200 entries. Access to non-Manchester theses is facilitated by the availability of many bibliographical tools specifically devoted to theses. These, described in detail in the Library's *General Research Guide*, section 2.7, include the *British Index to Theses Accepted for Higher Degrees in the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland*, the *American Dissertation Abstracts* and the *French Inventaire des Thèses de Doctorat Soutenues devant les Universités Françaises*. Theses in progress are controlled by *Current Research in French Studies at Universities and University Colleges in the United Kingdom* and by the more general *Current Research in Britain*.

This essentially selective listing of French material will have achieved its objective if it has shown that within the Library's collections there is something of interest for every student of French. There are rich resources evident in each century from the Middle Ages to the present day, and it is to be hoped that these strengths will continue to grow and expand. It is also to be hoped that as doors open on new fields of research within the University of Manchester, so the same new directions will be reflected in the Library's stock, as has indeed recently occurred with the increase in holdings relating to Georges Perec (1936–82). The interest of the Department of French Studies in this author has led since 1987 to a quadrupling of Perec stock from twelve to fifty items, one of which is a limited-edition copy of *Métaux: Sept Sonnets Hétérogrammatiques* (Paris, 1985) with illustrations by P. Boni. Finally, it goes without saying that gifts of new material in all areas of French studies will always be favourably considered and received, as has again been the case with a recent donation by Cedric May of some 400 items of French-Canadian interest. These include a substantial run of the Quebec newspaper *Le Devoir* (1976–81) together with pamphlets and monographs which could act as the springboard for a new research project.

