ANCIENT REGIME IN TURMOIL?
Commerce, Politics and Society in France, c.1682-1793

The Gazette Manuscrite, 1775-1793, and related sources from the John Rylands University Library of Manchester

Publisher's Note

This project brings together a variety of original manuscript sources from the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, dominated by the Gazette Manuscrite, a manuscript newsletter documenting the period 1775-1793.

These manuscript sources provide unique evidence on commerce, politics and society in France, particularly during the years 1775-1793, but also stretching back as far as the reign of Louis XIV with fragments from the Mélanges Littéraires dating from 1682, when the Court moved to Versailles, and the sudden death of Colbert in 1683. There are many letters which indicate that commerce, 'mercantilism' and new 'industrial' enterprises were thriving by the 1770s. This begs the question ... Was Society in Crisis? Why a Revolution? ... Was the Ancien Regime in Turmoil?

The Gazette Manuscrite 1775 – 1793, 10 volumes, Fr. Mss. 42-51

This series of volumes consists of letters sent on a weekly basis from Paris to Rennes. There are also a number of personal letters sent from various towns in Brittany which are included with the Gazette. Many of the letters are addressed to Monsieur le Comte, or Madame La Comtesse de Châteaugiron. In October 1790 he becomes Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Châteaugiron, and Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure; in September 1792 he becomes known more simply as Citoyen René Le Prêtre. Important areas covered include:

- Trade and Commerce
- French provincial life and society
- Provincial towns in Brittany
- New enterprises and mercantilism
- Revolutionary events and the regime in crisis
- The effect of the political situation on every day life and society

This unique documentary source records in a most readable and appealing fashion the dramatic changes in France from 1775 to 1793 through eye witness accounts:

Covering the years 1775-1793 and also reaching as far back as the reign of Louis XIV we have also chosen to include the following related historical and literary manuscripts from the John Rylands University of Manchester:

Comité Révolutionnaire. Émargement des Membres du Comité Révolutionnaire des Sections de Paris, 1793. Each sheet is signed by the chief officials and bears the imprint of the sectional seal or stamp. (Fr. Mss. 110)

Révolution Française. Le Dine du grénadier à Brest. Dialogue patriotique. (Fr. Mss. 115)

Mirabeau. Épitaphes de Mirabeau Riquetti l’aîné mort le 2 avril, 1791. Eighteen satirical epitaphs. (Fr. Mss. 116)

Pièces Diverses. A letter from General Dumourier of the thirty administrators of the town of Mons, from Liége, 1792; fragments from a `Rucueil concernant M. d’Orléans, 1789-1791; papers of M. Micholet, avocat à Cuiseaux, 1807-1809; and various proceedings of the Tribunal Révolutionnaire in 1793 in the Affaire de Clarèire. (Fr. Mss. 177)
Mélanges Littéraires. (Fr. Mss. 76-85 and 111). Epitaphs and verses of a political and satirical nature about members of the French court and other well-known contemporary figures, numerous Chansons, including copies of letters of Voltaire and Rousseau. All have tables of contents. Examples include:

- Le Diable Banquier
- Les Rats d’Angleterre
- Réflexions sur le Bonheur. Par Madame La Marquise du Châtelet
- Ode sur l’Insensibilité, à M. Franklin

This collection provides easy and immediate access to a small but fascinating source. It will be of interest to all scholars of the French Revolution, French Society and Politics, Mercantilism, Parisian, Provincial and European Affairs, 1775-1793.

Professor Gwynne Lewis, Department of History, University of Warwick comments:

"Recently, attention has been focused upon the linkages between the Ancien Regime and the Revolution. Here is an excellent source which will enable students to challenge or corroborate many of the conclusions reached by historians over the past two decades concerning the relationship between the crises of the Ancien Regime and those of the Revolution, as well as between Paris and the heart of the Vendéean revolt of 1793 in the west of France."

A detailed listing provides information on the frequency of the letters making up the Gazette Manuscrite. In addition to the regular despatches from Paris to Rennes, there are letters with reports from Brest, Lorient, Nantes, Lesneven, Paimboeuf, Bayonne and St Malo. The listing also gives further details on the related sources of a literary and historical nature which complete this collection.
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Technical Note

Our microform publications are prepared and produced in accordance with recommended and established guidelines for the production of microform of superior quality. These conform to the recommendations of the standard guides to good microforming and micropublishing practice.

Attention should be drawn to the nature of the original material. This comprises letters and documents of various shapes and sizes. Most material is in excellent condition. However, there are a small number of items which pose a few minor problems. As with all manuscript sources the inking is variable. In a very few cases, sections are barely legible in the original. There are instances when the manuscript has been badly stained, discoloured, or faded with exposure to light over a period of time. A very small number of pages are torn, crumpled or cropped. Sometimes the original paper is quite thin and this results in showthrough which can make the manuscript difficult to read. Every effort has been made to minimise these difficulties, but nevertheless these original characteristics present difficulties of image and contrast which stringent tests and variations of density cannot entirely overcome. Material has been filmed in COMIC or CINE mode, whichever is most appropriate for the nature of the original material.

The most responsible care has been exercised in the filming of this unique collection and every effort has been made to ensure that this microform publication meets the standards established by the Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and all current European standards.
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Commerce, Politics and Society in France, c.1682-1793

The Gazette Manuscrite, 1775-1793, and related sources from the John Rylands University Library of Manchester

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DETAILED LISTING

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume I, (Fr. Mss. 42)
6 April 1775 – 21 December 1776

Ordonnance du Roi concernant les Messageries
12 August 1775

Arrest du Conseil d'État du Roi servant de Règlement sur les Diligences & Messageries du
Royaume, auquel est annexe le Tarif qui sera suivi à l'avenir, tant pour le prix des Places, que
pour le port des Paquets, Or, Argent, Hardes & Merchandises.
7 August 1775
(Extrait des Registres du Conseil d’État.)

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Letter from Paris addressed to Mme la Comtesse de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

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**Gazette Manuscrite, Volume II, (Fr. Mss. 43)**

31 May 1778 – 30 December 1779
Letter from Paris 31 May 1778
Letter from Paris 3 June 1778
Letter from Paris 7 June 1778
Letter from Paris 11 June 1778
(includes list of “Officers généraux employée à l'arrivée de M. de Broglie.”)
Letter from Paris 14 June 1778
Letter from Paris 18 June 1778
Letter from Paris 21 June 1778
Letter from Paris 25 June 1778
Letter from Paris 28 June 1778
Letter from Paris 2 July 1778
Letter from Paris 5 July 1778
Letter from Paris 9 July 1778
Letter from Paris 12 July 1778
Letter from Paris 16 July 1778
Letter from Paris 19 July 1778
Letter from Paris 23 July 1778
Letter from Paris 26 July 1778
Letter from Paris 30 July 1778
Letter from Paris 2 August 1778
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Letter from Paris 9 August 1778
Letter from Paris 13 August 1778
Letter from Paris 16 August 1778
Letter from Paris 20 August 1778
Letter from Paris 23 August 1778
Letter from Paris 25 August 1778
Letter from Paris 30 August 1778
Letter from Paris 3 September 1778
Letter from Paris 6 September 1778
Letter from Paris 10 September 1778
Letter from Paris 13 September 1778
Letter from Paris 17 September 1778
Letter from Paris 18 September 1778
Letter from Paris 24 September 1778
Arrivée de M. le Comte D’Estaing et de sa flotte à l’embouchure de la Rivière de New York.
Lettre d’un Négociant anglais, à un de ses correspondants en France.
Letter from London 25 August 1778
Letter from Paris 27 September 1778
Letter from Paris 1 October 1778
Letter from Paris 4 October 1778
Letter from Paris 8 October 1778
Letter from Paris 11 October 1778
Letter from Paris 15 October 1778
Letter from Paris 18 October 1778
Letter from Paris 22 October 1778
Letter from Paris 25 October 1778
Letter from Paris 28 October 1778
Letter from Paris 1 November 1778
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<td>14 October 1779</td>
<td>Letter from Paris</td>
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<td>11 October 1779</td>
<td>&quot;Lettre de Ministre à M. Ducouëdie, Commandant la Surveillante” from Versailles</td>
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<td>15 October 1779</td>
<td>Letter from Brest</td>
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<td>17 October 1779</td>
<td>Letter from Paris</td>
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Letter from Paris 21 October 1779
Letter from Brest 25 October 1779
Letter 26 October 1779
Letter from Paris 24 October 1779
Letter from Paris 28 October 1779
Letter addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” from Rennes 3 November 1779
Letter from Brest 5 November 1779

List of Regiments being sent to Brittany in November and December

Letter from Paris 5 November 1779
Letter from Paris 7 November 1779
Letter from Paris 10 November 1779
Letter from Paris 11 November 1779
Letter from Paris 14 November 1779
Letter from Paris 17 November 1779
Letter from Paris 18 November 1779
Letter addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” 24 November 1779

Letter from Paris 25 November 1779
Letter from Brest 26 November 1779
Letter from St Malo 30 November 1779
Letter from Paris 28 November 1779
Letter from Paris 28 November 1779
Letter from Paris 2 December 1779
Letter from Paris 5 December 1779
Letter 6 December 1779
Letter from Brest 8 December 1779
Letter from Paris 9 December 1779
Letter from Paris 12 December 1779
Letter from Paris 16 December 1779
Letter from Paris 19 December 1779
Letter from Paris 23 December 1779
Letter from Brest 24 December 1779
Letter from Paris 26 December 1779
Letter from Paris 30 December 1779

(FF 1-366)

REEL THREE

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume III, (Fr. Mss. 44)
Letter from Paris 20 January 1780
Letter from Paris 23 January 1780

Letter addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” from Rennes 23 February 1780

Epitaphe de M. Ducoùedie Capitaine de la Surveillante

Letter from Paris 27 January 1780
Letter from Paris 30 January 1780
Letter from Brest 31 January 1780

List of ships at Brest

Letter from Paris 3 February 1780
Letter from Brest 4 February 1780
Letter from Brest 7 February 1780
Letter from Paris 6 February 1780
Letter from Paris 13 February 1780
Letter from Paris 10 February 1780
Letter from Paris 20 February 1780
Letter from Paris 17 February 1780
Letter from Brest 14 February 1780

Letter enclosing copy of letter to the Spanish Consul at Brest 27 February 1780

Letter from Lorient 23 February 1780
Letter from Paris 24 February 1780
Letter from Brest 25 February 1780
Letter from Paris 27 February 1780
Letter from Nantes 29 February 1780

Letter from Paris 2 March 1780
Letter from Paris 5 March 1780
Letter from Paris 9 March 1780
Letter from St Malo 11 March 1780
Letter from Paris 12 March 1780
Letter from Paris 16 March 1780
Letter from Nantes 16 March 1780
Letter from Paris 19 March 1780
Letter from Paris 23 March 1780
Letter 26 March 1780
Letter from Brest 27 March 1780
Letter from Paris 30 March 1780
Letter from Brest 31 March 1780

Letter from Paris 2 April 1780
Letter from Paris 6 April 1780

Letter addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” from Rennes 7 April 1780

Letter from Paris 9 April 1780
Letter from Brest 10 April 1780
Letter from Paris 13 April 1780
Letter from Brest 14 April 1780

Letter from Paris 16 April 1780
Letter from Brest 17 April 1780
Letter from Paris 20 April 1780
Letter from Paris 23 April 1780
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<td>(with extracts from letters from Brest) Letter from Brest</td>
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<td>(with additional note of news from Nantes) Letter from Paris</td>
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<td>Letter from Paris</td>
<td>3 December 1780</td>
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<td>Letter from Paimboeuf</td>
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Letter from Brest 6 December 1780
Letter from Paris 7 December 1780
Letter from Brest 11 December 1780
Letter from Paris 10 December 1780
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Letter from Paris 17 December 1780
Letter from Brest 17 December 1780
Letter from Lorient 18 December 1780
Letter from Paris 21 December 1780
Letter from Brest 22 December 1780
Letter from Paris 24 December 1780
Letter from Brest 25 December 1780
Letter from Paris 28 December 1780
Letter from St Malo 28 December 1780
Letter from St Malo 30 December 1780
Letter from Paris 31 December 1780
(ff 1-340)

REEL FOUR

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume IV, (Ff. Mss. 45)
3 January 1781 – 28 December 1782

Letter from Brest 3 January 1781
Letter from Paris 4 January 1781
Letter from St Malo 4 January 1781
Letter from Brest 5 January 1781
Letter from St Malo 6 January 1781
Letter from Paris 7 January 1781
Letter from St Malo 9 January 1781
Letter from Brest 10 January 1781
Letter from Paris 11 January 1781
Letter from Brest 12 January 1781
Letter from St Malo 18 January 1781
Letter from Brest 19 January 1781
Letter from Brest 22 January 1781
Letter from Brest 24 January 1781

Letter from Brest 26 January 1781
Letter from Brest 29 January 1781

Special note following news of the surrender of General Cornwallis.

Letter from Paimboeuf 7 February 1781
Letter from Brest 7 February 1781
Letter from Brest 19 February 1781
Letter from Brest 26 February 1781

Letter from Lorient 9 March 1781
Letter from Brest 9 March 1781
Letter from Brest 14 March 1781
Letter from Brest 16 March 1781

Letter with news from Brest and Lorient 28 March 1781

Letter from Brest 2 April 1781
Letter from Brest 6 April 1781
Letter from Brest 18 April 1781
Letter from Brest 25 April 1781
Letter from Brest 7 May 1781
Liste de la Promotion arrêtée par le Roi 9 May 1781
Letter from Brest 11 May 1781
Letter from Brest 14 May 1781
Letter from Lorient 11 May 1781
Letter from Brest 18 May 1781
Letter from Lorient 20 May 1781
Letter from Lesneven 21 May 1781
Letter from Brest 30 May 1781
Letter from Brest 11 June 1781
Letter from Brest 27 June 1781
Letter addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” from Rennes 22 June 1781
Letter from Brest 16 July 1781
Copy of a letter from Cadiz 17 July 1781
Letter 1 August 1781
Letter from Concarneau 6 August 1781
Letter from Lorient 6 August 1781
Letter from Brest 11 August 1781
Letter from Brest 13 August 1781
Letter from Brest 29 August 1781
Letter from Brest 7 September 1781?
Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes from Brest
7 September 1781
Letter from Brest 15 October 1781
Letter from Lesneven 16 October 1781
Précis de la Campagne de l’ Armée Navale aux orders du Comte de Grasse.
Letter from Brest 16 November 1781
Letter from Brest 21 November 1781
Letter from Brest 23 November 1781
Additional news from Brest 7 December 1781
Letter from Brest 7 December 1781
Letter from Brest 31 December 1781
Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
1 January 1782
Combat de l’armée française aux ordres de Monsieur le Comte de Grasse et de l’armée anglaise aux ordres de l’Admiral Rodney. An account of the various actions
April 1782
Letter from Brest 11 February 1782
Letter from Brest 21 April 1782
Letter from Brest 27 May 1782
Letter from Brest 17 June 1782

Letter address to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

28 June 1782?

Letter 3 July 1782
Letter from Brest 5 July 1782

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

17 July 1782? and undated.

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 August 1782

Suite de la lettre de Sir Gibbons à Sir Robertson 7 August 1782
(again addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes)

Further instalments and extracts from other letters 14 August 1782
17 August 1782
21 August 1782
27 August 1782

All addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

Anecdote addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

31 August 1782

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

14 September 1782
18 September 1782

Two letters similarly addressed but undated

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

9 October 1782
12 October 1782
16 October 1782
19 October 1782
23 October 1782

Extract from a letter 9 October 1782?

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
30 October 1782

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

Including some extracts from "Camp de St Roch" Extract from a letter from Benjamin Franklin

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 November 1782
6 November 1782
9 November 1782

16 November 1782
20 November 1782
23 November 1782

Letter from Brest 24 November 1782

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

27 November 1782
30 November 1782
4 December 1782

Préliminaires de Paris présumer entre les puissances belligérantes

7 December 1782

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

(ff 1-222)

REEL FIVE

11 December 1782
14 December 1782
18 December 1782
21 December 1782
24 December 1782
28 December 1782

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume V, (Fr. Mss. 46)
4 January 1783 – 31 December 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 January 1783
15 January 1783
22 January 1783
25 January 1783
29 January 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 February 1783
5 February 1783
11 February 1783
12 February 1783
15 February 1783

19 February 1783
22 February 1783
26 February 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 March 1783
5 March 1783
8 March 1783
12 March 1783
15 March 1783
19 March 1783
22 March 1783
29 March 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 April 1783
5 April 1783
6 April 1783
9 April 1783
12 April 1783
16 April 1783
17 April 1783
19 April 1783
23 April 1783
26 April 1783
30 April 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 May 1783
7 May 1783
10 May 1783
14 May 1783
17 May 1783
21 May 1783
24 May 1783
28 May 1783
31 May 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 June 1783
7 June 1783
10 June 1783
14 June 1783
17 June 1783
21 June 1783

Letter from Paris 22 June 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
25 June 1783
28 June 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 July 1783
5 July 1783
10 July 1783
19 July 1783
23 July 1783
26 July 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 August 1783
5 August 1783

13 August 1783
16 August 1783
21 August 1783
23 August 1783
30 August 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 September 1783
6 September 1783
10 September 1783
13 September 1783
17 September 1783
20 September 1783
24 September 1783
25 September 1783
27 September 1783

Letter from "Camp de Buena Vista" 14 September 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 October 1783
8 October 1783
14 & 15 October 1783
18 October 1783
22 October 1783 (from Paris)
25 October 1783

Letter from Paris 29 October 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 November 1783
4 November 1783
8 November 1783
13 November 1783
15 November 1783

Letter from Paris 18 November 1783
Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

19 November 1783

Letter

22 November 1783

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

26 November 1783

Letter

28 November 1783

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

8 December 1783

Letter from Paris

4 December 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

6 December 1783
10 December 1783
11 December 1783

Letter from Paris

18 December 1783

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

20 December 1783
24 December 1783

Letter from Paris

25 December 1783

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

27 December 1783

Letter
( ff 1-204)

31 December 1783

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume VI, (Fr. Mss. 47)
3 January 1784 – 29 December 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 January 1784

Letter from Paris

5 January 1784

Letter

6 January 1784

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
(with extracts from Montpellier)

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
8 January 1784

10 January 1784
11 January 1784
14 January 1784
18 January 1784
19 January 1784

Letter from Versailles, Paris 19 January 1784

Letter from Paris 23 January 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

21 January 1784
24 January 1784
27 January 1784
31 January 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 February 1784
5 February 1784
7 February 1784
8 February 1784
14 February 1784
16 February 1784
18 February 1784
21 February 1784
23 February 1784
25 February 1784
28 February 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 March 1784
6 March 1784
10 March 1784
13 March 1784
17 March 1784

19 March 1784
20 March 1784
24 March 1784

Letters addressed as above 26 March 1784
27 March 1784
31 March 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 April 1784
7 April 1784

Letter 10 April 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
14 April 1784
21 April 1784
24 April 1784
28 April 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 May 1784
4 May 1784
8 May 1784
11 May 1784
15 May 1784
19 May 1784
22 May 1784

Letter

26 May 1784

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

29 May 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 June 1784
9 June 1784

Letter

12 June 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

16 June 1784
23 June 1784
26 June 1784
30 June 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 July 1784
9 July 1784
12 July 1784
16 July 1784
14 July 1784
17 July 1784
17 July 1784
21 July 1784
24 July 1784

Letter from Edward Gibbon, author of *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* to his friend William Robertson, author of *History of America*, about situation in England (copy, also addressed to “Monsieur le Comte” in Rennes)

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

(latter with an extract from a letter from Naples)
Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

28 July 1784
30 July 1784
31 July 1784

4 August 1784
7 August 1784
11 August 1784
14 August 1784
18 August 1784
20 August 1784
25 August 1784
27 August 1784
28 August 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 September 1784
4 September 1784
8 September 1784
18 September 1784

“Tableau des Conquêtes”

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

22 September 1784
25 September 1784
29 September 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 October 1784
2 October 1784
4 October 1784
6 October 1784
16 October 1784
20 October 1784
23 October 1784
27 October 1784
29 October 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

6 November 1784
10 November 1784

Letter from Paris 9 November 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

12 November 1784
13 November 1784
17 November 1784
23 November 1784
27 November 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes
(latter includes an extract from a letter from Bordeaux)

1 December 1784
4 December 1784
8 December 1784
9 December 1784
15 December 1784
22 December 1784

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

18 December 1784

20

22 December 1784
25 December 1784
29 December 1784

(ff 1-237)

REEL SIX

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume VII, (Fr. Mss. 48)
12 January 1785 – 31 December 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

12 January 1785
15 January 1785
22 January 1785
25 January 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 February 1785
9 February 1785
12 February 1785
19 February 1785
26 February 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

5 March 1785
9 March 1785
12 March 1785
16 March 1785
23 March 1785
26 March 1785
30 March 1785

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 April 1785

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

14 May 1785
18 May 1785
21 May 1785
25 May 1785
28 May 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 June 1785
4 June 1785
8 June 1785
11 June 1785
15 June 1785
18 June 1785
22 June 1785
25 June 1785
29 June 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 July 1785
6 July 1785
9 July 1785
16 July 1785
20 July 1785
23 July 1785
27 July 1785
30 July 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

5 August 1785?
6 August 1785
9 August 1785
10 August 1785
13 August 1785
17 August 1785
20 August 1785
24 August 1785
27 August 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 September 1785
3 September 1785
7 September 1785
14 September 1785
17 September 1785
19 September 1785
21 September 1785
24 September 1785
28 September 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 October 1785
5 October 1785
8 October 1785
11 October 1785
12 October 1785
16 October 1785
22 October 1785
25 October 1785
29 October 1785
30 October 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 November 1785
5 November 1785
9 November 1785
12 November 1785
16 November 1785
19 November 1785
26 November 1785
30 November 1785

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 December 1785
9 December 1785
10 December 1785
14 December 1785
17 December 1785
21 December 1785
24 December 1785
28 December 1785
31 December 1785

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume VIII, (Fr. Mss. 49)
4 January 1786 – 30 December 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 January 1786
7 January 1786

10 January 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 March 1786
7 March 1786
10 March 1786
14 March 1786
17 March 1786 and undated.

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 April 1786
6 April 1786
12 April 1786
15 April 1786
19 April 1786

Letters addressed as above

22 April 1786
26 April 1786
List of Naval appointments

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 May 1786
6 May 1786
10 May 1786
17 May 1786
20 May 1786
24 May 1786
27 May 1786
31 May 1786

Letters addressed as above

3 June 1786
7 June 1786
10 June 1786
14 June 1786
17 June 1786
20 June 1786
24 June 1786
28 June 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 July 1786
5 July 1786
8 July 1786
12 July 1786
15 July 1786
19 July 1786
22 July 1786
25 July 1786
29 July 1786

Letters addressed as above

2 August 1786
5 August 1786
9 August 1786
12 August 1786
19 August 1786

Letters addressed as above

2 September 1786
6 September 1786
9 September 1786
13 September 1786
16 September 1786
20 September 1786
23 September 1786
27 September 1786
30 September 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 October 1786
7 October 1786
6 October 1786 ?
14 October 1786
18 October 1786
21 October 1786
25 October 1786
28 October 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

1 November 1786
4 November 1786
8 November 1786
11 November 1786
15 November 1786
18 November 1786
25 November 1786
29 November 1786

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

6 December 1786
9 December 1786
12 December 1786 ?
13 December 1786
16 December 1786

Letters addressed as above

20 December 1786
23 December 1786
27 December 1786
30 December 1786

(ff-1-173)

REEL SEVEN

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume IX, (Fr. Mss 50)
3 January 1787 – 15 September 1787

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 January 1787
6 January 1787
10 January 1787
13 January 1787
17 January 1787
20 January 1787
24 January 1787
Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

3 February 1787
7 February 1787
10 February 1787
14 February 1787
17 February 1787
21 February 1787
24 February 1787
28 February 1787

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

21 March 1787
24 March 1787
28 March 1787
31 March 1787

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

4 April 1787
7 April 1787
11 April 1787
14 April 1787
18 April 1787
21 April 1787
25 April 1787
28 April 1787

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

2 May 1787
5 May 1787
9 May 1787
12 May 1787
16 May 1787
19 May 1787
23 May 1787
25 May 1787
30 May 1787

Letters addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

6 June 1787
9 June 1787
13 June 1787
16 June 1787
20 June 1787
21 June 1787 ?
23 June 1787
30 June 1787
29 August 1787
1 September 1787
5 September 1787
12 September 1787
15 September 1787

Letter addressed to Madame la Marquise
(ff 1-107)

Gazette Manuscrite, Volume IX, (Fr. Mss. 50)
26 September 1790 – 24 November 1790

These letters are not bound in chronological order in the original:

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

13 October 1790
11 October 1790

Letter
Letter

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

9 October 1790
6 October 1790

Letter

Suite de la lettre du 10 September 1790 ?
also addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron,
Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Part of a letter similarly addressed, but bound out of sequence

Letter
Letter

Letter addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron,
Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Letter addressed to Monsieur le Comte de Chateaugiron en son hotel à Rennes

8 December 1790 ?

Letter
Letter

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

16 October, 1790
18 October, 1790
20 October, 1790

Letter 23 October 1790

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

25 October 1790
27 October 1790
30 October 1790

Letter 2 October 1790
Letter 10 November 1790

addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Suite de la lettre du 2 October 1790 ?

Letter from Paris 18 January 1785

Suite de la lettre du 1 November 1790 ?

addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Suite de la lettre du 27 November 1790 ?

Letter 11 October 1790

addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Letter 1 November 1790
Letter 22 November 1790
Letter 24 November 1790

Suite de la lettre du 22 November 1790
addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Letter 15 November 1790
Letter 17 November 1790

addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes

Letter 20 November 1790

Suite de la lettre du 13 November 1790
followed by letter of same date, bound out of sequence,
addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, Commandant de la garde nationale de Lavaux, département de la Loire Inférieure, en son hotel à Rennes
28 July 1792

Letter addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, en son hotel à Rennes

31 July 1792

Letter addressed to Monsieur René en son hotel à Rennes

1 August 1792
4 August 1792
6 August 1792
8 August 1792
11 August 1792

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre de Chateaugiron, en son hotel à Rennes

13 August 1792

Rennes

undated letter

17-20 August 1792
18 August 1792
27-29 August 1792
27 August 1792
22 August 1792
22-25 August 1792
25 August 1792

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre en son hotel à Rennes

1 September 1792
3 September 1792
5 September 1792

Letter

6 September 1792

Letter addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre en son hotel à Rennes

8 September 1792

Proclamation

8 October 1792

Letter addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre en son hotel à Rennes

9-10 September 1792

Suite pour Avignon

10 September 1792

Letters addressed to Monsieur René Le Prêtre en son hotel à Rennes

12 September 1792
15 September 1792
17 September 1792
19 September 1792
Letter from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre and forwarded to Vannes

22 September 1792
24 September 1792
26 September 1792

Letter from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre at Rennes

30 September 1792

Letter
27 September 1792
Letter
29 September 1792

Letter from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre at Rennes

1 October 1792

Letters from Paris:

3 October 1792
6 October 1792
8 October 1792
10 October 1792

Letters from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre at Rennes

13 October 1792
20 October 1792
22 October 1792
24 October 1792
26 October 1792
27 October 1792
29 October 1792
31 October 1792

Letter
3 November 1792

Letters from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre at Rennes

5 November 1792
7 November 1792
10 November 1792
12 November 1792
14 November 1792
17 November 1792
19 November 1792
21 November 1792
23 & 24 November 1792
27 November 1792

Letters from Paris addressed to Citoyen René Le Prêtre,
Chateaugiron, at Rennes

(ff 1-162)

REEL EIGHT

9-11 February 1793
13 February 1793
13-16 February 1793
16-18 February 1793
20 February 1793
Comité Révolutionnaire.
Emargement des Membres du Comité Révolutionnaire des Sections de Paris, 1793
(Fr. Mss. 110)

29 Large Sheets for the following sections:
- Le Pelletier (1)
- La Fontaine de Grenelle (2)
- Les Quinze Vingts (3)
- Les Champs-Elysées (4)
- Mutius Scaevola (5)
- Les Arcis (6)
- Le F.B. du Nord (7)
- Le Temple (8)
- L'homme armé (9,10)
- L'Indivisibilité (11)
- Les droits de l'homme (12)
- L'Arsenal (13)
- La fraternité (14)
- Popin Court (15)
- Section Révolutionnaire (16)
- Les Invalides (17)
- Brutus (18)
- Finistere (19)
- La République Française (20)
- Les amis de la patrie (21)
- La Montagne (22)
- Marat (23)
- Les Sans Culottes (24)
- Le Museum (25)
- Les Lombards (26)
- Les Gravilliers (27)
- Les Marchés (28)
- La Halle au Bled (29)

Each sheet has the following heading (usually printed): “Etat des Indemnités dues à chacun des Membres du Comité Révolutionnaire de la Section de …”

Below are seven columns headed as follows: “Emargement; Noms des Membres; Epoques, de l'installation de chaque membre, de la cessation de chaque membre; Durée des fonctions; Sommes dues à chacun des Membres pour la durée de leurs fonctions; Observations”.

Each sheet is also signed by the chief officials and bears the imprint of the sectional seal or stamp.
(ff 1-29; viii)

Revolution Francaise.
Dialogue patriotique. Late 18th century.
“Le Diné du grénadier à Brest”
(Fr. Mss. 115)
(pp. 1-23)
Mirabeau. Epitaphes de Mirabeau Riquetti l’aîne, mort le 2 avril, 1791.
Late 18th century.
(Fr. Mss. 116)
(ff 1-4)

Pièces Diverses
c. 1792 – 1793
(Fr. Mss. 117)
A box of loose papers including: A Letter from “Le général Dumourier aux trente administrateurs de la ville de Mons”, dated Liège, 2 December 1792; various proceedings of the Tribunal Révolutionnaire in 1793, in the Affaire de Clariere, dated 19 September 1793: Fragments of a “Recueil concernant M. d’Orléans, 1789-1791; and Papers of “M. Micholet, avocat à Cuiseaux, 1807-1809.
(ff2, 6, 17 and 8)

Mélanges Littéraires
Premier Recueil de Vers
(Fr. Mss. 76)
A miscellaneous collection of verse, political, satirical, laudatory and amatory, including a number of epitaphs of Louis XIV and others, and poems, epigrams and epistolary verses to or about members of the French Court and other well-known contemporary figures. Usually the poems are fairly short, the most considerable being the Philippiques de 1720 (pp. 12-48) and Le Diable Banquier (pp. 82-85). There is an index or “Table Alphabétique de Vers” (pp. 99-101).
(pp. 1-101)

Mélanges Littéraires
Deuxième Recueil de Vers
(Fr. Mss. 77)
A collection of verse similar to that of MS. No. 76, including various poems relating to England such as Le Coq Anglais and Les Rats d’Angleterre. Again there is an index ”Table des Pièces”
(pp. 83-87)
(pp. 1-87)

Mélanges Littéraires
Troisième Recueil de Vers
(Fr. Mss. 78)
A collection of verse similar in character to MS. 76, including a fairly long poem A S.A.S. Madame la Princesse Caroline de Brunswick sur son mariage avec le Prince de Galles et sur la Guerre présente (pp. 33-38) and a number of “Epitres” to Voltaire, St. Lambert, Madame de Bouillon, Le Marquis d’Argens, Monsieur d’Argental and others. “Table des Pièces” provides an index (pp. i-vii).
(pp. 1-80 and i-vii)

Mélanges Littéraires
Quatrième Recueil de Vers
(Fr. Mss. 79)
A collection of verse similar to those above. The longer poems included are La Mezza Eta; Canzonetta Anacreontica with French translation (pp. 2-8); Réponse de Monsieur Marmontel à l’Epitre de Monsieur de Voltaire (pp. 9-12) and L’Horoscope de Perette (pp. 65-74). “Table des Pièces” (pp. 81-86).
(pp. 1-86)

Mélanges Littéraires
Cinquième Recueil de Chansons et Vers
(Fr. Mss. 80)
A collection of verses and songs. Examples include Couplet sur la naissance de Louis XIV, and sur le mort du Cardinal Richelieu; Déjeuner de M. Le Duc de Chartes à L’Amiral Keppel; Parade
de la Foire la nouvelle Nomination des Officiers Généraux and numerous "Chansons", with the airs usually indicated. "Table des Pièces" (pp. 89-95).
(pp. 1-96)

**Mélanges Littéraires**

**Sixième Recueil de Prose et Vers**
(Fr. Mss. 81)
A collection of verse similar in character to that of MS. 76, together with a number of pieces of prose, including Idées de la Mothe Le Vayer (pp. 7-11); Prospectus. De la pompe funèbre de très haute, très puissante et très excellente Princesse, Madame la Compagnie des Indes… (pp. 12-18); Discours que doit prononcer M. l'Abbé Séqui pour sa réception à l'Académie Française (pp. 19-28). An index is provided by the "Table de Prose et de Vers" (pp. 102-109).
(pp. 1-110)

**Mélanges Littéraires**

**Septième Recueil de différentes Pièces**
(Fr. Mss. 82)
A collection of similar character to MS. 81, including copies of letters of Voltaire, Rousseau, and others; also Réflexions sur le Bonheur … Par Madame La Marquise du Châtelet (pp. 51-94) and Traduction d'une Lettre d'Hypocrate à Damagette (pp. 95-107). Index provided by "Table des matières" (pp. 107-111)
(pp. 1-112)

**Mélanges Littéraires**

**Huitième Recueil**
(Fr. Mss. 83)
Another group of prose and verse, including Les Echecs … Poëme (pp. 35-54); Observations sur la Fable de l'Aigle et du Hibou de M. de Séruti … (Ces Observations sont de feu Monsieur L'Abbé Arnaud de L'Académie Française (pp. 67-78 and several "Chansons". (pp. 1-86)

**Mélanges Littéraires**

**Neuvième Recueil des différentes Pièces**
(Fr. Mss. 84)
A further collection of prose and verse which includes Lettre écrite par Mademoiselle de Seine, comédienne, épouse de Monsieur Quinault du Fresne, comédien a M.M. de l'Académie Française (pp. 9-22); Lettre Pastorale de M. l'Eveque Pancrace Pellegrin … (pp. 22-26); Le Réquisitoire. Pot-Pourri. Chanté le 17 janvier 1787, jour de la Fête de Saint Antoine, Patron de Monsieur Séquier (pp. 33-44) and Ode sur l'Insensibilité, à Monsieur Franklin (pp. 45-49).

Mélanges Littéraires
Dixième Recueil
(Fr. Mss. 85)
A collection of verse similar to that of Ms. 76, but with many blank pages. It includes Eglé (ff 4-5) and L'Amour Platonique. Conte (ff 5-11). (ff 1-20)

Mélanges Littéraires Late
18th century
(Fr. Mss. 111)
A number of pieces of verse and prose on small pieces of notepaper and a large number of cuttings from journals and other printed works pasted into a large notebook. A note on the cover says "Ce volume est l'extrait des objets des littératures que j'ai trouvées utiles à conserver". (about 60 folios)
ANCIEN REGIME IN TURMOIL?
Commerce, Politics and Society in France, c.1682-1793

The Gazette Manuscrite, 1775-1793, and related sources from the John Rylands University Library of Manchester

Chronology, 1682-1793

1682 La Salle claims Louisiana territory for France and takes possession of Mississippi Valley. The French Court moves to Versailles. Various scandals at Court including the "Messes Noires" in which Madame de Montespan was implicated. Pierre Bayle publishes Pensées diverses sur la comète de 1680.

1683 Death of Colbert. He is succeeded by Le Pelletier. Death of Queen Marie-Thérèse.

1684 Louis XIV marries Madame de Maintenon. Truce of Ratisbon.

1685 Edict of Fontainebleau. Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

1686 League of Augsburg formed against Louis XIV.

1687 Death of Lully. Fénéon publishes Traité de l’éducation des filles.

1688 War of the League of Augsburg. French invade the Palatinate. Fontenelle publishes Digressions sur les anciens et modernes. Also La Bruyère publishes Les Caractères.

1689 Locke publishes Lettres sur la tolérance. Racine publishes Esther.

1689 Locke publishes his two Treatises of Government.

1691 Racine publishes Athalie. Death of the Marquis de Louvois.

1692 Battle of La Hogue. French defeated by the English fleet.

1693 Louis XIV reconciled with the Vatican.

1695 Fall of Namur.

1696 Death of Madame de Sévigné. Publication by Pierre Bayle of Dictionnaire historique et critique.

1697 Peace of Ryswick.

1700 Philip V, grandson of Louis XIV, presses claim to the Spanish throne. Question of the Spanish Succession.

1701 Start of the War of the Spanish Succession. Jesuits publish the Journal de Trévoux.

1702 England declares war on France. Marlborough leads forces of the Grand Alliance in Europe.

1704 Battle of Blenheim.

1706 Vauban publishes Projet d’une dîme royale. Battle of Ramillies.

1707 Alain René Lesage publishes Le Diable Boiteux.

1708 Battle of Oudenarde.

1709 Battle of Malplaquet.

1710 Death of Louise de La Vallière. Madame de Lambert opens "un salon d’opposition". The Gazette d’Utrecht is first published in Holland.

1711 Death of Le Grand Dauphin.

1712 Further deaths at French Court. The future Louis XV, only aged 2, remains as the heir to Louis XIV.

1713 Peace of Utrecht.
1714 Death of the Duc de Berry. Peace of Rastadt between France and the Holy Roman Empire.
1715 Death of Louis XIV. Louis XV, aged 5, succeeds under the Regency of the Duc d’Orléans.
1716 Foundation of the Banque générale de France.
1718 Quadruple Alliance signed by France, the Empire, England and the Dutch.
1719 France declares war on Spain.
1720 Failure of the Mississippi Company leads to French national bankruptcy.
1721 Montesquieu publishes *Lettres persanes*.
1722 Hyacinthe Rigaud publishes his Grand Tour.
1723 Louis XV reaches majority.
1725 Louis XV marries Maria Leszczynska of Poland.
1726 Cardinal Fleury becomes Chief Minister in France. Voltaire banished from France.
1729 Treaty of Seville.
1733 France again embroiled in military conflict. France declares war against the Emperor Charles VI.
1734 Madame de Lambert in her *Avis d’une Mère à sa Fille* recommends university education for women.
1740 Duc de Saint-Simon publishes his Mémoires.
1741 French troops occupy Prague.
1744 France declares war on England.
1748 Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle. Marie-Thérèse Geoffrin opens salon as meeting place for Parisian men of letters.
1749 Diderot publishes *Lettre sur les aveugles à l’usage de ceux qui voient*.
1751 Publication of the French *Encyclopédie*.
1754 Anglo-French conflict in North America; discussions about boundaries. Rousseau publishes *L’Inégalité par les hommes: discours*.
1755 Voltaire publishes *La Pucelle d’Orléans*. Death of Montesquieu.
1756 Britain declares war on France. Voltaire publishes *Désastre de Lisbonne* and finishes his *Siècle de Louis XIV*, begun in 1735.
1759 British gain Quebec from the French. Voltaire publishes *Candide*.
1761 Collected works of Voltaire translated by Smollett. First French veterinary school founded at Lyons. Duc de Choiseul appointed Secretary for War.
1762 Sorbonne Library opened in Paris. Rousseau publishes *Du Contrat social, ou principes du droit politique*.
1763 Peace of Paris ends Seven Years’ War. Voltaire publishes his treatise on tolerance. Duc de Choiseul becomes Secretary for Marine.
1765 Death of the Dauphin. Louis Augustus, the future Louis XVI, becomes heir to the French throne. Sedaine completes *Philosophe sans le savoir*.
1768 René Nicholas de Maupeou becomes Chancellor.
1769 Madame du Barry becomes mistress to Louis XV. William Robertson completes work on History of Charles V.

1770 Dauphin of France marries Marie Antoinette, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. Duc de Choiseul retires from office, his departure hastened by the influence of Madame du Barry. Attempts at Reform by Maureou. Publication of Abbé Raynal’s *Philosophical History*.

1771 William Robertson completes his *History of America*. Duc D’Aiguillon forced to resign as Governor of Brittany. He becomes Secretary for Foreign Affairs and forms the triumverate with the Chancellor Maureou and Abbé Terray as Controller-General which rules France under the auspices of Madame du Barry for the last 4 years of Louis’s reign. Suppression of the Parlement of Paris and the Cour des Aides, Parlements in Rouen and Douai also suppressed, others reformed. Increasing discontent with financial policies. Bread riots in Paris.

1772 Inquisition abolished in France. Mirabeau publishes *Essai sur le despotisme*.

1774 Louis XV of France succeeded by Louis XVI. Turgot replaces Terray, De Miromesnil replaces Maureou as Keeper of the Seals, D’Aiguillon’s post at Foreign Affairs is taken by the Comte de Vergennes, Chrétien Guillaume de Malesherbes takes control of Home Affairs. Maurepas is appointed Chief Minister. In August the Parlements are recalled. More Bread Riots. Restoration of free internal circulation of corn. Cattle plague.


1776 Six Edicts passed by Turgot but opposition mounts. Turgot dismissed. Malesherbes resigns. Turgot's reforms of the gilds and the corvée royale reversed. Many of the old abuses restored Jacques Necker becomes Minister of Finance in France. Edward Gibbon completes *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

1777 Lafayette’s French volunteers arrive in America and participate in American Revolution. First issue of the *Journal de Paris* published.

1778 Death of Rousseau. Death of Voltaire. American Colonies sign treaties with the French and Dutch.

1781 Publication of Rousseau’s *Confessions*. Necker recommends, in a Memoir to the King, that the Parlements should be restricted to their judicial functions. Necker publishes his *Compte Rendu* but his figures on this balance sheet are dangerously incorrect. His policy of financing the American War by extensive borrowing leads to mounting debt. In May, Necker resigns.

1782 Peace talks between Britain, represented by Thomas Grenville, and America, represented by Benjamin Franklin, in Paris.


1784 Beaumarchais completes *The Marriage of Figaro*.

1786 Foundation of the Société Philanthropique. Calonne estimates the deficit at 112 million livres. Decision to call Assembly of Notables rather than Parlement of Paris.

1787 Parlement of Paris demands summoning of States-General. Louis XVI declares that they will not be summoned before July 1792. Beaumarchais finishes his comedy *Tarare*. Lavoisier completes *Méthode de nomenclature chimique*.

1788 Disastrous financial policies of Calonne lead to complete bankruptcy. Brienne replaces Calonne. Parlement of Paris presents list of grievances. Louis XVI decides to call a States-General for May 1789 and recalls Jacques Necker as Minister of Finance. Bread Riots.

1789 Sieyès publishes *Qu’est-ce que le Tiers Etat?* States-General meet at Versailles. The Third Estate declares itself the National Assembly. It decides to remain at Versailles until a Constitution is drawn up. Mirabeau emerges as a national figure. The Three Estates unite. The King dismisses Necker. The Paris mob storm the Bastille. Lafayette becomes commander of the National Guard. Abolition of the French Feudal System. Declaration of the Rights of Man. The King and Court move from Versailles to Paris. French Royalists begin to emigrate. The National Assembly nationalizes church property and forbids any member to accept office under Louis XVI. Issue of paper money.

1790 Festival of Champ de Mars. Louis XVI accepts the Constitution drawn up by the National Assembly. Edmund Burke writes *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. André de Chénier publishes *Avis au peuple*.
