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The Library of French Fiction. *Nono, Love and the Soil (Nono)* by Gaston Roupnel & Barnet J. Beyer

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**GASTON ROUPNEL & BARNET J. BEYER**

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FICTION. NONO, LOVE  
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*The Library of French Fiction*

EDITED BY  
BARNET J. BEYER





# NONO

Love and the Soil  
(NONO)

BY  
GASTON ROUPNEL

*Translated by*  
BARNET J. BEYER



NEW YORK  
E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY  
681 FIFTH AVENUE



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## PREFATORY NOTE

M. ROUPNEL aroused a great deal of interest in the literary world of France in 1910, when *Nono*, his first novel, was published. Although there is something of the manner of Jules Renard in *Nono*, it is, nevertheless, one of the few contributions to contemporary French fiction of marked originality. The characters are vividly drawn, and they linger in the memory of the reader. *Nono*, a simple winegrower, the hero of this book, is instinct with vitality, and will remain a humble companion of the great characters of modern literature. He is so rich in pregnant expressions of rustic wisdom that he often suggests Gargantua; but he is more tender, more moved by human sorrow, and more sensitive to the beauty of nature than Rabelais' hero. In *Nono* we find the elements of poetic grandeur combined with the most sincere naïveté. He is a man of a single love attachment, and his whole life is moulded and frustrated by it. His moods, whether dominated by sorrow or joy, always compel our interest.

The author of *Nono* was born 23 September 1871 in Franche-Comté and has spent much of his life at Gevrey-Chambertin, near Dijon, the district which he uses as a setting for his novel. M. Roupnel has de-

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voted his life to teaching and writing, and at present he is a lecturer at the University of Dijon and writes articles and stories for the leading newspapers and periodicals of France. Another novel written by M. Roupnel, *Le Vieux Garain*, appeared in 1913.

M. Roupnel has drunk deep of the springs of Burgundy. He seems to have imbibed the very spirit of that beautiful region of France; and he gives us in *Nono*, in direct and pungent language, not only richly colored descriptions of the country, but also realistic presentations of its vivacious people. In his descriptions of nature there is a certain mystic sentiment, which Burgundy, a hilly country, full of sunshine and good cheer, hardly suggests. This, M. Roupnel explains in a letter that he was kind enough to write me. He says: "I have inherited from my Norman ancestors (English perhaps) the soul of a mystic which strangely is little in harmony with the sunny vines of the hills of Burgundy and the hearty laughter of that jovial country. All I can say is that nature seems to have constituted my temperament of these two distinctly different elements . . ." These two qualities pervade M. Roupnel's absorbing story, *Nono*.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my friends Professor F. W. Chandler and Mr. A. Miller for having read the manuscript and for valuable suggestions.

BARNET J. BEYER.

NEW YORK,  
20 November 1918.

## CONTENTS

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### *PART I*

CHAPTER I.	. . . . .	I
CHAPTER II.	. . . . .	9
CHAPTER III.	. . . . .	16
CHAPTER IV.	. . . . .	28
CHAPTER V.	. . . . .	35
CHAPTER VI.	. . . . .	42
CHAPTER VII.	. . . . .	48
CHAPTER VIII.	. . . . .	57
CHAPTER IX.	. . . . .	71
CHAPTER X.	. . . . .	80

### *PART II*

CHAPTER I.	. . . . .	97
CHAPTER II.	. . . . .	106
CHAPTER III.	. . . . .	116
CHAPTER IV.	. . . . .	126
CHAPTER V.	. . . . .	135
CHAPTER VI.	. . . . .	143
CHAPTER VII.	. . . . .	153
CHAPTER VIII.	. . . . .	161
CHAPTER IX.	. . . . .	169
CHAPTER X.	. . . . .	179