

**A PRIMER OF  
FRENCH  
LITERATURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649060917

A Primer of French Literature by P. M. Warren

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**P. M. WARREN**

**A PRIMER OF  
FRENCH  
LITERATURE**



A PRIMER

71083

OF

FRENCH LITERATURE.

BY

*Richard Morris*  
F. M. WARREN, PH.D.,

ASSOCIATE IN MODERN LANGUAGES IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY.



BOSTON, U.S.A.:

D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS.

1889.

COPYRIGHT, 1899,  
By D. C. HEATH & CO.

---

TYPOGRAPHY BY J. S. CUSHING & CO., BOSTON.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE . . . . .	v
 <b>CHAPTER</b>	
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
 <b>PART I.</b>	
MEDIEVAL LITERATURE, TO 1327 . . . . .	9-61
II. First Period, to 1150 . . . . .	9
III. Second Period, 1150-1250. Epic Poetry . . . . .	17
IV. Second Period, 1150-1250. Narrative Poetry . . . . .	31
V. Second Period, 1150-1250. Didactic and Lyric Poetry. The Drama. Prose . . . . .	40
VI. Third Period, 1250-1327 . . . . .	52
 <b>PART II.</b>	
PRE-RENAISSANCE LITERATURE, 1327-1515 . . . . .	62-89
VII. First Period, 1327-1422 . . . . .	62
VIII. Second Period, 1422-1515 . . . . .	73
 <b>PART III.</b>	
RENAISSANCE LITERATURE, 1515-1601 . . . . .	90-121
IX. First Period, 1515-1549 . . . . .	90
X. Second Period, 1549-1601 . . . . .	101

## PART IV.

	Page
THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1601-1718 . . .	122-173
CHAPTER	
XI. First Period, 1601-1659 . . . . .	122
XII. Second Period, 1659-1689 . . . . .	148
XIII. Third Period, 1689-1718 . . . . .	165

## PART V.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, 1718-1801 . . . . .	174-197
XIV. First Period, 1718-1750 . . . . .	174
XV. Second Period, 1750-1801 . . . . .	184

## PART VI.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, 1801- . . . . .	198-234
XVI. First Period, 1801-1848. Poetry. The Drama . . . . .	198
XVII. First Period, 1801-1848. Prose . . . . .	210
XVIII. Second Period, 1848- . . . . .	224
INDEX . . . . .	235



## PREFACE.

---

THE following outline of French literature is based on lectures given in the Johns Hopkins University, and has therefore certain definite needs of instruction in mind. The original notes have however been worked over, enlarged, and separated into paragraphs — not always happily — and can, by omission or expansion, be made to serve as a statement of facts for any period desired.

Certain defects of execution are evident. The attempt to modernize all names and titles previous to the sixteenth century has sometimes failed through habit or inadvertence. The substitution of the English definite article for the French has led to many absurdities, and seems now to have been unwise. In the first chapters, intended for specialists or for extended commentaries by instructors, the necessary conciseness has at times led to obscurity for beginners. The least satisfactory period is that of the Eighteenth Century, both in division and matter. A serious omission is the dramatic work of LOUIS-SÉBASTIEN MERCIER (1740-1814).

The most available reference book for Mediæval Literature is: *La littérature française au moyen âge*, Gaston Paris. Paris, 1888. 16mo. This manual has served to revise the whole period. Its Bibliography is an important feature.

For Pre-Renaissance Literature review articles and lectures at the Collège de France by Gaston Paris on the poetry of the fifteenth century have furnished the larger part of the material. The history of the stage previous to the Renaissance is fully treated in the *Histoire du théâtre*, L. Petit de Julleville. Paris, 1880-1886. 5 vols. 8vo and 16mo.

On Renaissance Literature the standard authority is: *Le Seizième Siècle en France*, A. Darmesteter and A. Hatzfeld. Paris, 3d ed., 1887. 16mo. The first volume of the *Geschichte der französischen Litteratur seit Anfang des XVI. Jahrhunderts*, A. Birch-Hirschfeld, Stuttgart, 1889, 8vo, furnishes many additional facts on the first part of the century. A more general treatise, which has been of much use in the remaining centuries also, is the *Leçons de littérature française*, L. Petit de Julleville. Paris, 1884. 18mo.

The best work on the Seventeenth Century is the *Geschichte der französischen Litteratur im XVII. Jahrhundert*, F. Lotheissen. Wien, 1877-1884. 4 vols. 8vo. For the novels of the century consult the *Geschichte des französischen Romans im XVII. Jahrhundert*, H. Koerting. Leipzig, 1885-1887. 2 vols. 8vo.

The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries are extensively treated in the *Geschichte der französischen Litteratur*, G. Bornhak. Berlin, 1886. 8vo.

The Index, mainly of proper names and anonymous works, is designed to supplement the chapter headings.

F. M. WARREN.

BALTIMORE, NOV. 1, 1889.

# PRIMER OF FRENCH LITERATURE.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

1. **Race; Language.** — The territory of the French language has varied but little since its formation. The Celts inhabiting Gaul were completely Romanized. But slight traces of their tongue are to be found in the Latin of the country when the barbaric invasions took place. The Gallo-Romans assimilated then their Teutonic conquerors more or less completely, according to the number of settlers. Their territory was pushed back from the Rhine to its present limits by the end of the fifth century. In the interior of the country there soon appeared a general linguistic difference which separated the Romance-speaking region into two nearly equal parts, on a line running from the Atlantic, just north of Bordeaux, east almost to Lyons, then bending to the southeast and reaching the Alps, after passing near Grenoble. To the south of this line Germanic influence scarcely penetrated. An independent language and literature, the Provençal, developed freely. — On the contrary, the region north of this boundary was strongly penetrated by the foreign manners and tongue. The vocabulary