

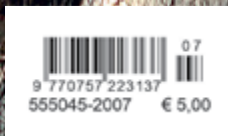
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EDITOR'S LETTER ELIZABETH YURIEVA 1982–2020



Lizaveta is no longer with us. I got a phone call on June 19 and heard the news: “Liza is gone”. Where to? Where do we all go when we die? Her husband, shaken by grief, told their son who’s not even four years old yet that his mother is now a star in the sky. The little boy is now looking at heavens, searching for mommy.

Elizaveta Yourieva was much more than just an editor. She was the heart and soul of “Russian mind”. She had everything: talent, patience, people skills.

She came to our publishing house 12 years ago. Everyone here loved Lizaveta for her creativity and enthusiasm; for her bright sense of humour; for her energetic approach to work. Lizaveta was always in high spirits, and even under the pressure of deadlines, would always find a solution.

She was the same age as my eldest daughter, yet I was always slightly formal with her and never called her Liza.

She introduced herself as Lizaveta when she first joined our team, and that’s how I’ve been calling her ever since.

We often exchanged messages and e-mails with Lizaveta. But we only met in person three or four times over the dozen of years of working together. I lived in Paris, she lived in London.

Having suddenly lost her, I realised that I did not know her well enough. She could ask for advice or send a request, but that would always be related to work.

There was so much joy, liveliness and vivaciousness about her that the thought of her no longer being with us is simply unbearable.

Lizaveta! Heavens! I simply cannot fathom “Russian mind” without her. Young, beautiful, smart – and so suddenly gone! How is that possible?

May your memory live forever, Lizaveta! Forever!

Victor Loupan

**Russian Mind
№123/07(4994),
JULY 2020**

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HIGHLIGHTS

SO, RESOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?

After casting France into lethargic sleep, its government began spending tens and hundreds of billions of euros to maintain artificial respiration of the nation

VICTOR LOUPAN,
Head of the Editorial Board

France is the most revolution-adicted country in Europe. Earlier the definition “revolutionary” meant “naughty”. But everything is different now. The French surprised themselves by their manageability. The sanitary crisis caused by Coronavirus turned the country into the “Sleeping Beauty”, but its sleep was rather lethargic than romantic.

During lethargic sleep the body maintains its vital functions, however with their severe reduction: the body temperature drops, breathing and pulse rate slow down. It is difficult to choose a more precise definition to describe the events happening in France over the months of massive voluntary-mandatory isolation.

Lethargic sleep is also called an “apparent death”. There are some cases where people falling into lethargic sleep were treated as dead bodies and buried alive. There is an opinion that Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol was buried that way. Marina Tsvetaeva was very much afraid of it too. But what happened most often was a further reviviscence. Ivan Pavlov, Russian biologist, described the case of the peasant Kachalkin who had slept over 22 years in a row! After awakening in good health, Kachalkin however died literally in a few weeks due to “cardiac failure”.

After casting France into lethargic sleep, its government began spending tens and hundreds of billions of euros to maintain artificial respiration of the nation: all and any pos-



President Macron affirmed that everything was done correctly and professionally

sible overall subventions created the illusion of the normal course of life: like you do not work but you continue earning. Small businesses (shops, restaurants, etc.) also received aid. Corporations remained even behind the discussion – they got huge amounts of assistance.

But everything has an end. It has been found then that the debt hole of the country reached unreal values. It equals to 125% GDP now. To be fair, it should be noted that the France’s debt already was impressive prior to the sanitary crisis reaching 98% GDP. When compared to other

countries, Russia’s debt equals to 4% and China’s debt reaches 14% (according to the statistics provided by the CIA, US).

A debt hole was always perceived as a potential killer for the developed countries. Similar to the other eurozone member states, the problem in France is worsening due to absence of own currency. The United States of America can operate “printing presses” where necessary. France does not own such tools. The European Central Bank borrows funds and then distributes them on credit among the EU member states, pref-

erably being in good standing. For example, Greece was refused again, fully or partially.

A gradual way out of this lethargic sleep changed into the ice bucket for the French. They were suddenly declared that the national economy would go down by 11%, that would result in unemployment increasing by four million people by the end of 2020.

France is not the only country finding itself in such a sad state. The European Union, the largest union of the countries in the world which

June 14, President Macron spoke smugly, affirming that everything was done correctly and professionally. Official mass media which always supported the President, supported him again with a great passion. But, to his sorrow, such national medical stars as professors Toussaint and Raoult, declared that the epidemics ended just because it got commonly “exhausted”, there would be no “second wave” and, generally, the national-wide quarantine and overall

Disorders resulted in a very strange thing. Christophe Castaner, a French Minister of the Interior, who always defended police officers with might and main, while they were grimly whacking “yellow vests” over many consequent months causing awful injuries to them, suddenly changed his mind accusing the French police of racism. And calling on “urgent measures” to punish police officers in case of “considerable suspicion”. It did not only bring the guardians of



Christophe Castaner, a French Minister of the Interior

population totals 450 million people, suffered its worst time. Almost a half of COVID-19 related deaths accrues to the EU. With France being among the bad rating leaders due to its death rate, the quarantine duration and severe restrictions.

When extrapolated to the full year, as it is commonly calculated by statistics experts in the USA, the annual rates of economic collapse in Europe exceeded 13% over the Q1 2020 (compare it to 4.8% in the USA). China would avoid such shrink and even expect 1.2% growth.

When speaking before all the national radio and TV channels on

mandatory isolation displayed irrational maximalism.

At the same time, according to some “unintended” leaks from the French secret service, the country may face mass disorders in September which may become seriously dangerous.

Actually, they already got started, like in other western countries, after the killing of George Floyd in the USA. However, in contrast to many other states, France unexpectedly revealed the person of another black man, Adama Traore, who was killed during his arrest, also after asphyxia, but four years ago.

order to angriness – they went outside for the protest demonstration showering the roads with handcuffs and other professional belongings. And their “representative labour unions” required the rambling Minister to express his apologies, adding that otherwise he would never count on them.

Security apparatus insiders argue that Castaner would never have such speech without the order from above. So, this is a blatant error omitted by Macron.

That is why awakening of France is very similar to awakening of the peasant Kachalkin after lethargic sleep.

“PEACEFUL NATURE” OF WESTERN DEMOCRATS

Since the early 1950s the USA never missed a single year to be at war

TEO GURIELI,
political analyst



Flaming streets of American cities, police officers killed in New York and other areas, National Guard of the United States called to disperse wild mobs of Afro-Americans, store looting and violence against white people observed in several regions in the USA – all of these made it clear to the entire world that the US faces a lot of problems rooted to racism, leaders’ failure to reach an agreement among them, and degradation of famous American democracy.

It involuntarily sends us back to the pre-COVID period when American mass media together with cohorts of American political scientists attacked Russia and China calling them “countries with authoritarian regime”. The most familiar proponents of such perception of the two superpowers will, most probably, remain unconvinced even after the end of the pandemics. That is why it is worth it to pay attention to their theses.

One of the politologists demonising Russia and China is Matthew Kroenig of Georgetown University who is the Deputy Director of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council. In his book “The Return of Great Power Rivalry” he affirms that Western democracies are successful in solving all modern issues, in contrast to Russia or China who fail to do so.

Kroenig strives to sell his readers the idea of the “democratic, capitalist regime” being the best social and political structure ever. This dogma accepted as an unshakeable ground by American Democrats and Liberals, segues to another one: the US foreign policy, after being restored in active domination over the rest world, will guarantee global development. It is at least laughable to take this formula serious when the capitalist world shows significantly higher COVID death rates and lower economy than those in Communist China.

With this, Kroenig is pushed to acknowledge that people had openly admired the USA for its economic model over the decades, but the financial crisis of 2007-08 made us wonder whether China’s system was much more effective. As a consequence, some analysts came to the conclusion about our future being reachable through state capitalism in its Chinese form.

Following this idea, what problems do Western politologists have with China? There are two of them, where both are based on Western mass media propagations. First: China allegedly tried to hide the fact of its Coronavi-

rus epidemics from humankind. This is a doubtful thesis: in the early stage of the epidemics both China and the other countries in the world were unaware of the fact that humans met a principally new danger, a specific virus.

Second: so-called “genocide” against the Uyghurs, an ethnic group which is native to Northwest China. The Uyghurs slightly exceed one million in population, most of them are Muslims who live across the area rich in oil and gas. Obviously, China is concerned about penetration of the Islamic radicals into the region, but it is concerned even more due to the position held by the US Department of State which, with the support of Western mass media, attempts to rouse nationalist sentiment among the Uyghurs and provoke their open protests. Ghost stories are told about the Chinese: they are supposed to put the Uyghurs to torture, prompt them to eat pork and drink alcohol, keep them listening to Communist propaganda for hours on end. The Uyghurs never were too loyal to the Chinese government which sometimes played tough, however it never allowed any genocide around the region. Those ghost stories serve the one and only purpose: to trigger the US government to introduce new anti-China sanctions.

In brief, Kroenig has a very limited range of arguments. So, he pays much more attention to “historical reality” according to which democracies offer a better being to nations in contrast to the countries classified by him as “autocracies”. He declares, the states classified by him as “democracies” guarantee civil rights and economic welfare in a greater degree. Kroenig never suspected that riots and arsons in America, looting conducted by Afro-Americans and open abasement of their white co-citizens would happen immediately after the publication of his book and demonstrate real American democracy, “equality of the citizens” and prosperity.

Kroenig also juggle with words frequently. For instance, he wrote that all



One of the politologists demonising Russia and China is Matthew Kroenig

the superpowers became democratic prior to their transition to superpowers. However – and that is a relief! – neither Russia nor China made their path like America did. They did not extirpate Native Americans, they did not occupy their lands by force, they did not establish a powerful enslavement system which brought untold gold to plantation owners. Weep of female slaves still echoes in squib brattle and shot flaps in the streets of America. Vyacheslav Molotov, a Soviet politician, told one day: “Historical injustice or a criminal act will never be forgotten or forgiven by history, and the day of reckoning will come anyway, be it early or late”.

Kroenig’s book uses pseudo statistics which is very common for such opuses. He wrote: “Statistical analysis demonstrates that democratic

countries are more reliable partners”. Probably, the author spends most of his time somewhere on the Moon instead of the United States, otherwise he would know that over the recent years the USA walked away from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty as well as the international treaty with Iran; now, the USA plans to terminate the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms signed earlier with the USSR. Independent experts call this situation “international lawlessness” which puts the world on the brink of nuclear destruction even in the case of a single short-range missile launched unintentionally.

Among this, Kroenig affirms that Western democracies are extremely peaceful. First of all, he declares, they never fight against each other. But

neither his editor nor his colleagues reminded him that actually they did: Greece fought against Turkey (both of them being NATO members), Great Britain fought against Argentina, and NATO forces bombed Yugoslavia and then invaded its territory with land forces led by the peace-building banner.

What is for the “leading Western democracy”, meaning the USA, this country never missed a single year to be at war since the early 1950s. Look:

from 1950 to 1953 the USA fought in Korea;

from 1953 to 1975 they fought in Laos;

in 1958 they invaded Lebanon;

in 1961 they participated in the invasion of Cuba;

in 1964 they took part in the Congo battle;

in 1955 1964, 1965 1973 and 1974 1975 they fought in Vietnam;

from 1965 to 1983 they conducted military operations in Thailand;

from 1966 to 1969 they fought in Korea;

in 1965 1966 they meddled in the civil war in Dominican Republic;

in 1966 1967 the USA sent its troops to Bolivia;

in 1967 1975 they got involved into the Cambodian conflict;

from 1976 to 1985 they conducted military operations in Central America;

in 1978 they sent their forces to the south of Zaire;

in 1981 they triggered the battle in the Gulf of Sidra (Libya);

from 1982 to 1984 they participated in the intervention in Lebanon;

in 1983 they broke into Grenada;

in 1986 American troops attacked a Libyan ship;

in 1987 1988 the USA took part in the tanker war (the Persian Gulf);

in 1989 they triggered a conflict in Tobruk (Libya);

also in 1989 the US forces invaded Panama;

in 1990 1991 the USA participated in the Gulf War;

in 1991 2003 they conducted military operations in Iraq;

in 1992 1995 they intervened on Somali;

in 1992 1995 they broke into the Bosnian War;

in 1994 1995 they intervened on Haiti;

in 1998 2000 they took part in the Kosovan War;

in 1998 they fought in Sudan and Afghanistan;

from 2001 on the USA has been fighting in Afghanistan;

from 2003 on they have been fighting in Iraq;

from 2004 on they have been fighting in North-West Pakistan;

from 2007 on the USA has been intervening on Somali;

from 2011 on they have been breaking into Libya;

from 2011 to 2017 their troops were involved into the conflict in Uganda;

from 2014 on they have been intervening on Syria;

from 2015 on the USA has been fighting in Yemen.

It appears that over the recent 70 years the “Leader of the Free World” and the “bastion of democracy” has conducted interventions, fueled regional conflicts and broke into civil wars totally 35 times. This is the country called a “peaceful democracy”, according to Kroenig.

What is there to say? The famous phrase told by Fagot in Bulgakov’s “Master and Margarita” fits to the best: “Congratulations, Citizen, on lying!”



Kroenig affirms that Western democracies are extremely peaceful



The Second separate Ranger battalion of the US Army, Grenada, 1983

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Recognising the need for cooperation at international level if we are to tap the full potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and ensure that it is of benefit to all citizens while respecting democratic values and the primacy of human beings, the founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) mean to encourage and guide responsible development of AI based on human rights, inclusion and diversity while fostering innovation and economic growth.

The Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) is an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the European Union, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

It is also multiparty and seeks to guide responsible development and use of AI in a spirit of respect for human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth. In order to achieve this goal, member countries will set themselves to building bridges between theory and practice, and lend their support to cutting-edge research activities and practical implementation activities connected with AI priorities.

“The Global Partnership on AI is an expression of a highly positive transnational collective momentum that France is proud of having initiated in partnership with Canada. With its current 15 founding members, the project combines confidence in AI’s ability to help meet the great challenges that our planet is facing with a determination to guide and oversee

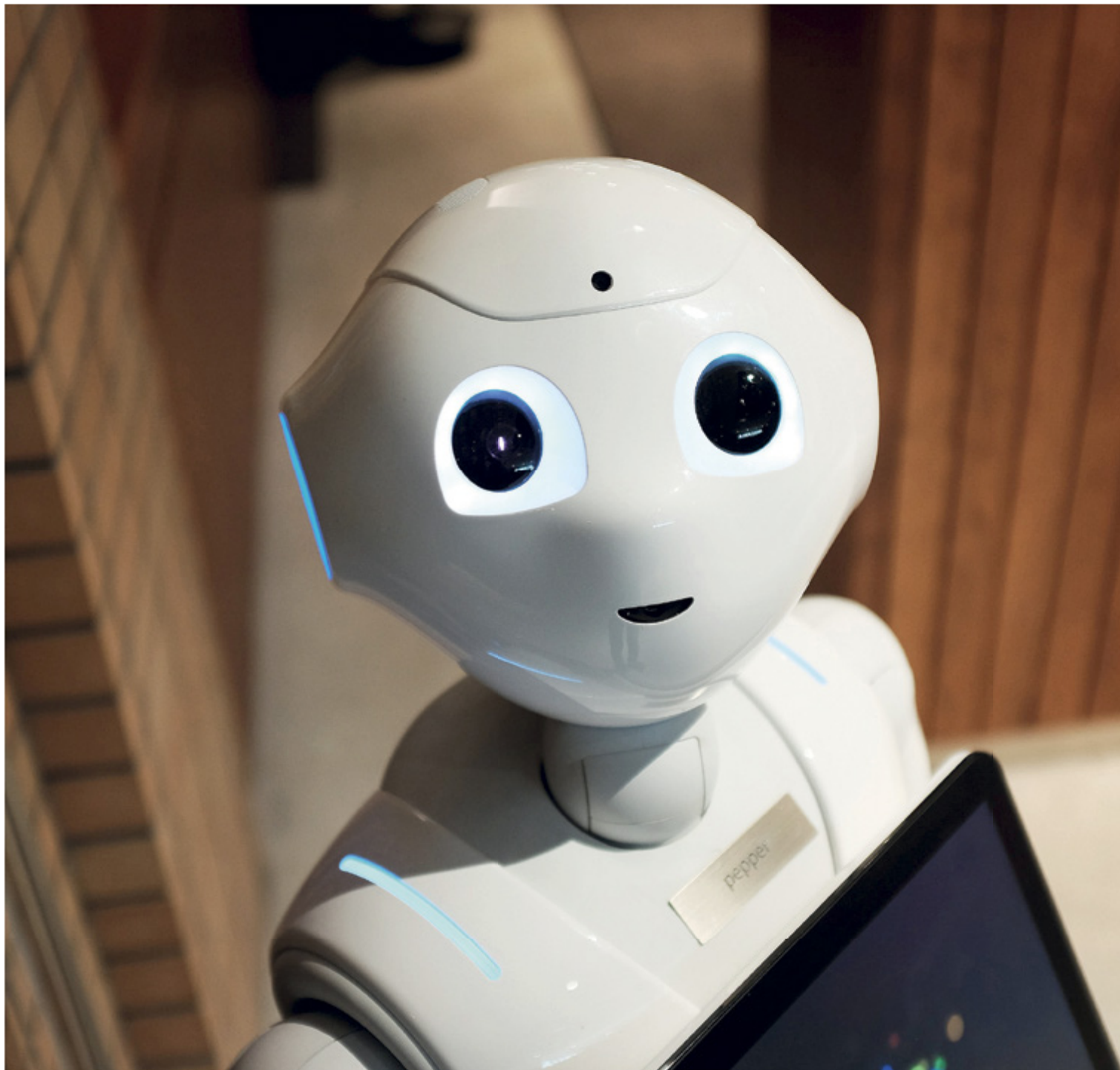


Photo by Alex Knight

technological uses consistent with our values,” said Cédric O, Minister of State for the Digital Sector.

In collaboration with international partners and organisations, the GPAI will bring together experts from industry, civil society, governments and the academic world, who will



Photo by Franck V.

form working groups focusing on the following themes:

- *responsible use of AI;*
- *data governance;*
- *the future of work;*
- *innovation and commercialisation.*

In the short term, the experts involved will also focus on AI’s possible contributions as a means of responding to and overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resources equal to the issues involved

the GPAI will be supported by a secretariat, hosted by the OECD in Paris, along with two Centres of Expertise, one in Montreal and the other in Paris. The collaboration with the OECD will give rise to strong synergies between the GPAI’s scientific and technical work and the OECD’s international leadership with regard to public policies on AI. It will ensure that policies on responsible use of AI are fully grounded in the realities at play.

The Centre of Expertise in Paris will be provided by the National Institute for Research in Digital Sci-

ence and Technology (INRIA). The two Centres of Expertise will provide administrative support and support to research in respect of practical projects being carried out or assessed by the experts from various sectors and disciplines participating in the GPAI’s working groups. The Centres will also organise annual plenary sessions of the GPAI’s multiparty expert groups. Canada will host the first such session in December 2020.

The Partnership’s collective launch finalises two years of intensive joint work by French and Canadian digital diplomacies, following the call launched by the President of the French Republic and the Canadian Prime Minister in the June 2018 French-Canadian Declaration on Artificial Intelligence.

Led by Cédric O, Minister of State for the Digital Sector, with the support of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the negotiations involved brought together a major coalition of countries. 12 more countries have already joined Canada, France and the European Union as founding members of the initiative, and the OECD and UNESCO are also involved. The GPAI is sure to bring in other volunteer States in the near future.

TUILERIES GARDENS: AN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

With Tuileries and Carrousel Gardens now open to public, Parisians and visitors can enjoy this open-air museum, with statues installed in the early 18th century, initially for the pleasure of the young Louis XV.

The Louvre and Tuileries National Estate includes several gardens, which cover an area of 30 hectares. In the west, the Tuileries Garden, a major historical landmark, stretches over 22.4 hectares. The Carrousel Garden lies between the wings of the Louvre.

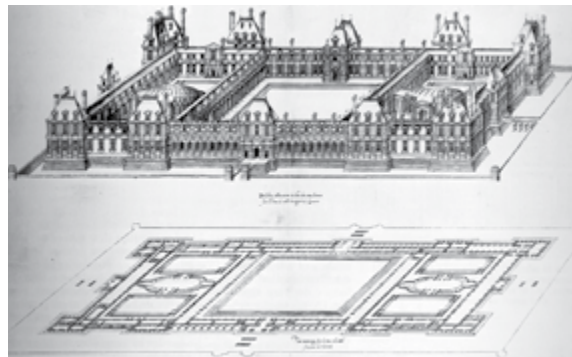
In the east, three small gardens surround the building: running along the rue de Rivoli is the Oratory Garden, and on the Seine bankside are

the Infanta's Garden and the Raffet Garden. These small gardens are not open to the public.

The Tuileries Garden

The Tuileries Garden was named after the tile manufacturing workshops known to have existed on the site since the Middle Ages, when this land lay outside the city wall built to protect Paris. The alluvial soil deposited by the Seine at high water provided potters and tile-makers

with their raw material. Archaeological excavations have unearthed kilns stacked with tiles. Under the Ancien Régime, the word "Thuilleries" was



Drawing by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau of an enlarged project of 1578–1579 for the Tuileries, with oval halls



usually spelt with an "h" and a double "l". When Catherine de Médici ordered a palace with a garden to be built, both were named after the site. But because the palace was destroyed (it was set on fire by the supporters of the Paris Commune in 1871, then razed to the ground in 1882-83), today the word "Tuileries" is used for the garden alone.

The Carrousel Garden

The Carrousel Garden commemorates a fabulous event organized by Louis XIV on 5–6 June 1662 to celebrate the birth of his first male heir. The king had the existing garden dug up in order to make room for a vast courtyard where it was to be held. Between 10,000 and 15,000 people had to be seated in the stands and tiers to admire the prowess of some 1,300 participants. What exactly was a carousel, a word and activity of Italian origin? It was a sort of tournament, in which horsemen divided into groups, or quadrilles, competed. The rules were simple: in the "head" race, riders had to spear a "head" placed at a certain height and carry it away on the end of their lance; in the "ring" race, riders had to run their lance through a hoop hanging in the air.

Nowadays, the French word "carrousel" still denotes an equestrian show and, like the English word, is another term for a merry-go-round, on which children sitting astride wooden horses can sometimes try and spear a hoop with a wooden stick.

The Oratory Garden

The Oratory Garden is named after the church across the street, located be-

tween 145, rue Saint-Honoré and 160, rue de Rivoli. The construction of this religious building began in 1621 and was completed in 1748. Several architects who worked on the Louvre, including Clément Métezeau and Jacques Lemercier, contributed to this church.

For a long time, the building was a royal "oratory" – a place of prayer. Used in turn by Roman Catholic and Protestant worshippers, it has been a Protestant church since 1844.

The Infanta's Garden

The Infanta's Garden recalls Louis XV's short-lived engagement to a Spanish Infanta, i.e. the daughter of the King of Spain. In 1721, the young Mariana Victoria was betrothed to her cousin Louis XV of France, when she was only three years old and he was eleven. She was sent to Paris and arrived on 2 March 1722. Given her rank, she lived in the Louvre Palace in the Queen Mother's apartments. A special garden

was laid out for her so that she could admire it from her windows and play in it whenever she liked.

The Raffet Garden

Lastly, the name of the Raffet Garden pays tribute to the monuments of great painters that once adorned the eastern perimeter of the Louvre, a sort of "Pantheon of Master Artists" erected under the Third Republic. During this period, the moat beneath the Perrault Colonnade was filled in and ornamental flower beds and lawns graced the foot of the building. Sculptures of Velázquez, Boucher and Meissonier were placed on these lawns. A monument to Auguste Raffet (1804–1860), a Romantic painter famous for his illustrations of the Napoleonic era, overlooked the Seine.



Mariana Victoria of Spain, fiancée of Louis XV, later Queen of Portugal, painting by Alexis Simon Belle



The Carrousel Garden

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL DE GAULLE'S ADDRESS TO FREE FRANCE

This year the world pays 80th tribute to General de Gaulle's address to free France, urging French people to resist and join him



General de Gaulle

The Appeal of 18 June was the first speech made by Charles de Gaulle after his arrival in London in 1940 following the Fall of France. Broadcast to France by the radio services of the British Broadcasting Corporation, it is often considered to have represented the origin of the French Resistance in World War II.

General de Gaulle's speech

"The leaders who, for many years, have been at the head of the French armies have formed a government. This government, alleging the defeat of our armies, has made contact

with the enemy in order to stop the fighting. It is true, we were, we are, overwhelmed by the mechanical, ground and air forces of the enemy. Infinitely more than their number, it is the tanks, the aeroplanes, the tactics of the Germans which are causing us to retreat. It was the tanks, the aeroplanes, the tactics of the Germans that surprised our leaders to the point of bringing them to where they are today.

But has the last word been said? Must hope disappear? Is defeat final? No!

Believe me, I who am speaking to you with full knowledge of the facts, and who tell you that nothing is lost for France. The same means that overcame us can bring us victory one day. For France is not alone! She is not alone! She is not alone! She has a vast Empire behind her. She can align with the British Empire that holds the sea and continues the fight. She can, like England, use without limit the immense industry of the United States.

This war is not limited to the unfortunate territory of our country. This war is not over as a result of the Battle of France. This war is a world war. All the mistakes, all the delays, all the suffering, do not alter the fact that there are, in the world, all the means necessary to crush our enemies one day. Vanquished today by mechanical force, in the future we will be able to overcome by a superior mechanical force. The fate of the world depends on it.

I, General de Gaulle, currently in London, invite the officers and the French soldiers who are located in British territory or who might end up here, with their weapons or without their weapons, I invite the engineers and the specialised workers of the armament industries who are located in British territory or who might end up here, to put themselves in contact with me.

Whatever happens, the flame of the French resistance must not be extinguished and will not be extinguished.



President Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Defence Minister Florence Parly and others review a military honour guard during the ceremony at the Mont-Valerien, a memorial for the French who fought against the Nazis and those who were killed by the occupying forces, in Suresnes, west of Paris, on 18 June 2020

Tomorrow, as today, I will speak on the radio from London."

French Government Press Office

Monnaie de Paris unveils General de Gaulle commemorative coins

A leader of Free France during the Second World War, author of the appeal for resistance of June 18, 1940, then instigator of the Fifth Republic, of which he was the first president from 1959 to 1969, Charles de Gaulle was one of the most emblematic figures of the 20th century.

On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of his birth, the 50th anniversary of his death, and the 80th

anniversary of the Appeal of June 18, celebrated in 2020, Monnaie de Paris unveils a 2€ commemorative coin, two 10€ silver coins, one 100€ silver coin, and a miniset with the effigy of General de Gaulle.

2€ commemorative coin

The face of this coin represents Charles de Gaulle thanks to two engravings of his profile. These two engravings commemorate two important aspects of his life: his military and his political career. The Lorraine cross, representing the freedom and unification of France, also appears on the obverse of the coin. This cross was directly associated with General de Gaulle and was also erected at his



Monnaie de Paris

THE APPEAL OF 18 JUNE HELPED LEND CREDIBILITY TO RADIO

The Appeal of 18 June is one of the most remarkable pieces in the history of radio broadcasting. Radio was no longer just a means of entertainment or propaganda available to the powers that be; it also now provided the technical means to enable an isolated individual to launch a huge resistance movement from outside his own country, to urge his fellow citizens to oppose foreign rule and subservience and to fight for the restoration of freedoms. The power and universality of this medium require no further proof.

The Appeal of 18 June helped to lend credibility to radio. Less than 20 years after it had been invented, radio not only became the launching pad for the fight against oppression, but also provided a new form of historical archive.

UNESCO

memorial in Colombey-les-Deux-Églises.

10€ silver coins

The face of this coin represents Charles de Gaulle thanks to two engravings of his profile. These two engravings commemorate two important aspects of his life: his military and his political career. The Lorraine cross, representing the freedom and unification of France, also appears on the obverse of the coin. This cross was directly associated with General de Gaulle and was also erected at his memorial in Colombey-les-Deux-Églises.

BURGUNDY: A RICH PAST

Burgundy is a peaceful rural region at the heart of France, which has a rich and unique history



Auxerre, Burgundy, France. Photo: Michael Guibert

The Burgundians were one of the Germanic peoples who filled the power vacuum left by the collapse of the western half of the Roman Empire. In 411, they crossed the Rhine and established a kingdom at Worms. Amidst repeated clashes between Romans and Huns, the Burgundian kingdom encompassed what is today the borderlands between Switzerland, France, and Italy. In 534, the Franks defeated Godomar, the last Burgundian king, and absorbed the territory into their growing empire.

Burgundy's modern existence is rooted in the dissolution of the

Frankish Empire. When the dynastic succession was settled in the 880s, there were four Burgundies:

- the Kingdom of Upper (Transjuran) Burgundy around Lake Geneva
- the Kingdom of Lower Burgundy in Provence
- the Duchy of Burgundy west of the Saône River
- the County of Burgundy east of the Saône River

The two kingdoms of Upper and Lower Burgundy were reunited in

937 and absorbed into the Holy Roman Empire under Conrad II in 1032, as the Kingdom of Arles. The Duchy of Burgundy was annexed by the French throne in 1477. The County of Burgundy remained loosely associated with the Holy Roman Empire (intermittently independent, whence the name "Franche-Comté"), and finally incorporated into France in 1678, with the Treaties of Nijmegen.

During the Middle Ages, Burgundy was the seat of some of the most important Western churches and monasteries, among them Cluny, Cîteaux, and Vézelay.

During the Hundred Years' War, King John II of France gave the duchy to his younger son, rather than leaving it to his successor on the throne. The duchy soon became a major rival to the French throne, because the Dukes of Burgundy succeeded in assembling an empire stretching from Switzerland to the North Sea, mostly by marriage.

The Burgundian Empire consisted of a number of fiefdoms on both sides of the (then largely symbolic) border between the Kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Empire. Its economic heartland was in the Low Countries, particularly Flanders and Brabant. The court in Dijon outshone the French court by far, both economically and culturally. In Bel-



Le Château, Berzé-le-Châtel, one of the largest castles of Burgundy, was originally the fief of the Berzé, French family of knight, and it is still occupied by their direct descendants, the Thy de Milly.

Photo: Michael Guibert

BURGUNDY VINEYARDS

Today much of Burgundy's prosperity is centred about the prestigious wine growing areas in the south and around Dijon. These small pockets have helped uphold the region's reputation as the land of great art and good living and today people visit the area to try some of France's finest wines such as Nuits-Saint-Georges, Meursault and Beaune. Most of the vineyards are found in the attractive area called the Côte d'Or.

The area is divided into the Côtes de Nuits and Côtes de Beaune, the latter is known for its whites: Meursault, Montrachet and Puligny. The reds of the Côtes de Nuits are considered superior as they are richer and better age. Once run by religious orders, these vines are now owned by wealthy people and are so lucrative that they almost never come up for sale.



Burgundy is famous for its vineyards. Photo: Maja Petric

gium and in the south of the Netherlands, a 'Burgundian lifestyle' still means 'enjoyment of life, good food, and extravagant spectacle'.

In the late 15th and early 16th centuries, Burgundy provided a power base for the rise of the Habsburgs, after Maximilian of Austria had married into the ducal family.

In 1477 at the battle of Nancy during the Burgundian Wars the last duke Charles the Bold was killed in battle and Burgundy itself taken back by France. After the death of his daughter Mary her husband Maximilian moved the court first to Mechelen and later to the palace at Coudenberg, Brussels, and from there ruled the remnants of the empire, the Low Countries (Burgundian Netherlands) and Franche-Comté, then still an imperial fief. The latter territory was ceded to France in the Treaty of Nijmegen of 1678.

During the Industrial Revolution Burgundy prospered once again when, in 1838, the Schneider iron and steelworks based at Le Creusot made the first French locomotive at this time.

TRADITIONAL FRENCH FOOD

The French have always been proud of their sophisticated way of cooking. Fertile soil provides fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, grains, and meat, nearly year-round. The soil is also suitable for growing grapes, which are used for making some of the finest wines in the world. Food and alcohol play important roles in French society. Here is a small tour of France's traditional food.

Buttered Escargot

Typical French recipe, cooked snails with herb butter, commonly called "escargots à la bourguignonne". Cooked like the name indicates, with a butter parsley cream, they are pre-

sented in their shells, and you eat them with a little pick.

Foie Gras

This can be found on all tables during New Year celebrations. Even if the world associates this speciality with France, the tradition of fattening geese can be traced back to antiquity. On a piece of brioche with a bit of onion spread or fig jam is the best way for you to try it.



Cassoulet

This probably isn't the lightest dish that you can try in France. Originally from the Languedoc-Roussillon region, this dish is made up of white beans, duck legs, and pork (different kinds). Enjoyed for centuries by rural families, the French continue to cook it to bring the family together.

made up of Bayonne ham, peppers, tomatoes and Espelette pepper.

Mouclade Charentaise

The area from La Rochelle to Ile de Ré is prized once the mild



Poulet Basquaise

The Basque country is one of the richest regions of France in terms of cuisine. There they raise poultry, specifically some rare breeds of chicken and duck. The Poulet Basquaise (basque chicken) is a full dish where the meat is made tender by use of "piperade", a sauce

temperatures return. The many visitors, charmed by the region's culinary specialties, make this flavorful recipe at home. Mussels from Bouchot (a very popular type) are cooked with shallots, garlic cloves, herbs, spices, eggs, some cream, and most importantly some Pineau des Charentes (the alcohol of the region).



Carbonnade Flamande

You'll find a large selection of beers in northern France. In



fact, the proximity to Belgium has inspired the housewives who have made carbonnade flamande generation after generation. This is a beef dish, slow cooked in some blond beer and aromatics. When it is almost done cooking, you add a little traditional gingerbread with mustard to give even more flavour to this sweet and savoury dish.

Breton Galettes

After a culinary fad, Breton crepe shops are almost everywhere in France. What is a galette? This is a savoury crepe, made with buckwheat flour that gives it its darker colour. Even if the traditional fillings are ham, cheese, eggs and Andouille/onions, the menus have grown over time and have become more crea-

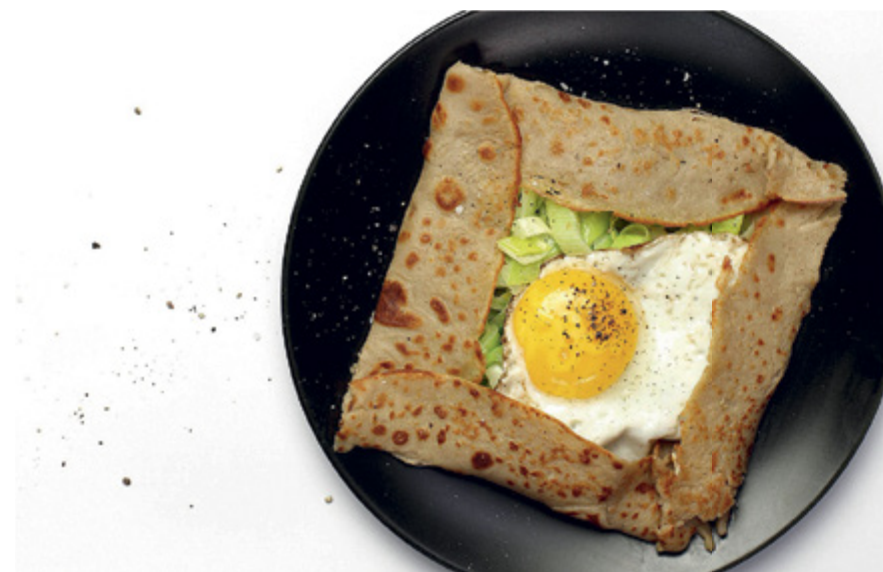
redients give it a little smoky flavour that is well appreciated in all parts of France. Today, quiche Lorraine has become so popular that you can find it in a bakery or restaurant or a more modern form with mushrooms, leeks, and chicken. In a restaurant in Lorraine, you can even have some



with raclette cheese and quail eggs. Assorted meats and boiled potatoes are available on the side to go with the golden melted cheese. Fondue savoyarde is a large container full of a mixture of 3 different cheeses and some white wine. Guests can dip in little pieces of bread. The tradition requires that whoever drops their piece of bread has to make up for it.

Gratin Dauphinois

In the Grenoble area, another winter dish has become an absolute must, the Gratin Dauphinois. Traditionally it is made up of sliced potatoes cooked with crème Fraiche, milk, and nutmeg. No cheese is added in the original recipe, but it is possible there might be some in what you get. Many people like this dish because they can cook it their own way.



tive. If you are in Paris, the best crepe shops in the capital are found in the Tour Montparnasse neighbourhood.

Quiche Lorraine

Let's travel to Alsace to discover this original recipe. The quiche Lorraine is, according to Alsatian tradition, a tart topped with a mixture of crème Fraiche, milk, eggs, nutmeg, as well as some grilled bacon. These last few in-

sauerkraut, a dish made with fermented cabbage and regional meats.

Raclette and Fondue Savoyarde

We now are leaving the Alps to fill up on cheeses. Inspired by their Swiss neighbours, the inhabitants of Savoy regularly eat raclettes and fondues. In the case of a raclette, everyone has a small tin that they can fill as they like

Bouillabaisse

Bouillabaisse is a full-bodied soup typically from the Marseille region. Since there are



so many fishers in the area, the dish is logically made up of various fish, shellfish, tomatoes, and southern aromatics, mustard, and egg yolks. This is eaten with bread and potatoes.



Coq-au-vin

The Coq-au-vin (literally "rooster in wine") is a downright symbol of French cuisine since, according to the legend, the recipe dates back from the Gergovia battle and the victory of the Gallic leader Vercingetorix over Julius Caesar. It is a variation of the famous boeuf bourguignon – cooked with rooster marinated in red wine and bacon and mushrooms.

Beef Bourguignon, Blanquette de Veau, Hachis Parmentier

These are pleasant meals that you'll find in traditional or innova-

tive restaurants, but as revised versions. Beef Bourguignon is a dish that is stewed in red wine with some root vegetables. Blanquette de Veau is another stewed dish with cream, carrots, and broth. Hachis Parmentier is made up of two layers: the first is ground meat with some aromatics that are added at the chef's discretion; the second layer is a homemade puree that is often au gratin. These three dishes are what



delicious that many restaurants today offer some to accompany fish or another meat.

Frog legs

We could not finish up this list without mentioning another dish that worries tourists: the famous frog legs. They are generally breaded or fried with a bit of onion. The skin is delicate, and the flavour is similar to tender poultry. So, there is no reason to make a big deal about it.

france-hotel-guide.com

Ratatouille

In Provence, there are many excellent home-style dishes. This one is so



BOOKS

10 OF THE BEST FRENCH CLASSICS EVERYONE SHOULD READ

The Book of the City of Ladies, Christine de Pizan

The pioneering *Book of the City of Ladies* begins when, feeling frustrated and miserable after reading a male writer's tirade against women, Christine de Pizan has a dreamlike vision where three virtues – Reason, Rectitude and Justice – appear to correct this view. They instruct her to build an allegorical city in which woman-kind can be defended against slander, its walls and towers constructed

from examples of female achievement both from her own day and the past: ranging from warriors, inventors and scholars to prophetesses, artists and saints. Christine de Pizan's spirited defence of her sex was unique for its direct confrontation of the misogyny of her day, and offers a telling insight into the position of women in medieval culture. *The Book of the City of Ladies* provides positive images of women, ranging from warriors and inventors, scholars to prophetesses, and artists to saints.

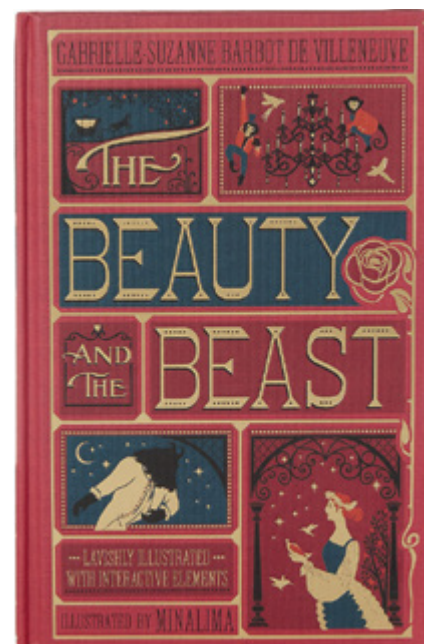
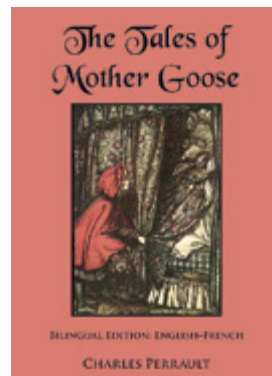
The Tales of Mother Goose, Charles Perrault

The initiator of the literary fairy tale genre, Charles Perrault, published in 1695 under the name of his son a collection of fairy tales *Histoires ou contes du temps passés, avec des moralités*, which became better known under its subtitle of *Contes de ma mère l'Oye* or *Tales of My Mother Goose*. Perrault's

publication marks the first authenticated starting-point for Mother Goose stories.

Beauty and the Beast, Madame de Villeneuve

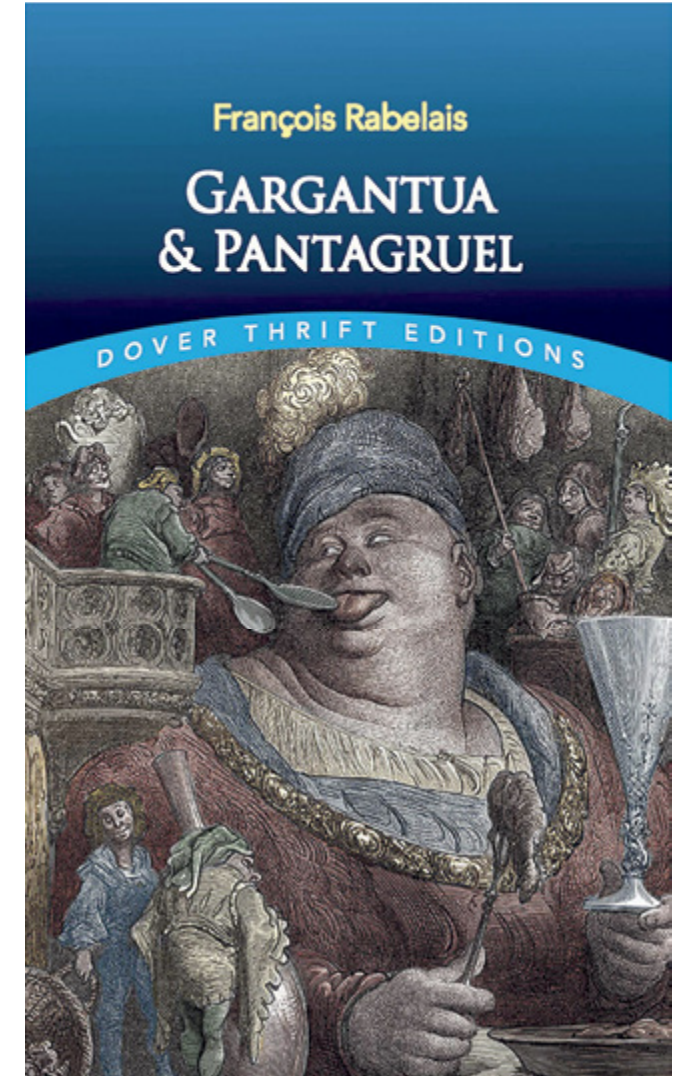
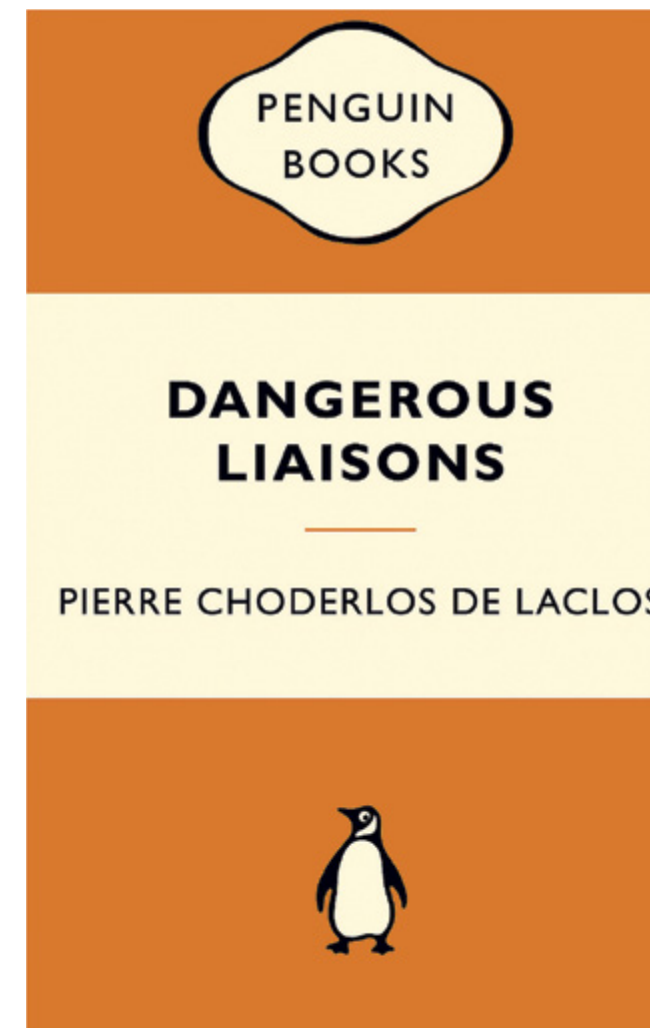
This book contains the original tale by Madame de Villeneuve, first published in 1740, and although the classic elements of Beauty giving up her freedom to live with the Beast, during which time she begins to see beyond his grotesque appearance, are present, there is a wealth of rich back story to how the Prince became cursed and revelations about Beauty's parentage, which fail to appear in subsequent versions.



Dangerous Liaisons, Pierre Choderlos de Laclos

Pierre Choderlos de Laclos produced *Dangerous Liaisons* in an effort to “write a work which departed from the ordinary, which made a noise, and which would remain on this earth after his death.” He did just that. First published in 1782 in four volumes, *Dangerous Liaisons* was an immediate success, and has since inspired a large number of literary commentaries, plays, and films. The novel is an epistolary piece, written as letters between members of the French noble class. An egotistical battle for control ensues between the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont, with the promise of sexual gratification to the victor. The primary victims are Cecile,

a naïve but pretty young girl, her admirer, the Chevalier Danceny, and Madame de Tourvel, a virtuous (and married) young woman. This scandalous web of desire, intrigue, infidelity, the struggle for power, and the corruption of the French upper class is a masterpiece from one of the subtlest and skillful novelists of the 18th Century.

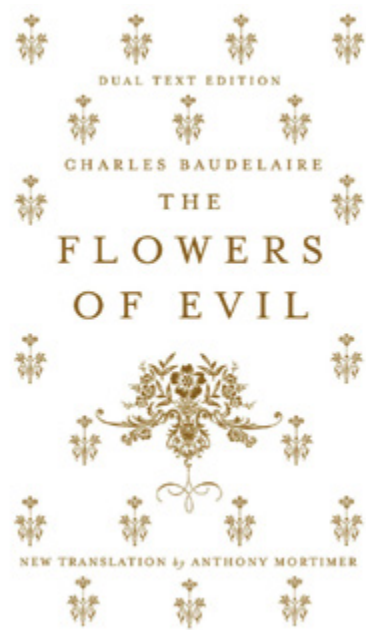


Gargantua and Pantagruel, François Rabelais

First published in four volumes between 1532 and 1552, Rabelais' comic masterpiece chronicles the adventures of a giant, Gargantua, and his son, Pantagruel. More than four centuries later, the terms “gargantuan” and “Rabelaisian” are

synonymous with earthy humor, a surfeit of good food and drink, and pleasures of the flesh.

This series of exaggerated fables was condemned upon its initial publication by the censors of the Collège de la Sorbonne. But beneath their bawdy, often scatological wit, the tales bear a deeper significance as the author's defence of daring and groundbreaking ideas. Using his ribald humor, Rabelais addresses timeless issues of education, politics, and philosophy. His parodies of classic authors as well as his own contemporaries offer a hilarious exposé of human folly and an enduring satire of history, literature, religion, and culture. This edition features the classic translation by Sir Thomas Urquhart and Pierre le Motteux.



The Flowers of Evil,
Charles Baudelaire

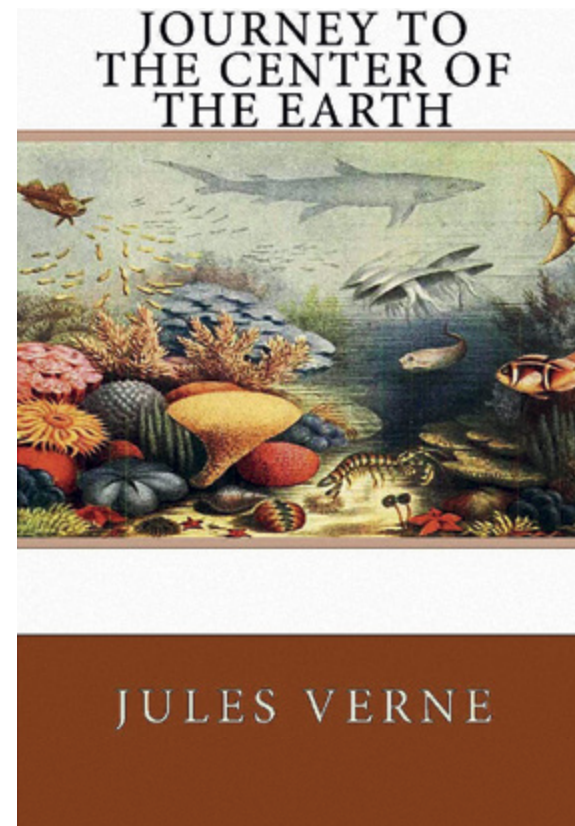
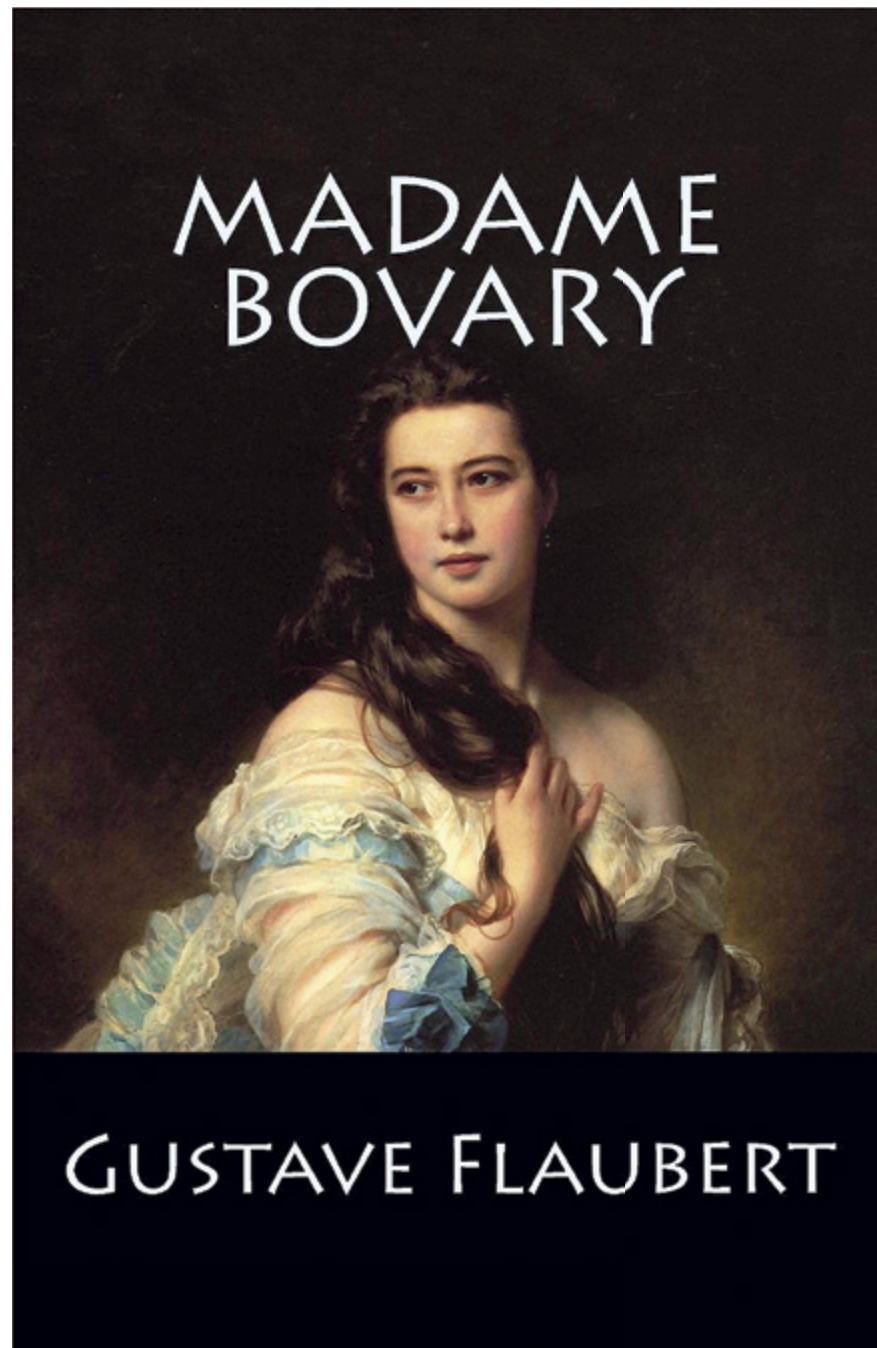
The Flowers of Evil is a volume of French poetry by Charles Baudelaire. It was important in the symbolist and modernist movements. The subject matter of these poems deals with themes relating to decadence and eroticism. The author and the publisher were prosecuted under the regime of the Second Empire as an insult to public decency. As a consequence of this prosecution, Baudelaire was fined 300 francs. Six poems from the work were suppressed and the ban on their publication was not lifted in France until 1949. Upon reading *The Swan* Victor Hugo announced that Baudelaire had created a new shudder, a new thrill in literature.

Madame Bovary,
Gustave Flaubert

With an Introduction by Roger Clark, University of Kent at Canterbury Castigated for offending against public decency, *Madame Bovary* has rarely failed to cause a storm. For Flaubert's contemporaries, the fascination came from the novelist's

meticulous account of provincial matters. For the writer, subject matter was subordinate to his anguished quest for aesthetic perfection. For his twentieth-century successors the formal experiments that underpin *Madame Bovary* look forward to the innovations of contemporary fiction. Flaubert's protagonist in particular has never ceased to fascinate. Romantic heroine or middle-class neurotic, flawed wife and mother or passionate

protester against the conventions of bourgeois society, simultaneously the subject of Flaubert's admiration and the butt of his irony – Emma Bovary remains one of the most enigmatic of fictional creations. Flaubert's meticulous approach to the craft of fiction, his portrayal of contemporary reality, his representation of an unforgettable cast of characters make *Madame Bovary* one of the major landmarks of modern fiction.



Journey to the Center
of the Earth,
Jules Verne

A sixteenth-century cryptogram spurs modern geologist Otto Liedenbrock to embark on the most remarkable human quest ever taken. With his nephew and guide, he leads the descent from a dormant Icelandic volcano into the unexplored realm beneath their feet. There, a vast subterranean ocean, prehistoric creatures, and natural phenomena are but a few of the wonders hidden from all but the boldest eyes.

Journey to the Center of the Earth epitomizes the subterranean fiction genre. Author Jules Verne leads readers deep below the world's surface to the core of his inventive, visionary mind.

The Masterpiece,
Émile Zola

The Masterpiece is the tragic story of Claude Lantier, an ambitious and



talented young artist who has come from the provinces to conquer Paris but is conquered instead by the flaws of his own genius. Set in the 1860s and 1870s, it is the most autobiographical of the twenty novels in Zola's Rou-

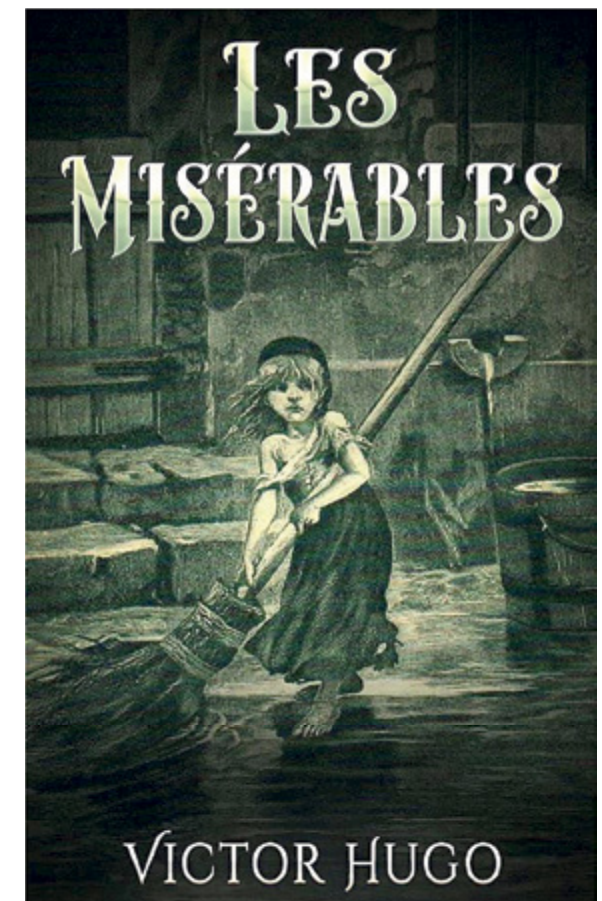
gon-Macquart series. It provides a unique insight into Zola's career as a writer and his relationship with Cezanne, a friend since their schooldays in Aix-en-Provence. It also presents a well-documented account of the turbulent Bohemian world in which the Impressionists came to prominence despite the conservatism of the Academy and the ridicule of the general public.

Les Misérables,
Victor Hugo

Introducing one of the most famous characters in literature, Jean Valjean – the noble peasant imprisoned for stealing a loaf of

bread – *Les Misérables* ranks among the greatest novels of all time. In it, Victor Hugo takes readers deep into the Parisian underworld, immerses them in a battle between good and evil, and carries them to the barricades during the uprising of 1832 with a breathtaking realism that is unsurpassed in modern prose.

Within his dramatic story are themes that capture the intellect and the emotions: crime and punishment, the relentless persecution of Valjean by Inspector Javert, the desperation of the prostitute Fantine, the amorality of the rogue Thénardier, and the universal desire to escape the prisons of our own minds. *Les Misérables* gave Victor Hugo a canvas upon which he portrayed his criticism of the French political and judicial systems, but the portrait that resulted is larger than life, epic in scope – an extravagant spectacle that dazzles the senses even as it touches the heart.



LATEST IN FRENCH FILM

France is the birthplace of cinema and one of the most cinephile countries in the world. Read on to discover some of the latest news related to the French movie industry.

“La Haine” celebrates 25th anniversary with plans for a musical

“La Haine”, a French film that has become a classic since it was first released 25 years ago, may become a musical, according to its director Mathieu Kassovitz.

The film, about three young friends Hubert, Saïd and Vinz (Hubert Koundé, Saïd Taghmaoui and Vincent Cassel) and their struggles living in Parisian suburbs, has received widespread critical acclaim when it was released, and was well received in France and abroad.

When it was shown at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival, “La Haine” received a standing ovation from the audience, and Kassovitz was awarded the Best Director prize at the festival.

Following a successful release of the film in France, Prime Minister of France at the time Alain Juppé

commissioned a special screening of the film for the cabinet, which ministers were required to attend. A spokesman for the Prime Minister said that, despite resenting some of the anti-police themes present in the film, Juppé found La Haine to be “a beautiful work of cinematographic art that can make us more aware of certain realities.”

Quarter of a century later, the film still resonates, and not only in France but also internationally.

“You don’t change society in 25 years. You need society to go all the way and collapse, and then you

change it. You can’t change a machine that is perfect: capitalism. It’s not good, but it’s perfect. It’s working,” said Kassovitz, quoted by the British newspaper The Guardian.

According to The Guardian, Kassovitz plans to turn “La Haine” into a stage musical, or “urban opera”, as he puts it. Originally, Kassovitz has envisioned the film’s little social vignettes as rap songs, and this is the genre that the musical is expected to proceed with for the stage version.

“I was contacted by a team that made big musicals in Paris,” said Kassovitz, speaking on the French channel RMC/ BFM TV. “They told me they wanted to do things a little different than the Romeo and Juliet that go out every year, said the director. They told me that ‘La Haine’ has become an element of French pop culture and that it would be interesting to develop it.”

Kassovitz said he has always thought of “La Haine” as a musical. “The film is already written as a hip-hop musical. These are little rap pieces that follow each other and have a specific rhythm, which is actually a movie,” he added.

The musical version of “La Haine” is set to be presented as an interactive film on stage, combining dance, song and hip-hop.

Netflix launches new French film “Lost Bullet”

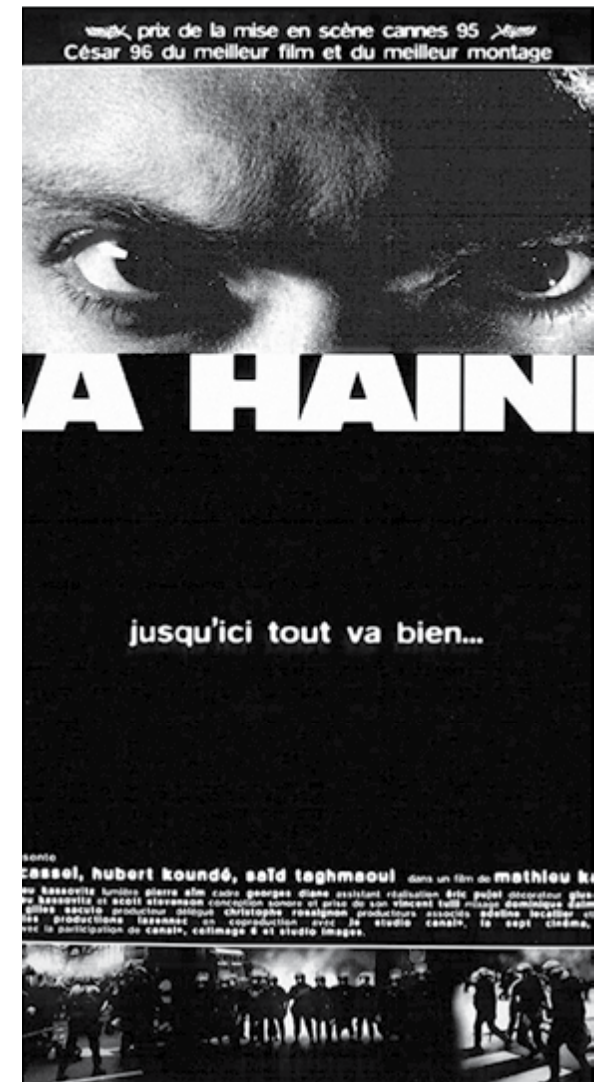
Netflix has released a new French action film “Lost Bullet” (“Balle Perdue”) on June 19. The newly released film has quickly reaching the top of the Netflix’s chats in France, and has been going up in the international charts.

This action-packed movie is full of suspense. The plot of “Lost Bullet” evolves around a genius mechanic Leno with a criminal past. Facing a murder charge, Leno must track down a missing car in as little as 24 hours as the car contains the proof of his innocence: a single bullet.

“Lost Bullet” is director Guillaume starring Alban Lenoir (“Marianne”) Pierret’s feature film debut, and it’s and Ramzy Bedia (“2 Alone in Paris”).



Photo by Kilyan Sockalingum



FRANCE REOPENS CINEMAS

France has reopened cinemas on June 22, following the country’s tight lockdown of the past months. “I only have one word – finally!” Emmanuel Delesse, one of the directors of cinema chain UGC, told AFP as he prepared to reopen the near 400 theatres belonging to the group. He said cinemagoers will have to wear masks as they queue for tickets and in the corridors.

According to health guidelines laid down by the French Cinema Federation (FNCF) the wearing of masks is strongly recommended but not obligatory.

“The role of cinemas at the heart of our cities as an emblematic cultural place, a place of entertainment open to everyone all year round, a place for social cohesion anchored in the life of the French, makes their reopening eminently symbolic. I like to think that this date marks a new stage in coming out of the crisis for our country,” said Richard Patry, President of FNCF.

French authorities insist however that screening rooms can never be more than half full with a free seat either side of each filmgoer.

According to a recent poll by Médiamétrie, 18.7 million people – almost a third of the population – plan to see a film in the next month.



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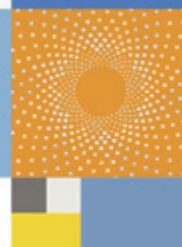


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EDUCATION

BILLION POUND FOR CHILDREN TO “CATCH-UP” ON LEARNING

Children in UK are set to benefit from a £1 billion Covid-19 “catch-up” package to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson have confirmed.

As plans continue for a full return to education from September, the UK government has announced £650 million will be shared across state primary and secondary schools over the 2020/21 academic year.

Whilst head teachers will decide how the money is spent, the government expects this to be spent on small group tuition for whoever needs it.

This one-off grant to support pupils in state education recognises that all young people have lost time in education as a result of the pandemic, regardless of their income or background.

Separately, a National Tutoring Programme, worth £350 million, will increase access to high-quality tuition for the most disadvantaged young people over the 2020/21 academic year.

This will help accelerate their academic progress and prevent the gap between them and their more affluent peers widening.

This £1 billion package is on top of the £14 billion three-year funding settlement announced last year – recognising the additional work schools will need to do to help students to catch up.

“I want to once again thank teachers, childcare workers and support staff for the brilliant work they have been doing throughout the pandemic. This includes providing remote education for those not in school, as well as face-to-face education for vulnerable children



Photo by Element5 Digital

and the children of critical workers,” said UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said: “We cannot afford for any of our children to lose out as a result of Covid-19. The scale of our response must match the scale of the challenge.

According to Williamson, this package will make sure that every young person, no matter their age or where they live, gets the education, opportunities and outcomes they deserve, by spending it on measures proven to be effective, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged.

The National Tutoring Programme is designed to reach up to two million of England’s most disadvantaged children.

The government’s ambition is that all providers running holiday clubs and activities for children over the summer

holiday will be able to open, if the science allows.

Guidance will be provided to the sector on how to implement the protective measures necessary to open safely, and to parents on how to minimise the spread of the virus if they choose to attend.

Today the Education Endowment Foundation has also published a guide to help school leaders and staff decide how to use this funding to best support their pupils and their outcomes.

“Despite the heroic efforts of schools, many pupils’ learning has suffered as a result of school closures. These children are drawn disproportionately from disadvantaged communities and need extensive support,” said Sir Peter Lampl, founder and chairman of the Sutton Trust and chairman of the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).