

Finding information about French Authors and Literature

Last update: August 8, 2011

Reference works in the FIAF Library:

Beaumarchais, J-P. de *Dictionnaire des littératures de langue française* (3 vols.) Paris: Bordas, 1984. (REF/840.3/BEA)

1800 entries contain critical and biographical information on francophone authors and literary figures throughout history. Other entries include movements and literary terms. Entries are a few paragraphs to a few pages in length.

Beaumarchais, J-P. de *Dictionnaire des oeuvres littératures de langue française* (4 vols.) Paris: Bordas, 1994. (REF/840.3/BEA)

This is a dictionary of works, not authors, arranged alphabetically by title of work. Long articles give a plot synopsis and discussion of the work. Mostly on French writers but does include other francophone authors.

Beaumarchais, J-P. de *Dictionnaire des écrivains de langue française* (2 vols.) Paris: Larousse, 2001, 1994. (REF/840.3/DIC)

This is a dictionary of works, not authors, arranged alphabetically by title of work. Long articles give a plot synopsis and discussion of the work. Mostly on French writers but does include other francophone authors.

Biet, Christian. *Guide des auteurs de la critique des genres et des mouvements (Index)* Paris: Magnard, 1985. (REF/840.8/BIE)

A preparation guide for the Bac. Contains a glossary of literary terms, a chronology of literary history from 410 to 1985. The section "parcours" contains sample analyses of authors, literary typesropes, movements, or works. "Biographies" contains biographical information for mostly French authors.

***Dictionnaire des lettres françaises : le XXe siècle.* ed. Martine Bercot & André Guyaux. Paris: Librairie générale française, 1998.** (REF/840.9009/DIC)

Alphabetical entries cover 20th century francophone authors, publishers, literary institutions and movements. Author entries include biographical information as well as references to published works and criticism.

Dolbow, Sandra W. *Dictionary of Modern French Literature: From the Age of Reason through Realism.* New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. (REF/840.3/DOL)

Covers French literature from 1700 to 1880. Entries include authors, works of all literary genres, and major artistic movements. Entries vary from a few paragraphs to a few pages and include biographical information and plot summaries. Appendices: Historical and literary events; entries grouped by subject matter or chronological period.

Levi, Anthony. *Guide to French Literature* (vols. 1 & 2). Detroit: St. James Pr., 1994. (REF/840.9/LEV)

Covers French literature from beginnings to the 1980s. It contains life-and-works entries for about 300 authors. Other entries include literary terms and movements.

***Littérature: textes et documents Moyen Age – XXe siècle .* (4 vols.) dirigée par Henri Mitterand. Paris: Nathan, 1989.** (REF/840.9/LIT)

Each volume covers a specific period of francophone literature. Appendices include: index thématique,

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liste des synthèses littéraires, lexique des termes littéraires, index des auteurs, index des titres. Each author entry includes a short biography and an excerpt of work.

Malignon, Jean. *Dictionnaire des écrivains français*. Seuil, 1971. (REF/840.3/MAL)

Covers Troubadours (12 century) to authors born in 1914. Entries by author include biographical and critical information as well as a list of works and criticism.

***The New Oxford Companion to Literature in French*, ed. Peter France. Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1995. (REF/840.3/NEW)**

Front matter includes historical maps, chronology of politics, culture, and authors, groupings of entries by subject matter. Covers francophone literature from around the world from Boethius (5th century AD to the 1990s). Entries include biographical information as well as inexhaustive lists of publications.

***Le Robert des grands écrivains de langue française* (2000) REF/840.3/ROB**

For more information, consult books about authors in the FIAF Library:

Ø Browse the shelves:

Call numbers: 841/RIMBAUD/... for poets
842/BECKETT/... for playwrights
848/SAND/... for complete works and criticism

note: titles listed in the online catalog as "see reference desk" are held upstairs in the reserve section

In addition to books, there are many CD-ROMs dedicated to authors, notably on Dumas, Eluard, Pagnol, Proust, Dumas and Rimbaud. There are also novels, poetry and theater on tape.

Other New York City libraries with strong collections in French literature:

NYPL Center for Research in the Humanities 5th Ave. & 42nd St. 10018

Reference desk: 930-0830 <http://www.nypl.org>

NYPL Mid-Manhattan Branch 455 5th Ave. (at 40th St.) New York, NY 10016

Reference desk: 340-0849 <http://www.nypl.org>

Columbia University, Butler Library 535 W. 114th St. New York, NY 10027

Reference desk: 854-2241 Catalog: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/>

New York University, Bobst Library 70 Washington Sq. S. New York, NY 10012

Reference desk: 998-2505 Catalog: <http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/cat.htm>

Library catalogs in France:

Bibliothèque nationale de France <http://www.bnf.fr/>

In addition to the BNF catalog, there is the collective catalog for all libraries in France, and the magnificent electronic text project, Gallica. <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

Internet sites about French literature and authors:

Sites généraux

L'Académie française: www.academie-francaise.fr

Includes a link to "les Immortels": authors, scientists, philosophers and others who have been elected to this institution since 1635.

Auteurs.net : Guide et actualité littéraire

Repertory of sites dedicated to authors, classed by author, type, era and cultural origin

Clicnet (<http://clicnet.swarthmore.edu/litterature/sujets/XIX.html>)

Francophone literature of the 19th century

Labyrinthe (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/labyrinthe/accueil.html>)

Sites on authors of all countries and eras, but specifically of French authors of the 20th c.

Selection de 300 sites littéraires francophones

<http://agenda.litteraire.info/republique-des-lettres.php>

Signets de la Bibliothèque Mazarine

<http://www.bibliotheque-mazarine.fr/mazliens/mazliens.htm>

Resources and links on literary history of the 16-18th centuries

Tennessee Bob's Famous French Links <http://www.utm.edu/departments/french/french.html>

This invaluable "Kitchen sink" repertory of French sites prepared by Bob Peckham of the University of Tennessee Memphis contains many interesting sites on literature.

Prix Littéraires <http://prix.litteraire.info/>

L'Annuaire des Prix littéraires français.

Periodicals

Lire (www.lire.fr)

Interviews with authors, special dossiers, literary news and events

Le Magazine Littéraire (<http://www.magazine-litteraire.com/>)

The web site of this well-known literary magazine offers a complete resume of the most recent issue, a detailed index of articles since 1986, as well as links to other cultural and literary sites, as well as professional literary news and events.

Le Monde des Livres (<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/sequence/0,2-3260,1-0,0.html>)

This is a selection of articles that appear in the weekly Friday supplement to Le Monde (can also be consulted in the Library) : news, profiles of authors, essays

La Quinzaine littéraire (<http://www.quinzaine-litteraire.net>)

A selection of articles that have appeared in this famous bimonthly French literary magazine

La République internationale des Lettres (<http://www.republique-des-lettres.com/>)

Journal of literary criticism that presents editorials, dossiers on some 30 French and international authors, archives and a selection of 200 francophone literary sites.

Individual authors

Sites relative to individual authors are too numerous to list here. A search engine will help you find many of them. You may use www.altavista.fr or <http://www.google.fr>.

You can also ask the reference librarian to do a search for you on the periodical indexes available in the library.

Baudelaire (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/frencoll.html>)

Chateaubriand (<http://www.acamedia.fr/chateaub/index.htm>) site in construction

Flaubert (<http://www.item.ens.fr/contenus/equiprojet/EQPaccueil.htm>)

Théophile Gautier (<http://www.llsh.univ-savoie.fr/gautier/index.html>)

André Gide (<http://www.gidiana.net/>)

Victor Hugo (<http://groupugo.div.jussieu.fr/>)

Marcel Proust (<http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/kolbp/homeF.htm>)

Antoine de Saint-Exupery (<http://www.saint-exupery.org/index.html>)

Stendhal (<http://www.armance.com/>)

Georges Simenon (<http://www.ulg.ac.be/libnet/simenon.htm>)

Voir aussi notre guide thématique “Le Féminisme » sur les écrivaines féministes :
<http://www.fiaf.org/library/documents/pathfinders/feminisme.doc>

Blogs

La République du Livre de Pierre Assouline

La Bibliothèque de Liza <http://bibliza.over-blog.com/>

Critique of various current French novels, bandes dessinées, poetry and more.

Cap'Ados <http://capados.blogspot.com/>

The findings of a teen book club based out of the Bibliothèque de Roanne