



## France

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## **France**

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## Introduction

What kind of knowledge did the Victorians have about nineteenth-century France and what were their representations of France during a period which saw the 1830 Revolution and the July Monarchy followed by the 1848 Revolution, the Second Republic and the rise of Napoleon III which ended with the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the advent of the Third Republic? The answer to these questions implies finding out what sources the Victorians could use to acquire this information. This, in turn, means looking at the Victorians' distant perception of France, but also at their experience of France as travellers or residents in the country, or even at the impressions conveyed upon them by French people who, for various reasons, were led to travel or to reside in Victorian Britain. Admiration, vilification, interactions, co-operations, misunderstandings are some of the words that crop up most frequently in the bibliographical references that follow. This bibliography will be looking at what could be read about France in Victorian literature—especially travel literature and travel guides—but also in newspapers of the time. It will also consider Victorian translations of French literature and the publishers involved in promoting French literature in Britain. The learning of French in Britain, as well as Victorian views on French education will be taken into account, as will Victorian perceptions of French political events and representations of France and the French by Victorian visual artists. Last but not least, the role of commerce, of Universal Exhibitions and of art exhibitions will be considered.

## General Overviews

The best starting points to cover the question of the Victorians and France are Marandon 1967, which highlights all the directions that this topic can take, Tombs 2006 for a more cultural perspective, and Aprile/Bensimon 2006 for a more historical approach to the question. This can be completed by Gay 2015, Mitchell 2013 and Boucher-Rivalain/Hadjenko-Marshall 2008 for scientific, political, historical, literary and artistic perspectives on France.

Aprile Sylvie and Fabrice Bensimon, eds. *La France et l'Angleterre au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle: échanges, représentations, comparaisons*. Paris: Editions Créaphis, 2006.

Landmark collection of essays on the relations between France and England in the nineteenth century. Argues that the nineteenth century has been somewhat neglected in this respect and purports to make up for this relative neglect by examining the circulation and transformation of ideas about France in British representations, as well as Victorian misunderstandings about France and the French. .

Boucher-Rivalain, Odile and Catherine Hadjenko-Marshall eds. *Regards des Anglo-Saxons sur la France au cours du long 19<sup>e</sup> siècle*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008.

This collection of essays examines the combination of fascination and repulsion which France continued to inspire the English with, in the long nineteenth century. Looks at artistic, literary, economic, educational, social and historical influences upon English intellectuals, politicians, artists, writers and critics. Usefully completed by a reading of Mitchell 2013 and Gay 2015.

Gay, Ignacio Ramos ed. *Curious about France: visions littéraires victoriennes*. Berne: Peter Lang, 2015. This collection of essays examines France through the eyes of various Victorian writers and intellectuals. France is presented as an imaginary and political construction that partakes of identity building. Perceptions reveal much about the English themselves and about their own country. Essays combine literary views on France with scientific, political, historical and artistic perspectives. Offers a complementary take on France to Boucher-Rivalain/Hadjenko-Marshall 2008 and Mitchell 2013.

Marandon, Sylvaine. *L'Image de la France dans l'Angleterre Victorienne*. Paris: Armand Colin, 1967.

Seminal work on how the Victorians perceived France and the French. Analyses the image of France through English representations from 1848 to 1900, and looks at the instruments that enabled the British to picture France to themselves—publications on France; oral testimonies by French immigrants or conversation in “salons”; visual information like theatre plays, commerce or art exhibitions. A key reference to find out about the Victorians and France.

Mitchell, Rosemary ed. *Mutual (In)Comprehensions: France and Britain in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013.

Collection of essays that looks at the combination of admiration and anxiety with which the English perceived France and the French, and at how they used their best enemy to shape their own national identities. Artistic, literary, economic, religious and historical influences are taken into consideration. Chimes with Boucher-Rivalain/Hadjenko-Marshall 2008 and Gay 2015.

Tombs, Robert and Tombs Isabelle. *That Sweet Enemy: The British and the French from the Sun King to the Present*. London: Heineman, 2006.

The second part—chapters 7, 8 and 9—covers Franco-British relations after the Napoleonic Wars. Depicts the increase of British visitors to France after 1815 and addresses the image of the French and of France which these visitors entertained as well as the way London life influenced Parisian social life.

### Digital Resources

A few very useful online selections of nineteenth-century journals enable targeted research on Victorian views of France, French people, as well as social, economic, political and cultural events in France. Most of these resources require subscriptions but a few like the *\*\*Dickens Journals Online\*\** are directly accessible and can provide invaluable first-hand information.

\*C19: The Nineteenth Century Index[<http://c19index.chadwyck.com>]\*

Online index that covers more than 20 million bibliographic records for a large selection of 19th-century periodicals. Available by subscription only.

\*Dickens Journals Online[<http://www.djo.org.uk>]\*.

A valuable resource, free of access and fully searchable. Offers a complete online edition of Dickens's weekly magazines *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*.

\*19th Century British Library Newspapers

Database[<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspdigproj/database/>]\*

A large selection of fully searchable national and regional newspapers from 19th-century Britain. Available by subscription only.

\*19th Century UK Periodicals Online[<http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/19th-century-uk-periodicals-parts-1-and-2.aspx>]\*

A key resource of over six hundred nineteenth-century periodicals, fully searchable, to find information on France. Available by subscription only.

\*Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition[<http://www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html>]\*

Free online edition of 19th-century periodicals and newspapers. Cluster of 6 titles: *Monthly Repository* (1806–1837), *Northern Star* (1838–1852), *Leader* (1850–1860), *English Woman's Journal* (1858–1864), *Tomahawk* (1867–1870), and *Publishers' Circular* (1880–1890)]. Fully searchable facsimiles.

## Travel Writing

This section provides a sample of travel narratives and guidebooks that mirror what could be read at the time. Many of these digitized facsimiles can be found online.

### **Baedeker and Murray guidebooks**

Baedeker and Murray guidebooks were the most popular and common references for travellers.

#### Baedeker guidebooks to France

Here is a list of the different French regions covered by the German guidebook and the successive editions of each volume. The volume on Paris and its surroundings was by far the most popular. New volumes appear as the South of France becomes more accessible to and more popular for British travellers.

Baedeker. *Northern France*. Leipzig: K. Baedeker 1889.

Northern France was the first volume devoted by Baedeker to this country reedited in 1891.

Baedeker. *Paris and its environs*. Leipzig: K. Baedeker, 1891.

Baedeker here tackles Paris and its vicinity, and deals with them more in detail than in its more general volume on *Northern France*. This successful volume was reedited in 1894, 1896 and 1898.

Baedeker. *Southern France*. Leipzig: K. Baedeker 1899.

This volume on Southern France testifies to a new interest and demand on the part of British travellers. It was reedited in 1891. As of 1895, it will be replaced by two separate volumes, namely *South-Eastern France* and *South-Western France*.

Baedeker. *South-Eastern France*. Leipzig: K. Baedeker 1895.

The volume devoted to South-Eastern France was reedited in 1898. This was the most visited part of Southern France.

Baedeker. *South-Western France*. Leipzig : K. Baedeker 1895.

Only one edition of this volume was ever published. This part of France was, on the whole, less frequented by British travellers.

#### Murray guidebooks to France

Here is a list of the different French regions covered by the English guidebook and the successive editions of each volume. The changing and expanding titles from one edition to another are relevant of changes in the geography of France (inclusion of Nice and Menton in 1860 and 1861) and of the growing attractiveness of regions until then neglected by British travellers.

*Handbook to Travellers in France; being a Guide to Normandy, Brittany; the rivers Loire, Seine, Rhône, and Garonne; the French Alps, Dauphiné, Provence, and the Pyrenees; with descriptions of the principal routes, railways, the approaches to Italy, the chief watering places, etc. With five travelling maps.* London, Paris, Leipzig: 1843.

The first edition, published in 1843, was reedited in 1844, 1847-1848, 1852, 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1858. The 1859 edition, reedited in 1861, adds the island of Corsica to the list. The 1864 edition mentions Nice for the first time. It was reedited in 1867, 1869, 1870, and 1873. The 1875 edition mentions Bordeaux, Limousin, Gascony, as well as Artois, Champagne, Lorraine, Alsace and the Vosges, Burgundy, France-Comté, Dauphiné, and the French Alps. Lyons, Marseilles and the Rhône are highlighted in the title. The

1877 edition reedited in 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1881, adds French Flanders and the Jura to the list of destinations. The 1882 edition reedited in 1884, 1886; 1890 and 1892 includes the Morvan.

### **Medical guides**

This section provides an idea of the vast production of medical guides published about the French Riviera (Clark 1841; Farr 1841; Bennett 1861) and, more generally, French watering places (Lee 1851; Madden 1867)

Bennett, J. H. *Mentone and The Riviera as a Winter Climate*. London: John Churchill, 1861.

Most of this text was previously published in *The Lancet*. Has a medical purpose, particularly for respiratory diseases. Stresses the advantages of the climate of Mentone for these afflictions. The author compares the city to Montpellier and Marseilles and describes the route to get to Menton from Lyons. Mentone was annexed to France that very year and became Menton.

Clark, James. *The Sanative Influence of Climate with an Account of the Best Places of Resort for Invalids in England, the South of Europe etc.* Philadelphia: A Waldie, 1841.

Contains a detailed analysis of the climate of France (pages 98-111) in places of resort ranging from the Southwest of France (Pau) to the Southeast (Montpellier; Marseilles; Hyères; Nice).

Farr, William. *A Medical Guide to Nice*. London: John Churchill, 1841.

This volume mentions not only Nice—which was an Italian town until 1860—but also Bagnères de Bigorre in the Pyrenees for the virtues of their climate to alleviate consumption and scrofula. The book focuses on the climate of Nice and then on the diseases to which Nice was deemed beneficial.

Lee, Edwin. *Bradshaw's Companion to the Continent*. London: W. J. Adams, 1851.

Contains a description of the main French places of resort. Covers Boulogne and Paris; Lyons, the Rhône river, Marseilles, the climate of Provence, Hyères and its climate, and Cannes; the journey from Marseilles to Toulouse, Nîmes, Pau and its climate, Eaux Bonnes and Chaudes, Bordeaux and its climate and Tours; Pyrenean Baths, Bagnères de Luchon, Bagnère de Bigorre, the Vale of Argelès, Barèges, St. Sauveur, Gavarnie and Cauteret. Contains a supplementary note on the climate of France

Madden, Thomas More. *The Spas of Belgium, Germany, France and Italy*. London: T.C. Newby, 1867.

A guidebook to watering places, notably in France. Chapters 22, 23 and 24 describe Aix-les-Bains, Vichy, the region of Auvergne, the Pyrenees and the springs of Passy, Auteuil, and Enghien-Les Bains in the Paris region.

### **Other Travel Guides and Narratives**

The following references tackle Paris (Trollope 1835; Old Nick 1844; Bayle 1854; Sala 1868; Dickens 1882), the Pyrenees (Murray 1837; Ellis 1844; Bell 1857) and other French regions (Betham-Edwards 1879; Hammerton 1887), this time as places of leisure.

Bayle, Saint John. *Purple Tints of Paris, Characters and Manners in the New Empire*. 2 vols. London: Chapman and Hall, 1854.

Contains meditations on French people and customs. Uses, as a leading thread, Bayle's own experiences of life in Paris during the second Empire, and resorts to devices like Mr Cockney or lorettes and grisettes, who respectively function as foils or as baits for his readers.

Bell, Caroline. *Pictures from the Pyrenees*. London: Griffith and Farran, 1857.

Children's book. Reads like a novel that describes, as its subtitle testifies, the travels of Agnes, eleven years old, and Kate, aged nine, to and within the Pyrenees region. Many illustrations provide additional information to the text and help child readers imagine the foreign realities alluded to.

Betham-Edwards. *Holidays in Eastern France*. London: Hurst and Blackett, 1879.

Offers a view of Eastern France (Montbéliard; Besançon; Lons-le Saunier; excursion into the Jura). Also covers the trip from Paris to the East of France via the valley of the Marne river and the cities of Troyes and Provins. Professes to break new ground by mentioning places, like Ornans, that do not appear in Murray guidebooks, and to offer portraits of French people from all walks of life. Part of these texts were published initially in *Frazer's Magazine*.

Dickens, Charles junior. *Dickens's Dictionary of Paris*. London: Macmillan, 1882.

Dictionary written by Charles Dickens junior. Contains a few interesting maps of Paris and its surroundings. Presents itself as "an unconventional handbook" and covers a great variety of Parisian realities in alphabetical order ranging from places, political and financial institutions to boot cleaning; bric-à-brac; British schools in Paris; cabs; cafés; chiffoniers; la claque in theatres; dress codes; gas; soupe à l'oignon and wine shops. Features a compilation of other useful critical references on Paris at that time.

Ellis, Sarah. *Summer and Winter in the Pyrenees*. London: Fisher and Son, 1844.

Travel narrative written by a female author, well-known for her conduct books. Relates the author's journey from England to the Pyrenees, describes the city of Pau and the author's installation there and daily life. Goes on to depict diverse excursions made from this base. Also offers considerations on historical and social matters.

Hamerton, Philip Gilbert. *The Saone, A Summer Voyage*. London: Seeley & Co, 1887.

This volume is an account of a voyage on the Saône from its source in the mountains of the Vosges to the Rhône. Depicts possibilities of navigating the river—canoe; sailing yachts; steam yachts; canal boats—as well as the scenery along the river with its landscapes, towns and rivers. Describes the inns along the way. Narrative in the form of letters addressed to his editor.

Lee, Edwin. *Bradshaw's Companion to the Continent*. London: W. J. Adams, 1851.

Contains a description of the main French places of resort. Covers Boulogne and Paris; Lyons, the Rhône river, Marseilles, the climate of Provence, Hyères and its climate, and Cannes; the journey from Marseilles to Toulouse, Nîmes, Pau and its climate, Eaux Bonnes and Chaudes, Bordeaux and its climate and Tours; Pyrenean Baths, Bagnères de Luchon, Bagnère de Bigorre, the Vale of Argelès, Barèges, St. Sauveur, Gavarnie and Cauteret. Contains a supplementary note on the climate of France.

Murray, Erskine. *A Summer in the Pyrenees*. 2 vols. London: John Macrone, 1837.

Travel book devoted to the Pyrenees. Presents the local traditions and people, sometimes through anecdotes. Describes various localities and noteworthy sites. Also depicts a variety of expeditions in the area.

Old Nick, "L'Anglais (ou les Anglais à Paris)." In L. Desnoyers, J. Janin, Old Nick et al. *Les Etrangers à Paris*, 1-26. Paris: Charles Warée, 1844.

Book written by a great many authors and devoted to foreigners in Paris. Contains amusing illustrations. The English are the first nationality covered, in an article authored by a writer nicknamed 'Old Nick'. The essay contains a humorous and stereotypical representation of the English in Paris and of their

understanding or misunderstanding of French culture. Description filled with anecdotes involving English people from all walks of life, but primarily the upper classes and interspersed with English words.

Sala, George Augustus. *Notes and Sketches of the Paris Exhibition*, London: Tinsley Brothers, 1868. Contains a description of the 1867 World Fair in Paris by the English journalist George Augustus Sala. Compilation of notes he sent to the *Daily Telegraph*. Conveys a view of the exhibition seen through English eyes. Depicts the landmarks of the exhibition, its opening, the different sections that could be visited, prizes, a section devoted to English newspapers, English workmen visiting the exhibition and a ludicrous translation of a Spanish text on blacking into English.

Trollope, Frances. *Paris and the Parisians in 1835*. 2 vols. London: Richard Bentley, 1835. A book in the form of a series of letters containing the author's impressions on Paris and the Parisians during the July Monarchy. Contains interesting sections on French literature and authors (Victor Hugo; le *Théâtre français*; *L'Opéra Comique*; Chateaubriand and Lamartine). Contains more remarks on French politics than traditional travel narratives.

For the rest of this bibliography see:

- « France », in Juliet John (éd.), *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, 2019.