



NEW COLLEGE

21 March, 2014

Dear Student,

I enclose the syllabus for the Literature Papers in French Prelims so that you can set about getting hold of the books and reading them before you arrive in October.

You would be well advised to read them before you come because, although we will be working on them in some detail, it helps to be reasonably familiar with them in advance. Also, you will be attending lectures on some of the texts before we get round to studying them in classes and tutorials in college. This applies to all the texts for commentary listed under Paper I which are covered in the first term.

Most of the texts are available in fairly cheap and reliable editions, and can be ordered from The Modern Languages Department of Blackwells, the main university bookshop (Broad Street, Oxford), or from Grant & Cutler Booksellers in London. Blackwells sometimes has second-hand copies, and it's worth looking on-line eg. AbeBooks.co.uk where you might also find second-hand copies. French books can also be ordered online from French suppliers such as [chapitre.com](http://chapitre.com) or [amazon.fr](http://amazon.fr).

As regards language work, we recommend that you have William Rowlinson, *French Grammar* (OUP, 1994) and, ideally W. F. Whitmarsh & C. D. Jukes *New Advanced French Course* (Longmans, 1971). We strongly advise you to have the Collins-Robert French Dictionary or (failing that) the new Oxford-Hachette dictionary. Be sure to get the full-size one, and not a 'compact', 'concise' or 'pocket' version. The *Petit Robert* is the best French-French dictionary.

I look forward to seeing you in October.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Ann Jefferson  
Fellow and Tutor in French



## Modern Languages Preliminary: Literature in French

The literary element of the Prelims course in French is made up of two papers, the first is a number of 'paired' short texts for commentary, the second an introduction to the study of prose fiction. Each paper has 'set texts' for close study; these are listed below, and it is essential to have read these before you arrive at College. In some cases, we have suggested which editions we think most useful, and which are not; in others, buy, and read, whatever you can find.

It is also a good idea to read more widely around these set books: find other texts by the same authors, and novels, poems or plays written at the same times as those set, in French or English (or your other language).

### I Paired short texts for commentary

#### **Philosophical prose**

Montaigne, 'Des Cannibales' from *Essais I*

[There are several good paperback editions of Montaigne's *Essais* – Garnier Flammarion, Folio etc ; 'Des Cannibales' is in volume I. The 'Pochothèque' version modernises the spelling and does not distinguish between 'layers' of the text: it should not be used as a reference edition for Prelim.

A useful alternative is the recent edition of both 'Des Cannibales' and 'Des Coches' (with facing modern French translation) edited by Michel Tarpinian (Paris : Ellipses, 1995).]

Diderot, *Supplément au Voyage à Bougainville*, ed. M. Delon (Paris, 2002).

#### **Poetry**

Charles Baudelaire, 'Spleen et Idéal', in *Les Fleurs du Mal*, ed. G. Chesters (Bristol Classical Press, Duckworth, 1995) or the Gallimard (ed. Pichois) or Flammarion (ed. Dupont) editions.

Aimé Césaire, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*. (Présence africaine, 1983).

The bilingual edition, *Return to my Native Land*, with translations and notes by Rosello and Pritchard, published by Bloodaxe, London 1993, is good, but should not be relied upon.

#### **Drama**

Jean Racine, *Phèdre*, in *Théâtre complet*, (Paris: Garnier, 1980);

The Bristol Classical Press edition (London: Duckworth, 1996) has a detailed commentary on each scene.

Samuel Beckett, *En attendant Godot* (Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1952).

### II Prose Fiction

*La Chastelaine de Vergy*, in *Nouvelles courtoises*, ed. S. Méjean-Thiolier and M-F. Notz-Grob, (Paris: Livre de Poche, 1997).

Choderlos de Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, ed. Pomeau (Paris: Garnier- Flammarion, 1996).

George Sand, *Indiana*, ed. Béatrice Didier (Paris: Folio Gallimard, 1984)

Marcel Proust, *Combray*, in *Du côté de chez Swann*, the first volume of *A la recherche du temps perdu*, ed. Antoine Compagnon (folio classique)