

ABSTRACTS

Nathan Bracher, *Hélène Berr et l'écriture de l'histoire* [in French]

The present article argues that Hélène Berr's *Journal* goes well beyond mere testimony to provide an astute analysis not only of the persecutory measures, arrests, camps, and deportations but also of the various attempts to camouflage the violence and even of the wider implications of what she ultimately recognized to be a systematic extermination. Hélène Berr thus presents an extraordinary case of a young French Jewish student at the Sorbonne who, steeped in literature but untrained in history, nevertheless achieved a degree of historical lucidity that, in view of the confused, limited, and often unreliable information available to her in Nazi-occupied Paris, we can only consider as remarkable. Above all, Hélène Berr's very personal confrontation with history, as it unfolded in all the sinister complexity of what we now know as the Holocaust, enables us to better understand these events in the human terms in which they were experienced and with the ethical dimensions that they take on for us today.

Keywords: history, writing, Holocaust, Paris, witness

Sandra Ott, *Undesirable Pen Pals, Unthinkable Houseguests: Representations of Franco-German Friendships in a Post-Liberation Trial Dossier and Suite Française*

This article explores representations of Franco-German friendship through two complementary lenses: through the post-liberation trial dossier of a female collaborationist in southwestern France, and through *Dolce*, the second part of Irène Némirovsky's compelling novel, *Suite Française*. The primary aim is to illuminate and contrast the roles that historical and fictional narratives play in our interpretations and understanding of Franco-German relations in occupied France. The article also assesses the ethnographic value of the novelist's notes that accompanied the unfinished manuscript of *Suite Française*. Located at the intersections of history, ethnography, and literature, the article examines the ways in which the methods of the historian and the ethnographer, on the one hand, and the novelist, on the other, overlap and differ.

Keywords: collaborationism, German Occupation, post-liberation trials, *Suite Française*, historical anthropology



Kenneth Mouré, Black Market Fictions: *Au bon beurre*, *La traversée de Paris*, and the Black Market in France

Jean Dutourd's novel *Au bon beurre* (1952) and Claude Autant-Lara's film *La Traversée de Paris* (1956) offer the best-known depictions of black market activity in Occupied France, appreciated by audiences who had lived through the war. This article looks at the black market stories they tell and their reception in France in the 1950s. It focuses on the fictional stories in relation to the historical experience from which they were drawn, and analyzes their selective representation of behaviors and the key relationships on which black market activity relied. Both works capture widely shared Occupation experiences of food shortages and exploitation. They highlight popular resentment of profiteers, the ability of the wealthy to escape wartime hardship and postwar justice, and the corruption and incompetence of the state in managing shortages and postwar purges.

Keywords: black market, collaboration, Occupation, profiteering, rationing

Brett Bowles, Résistance oblige? Historiography, Memory, and the Evolution of *Le Silence de la mer*, 1942–2012

Among the best-selling French literary works of the twentieth century, Vercors' novella has enjoyed an exceptionally rich afterlife thanks to numerous print editions as well as several influential stage and screen adaptations: Jean-Pierre Melville's 1947 feature film, Jean Mercure's 1949 play, Vercors' own 1978 theatrical rendering, and a 2004 television movie written by Anne Giafferi and directed by Pierre Boutron. Taking a comparative approach that weighs the aesthetic and ideological priorities of these authors and directors alongside shifts in historiography and French political culture, this article traces the evolution of *Le Silence de la mer* as a contested site of national memory and a means of negotiating the ethically-charged concepts of collaboration and resistance.

Keywords: Vercors, Collaboration, World War II, Jean-Pierre Melville, Jean Mercure

Jeffrey Mehlman, The Joinovici Affair: The Stavisky of the Fourth Republic

This essay follows the strange career in France of the Bessarabian Jew, Joseph Joinovici, before, during, and after the Second World War. A corrupt but exceedingly talented dealer in scrap metal before the war, he was officially branded an "economically worthwhile Jew" by the occupying forces and quickly amassed a considerable fortune. He was also a leading associate of the French Gestapo leaders Henri Lafont and Pierre Bony, but appears to have devoted a considerable portion of his wealth to bribing German officials into releasing a number of potential victims. A credible claim has been made that he was a principal financier of the insurrection that issued in the Liberation

of Paris. Particular attention is paid to the claim by the philosopher Pierre Boutang that the eccentric Joinovici was the exemplary citizen of France's Fourth Republic.

Keywords: Joseph Joinovici, Alfred Dreyfus, Pierre Boutang, Georges Bernanos, Alexandre Stavisky

Annie Jouan-Westlund, *Ça commence aujourd'hui, Être et avoir et Entre les murs*: Une vision diffractée de l'école républicaine française [in French]

The essay is a detailed cinematic and cultural analysis of *Ça commence aujourd'hui* by Bertrand Tavernier (1999), *Être et Avoir* by Nicolas Philibert (2003) and *Entre les Murs* by Laurent Cantet (2008). It contrasts the cinematic depictions of three French schools in rural, urban, and suburban France. Through a comparison of locations, pedagogy, and student expectation, the essay shows a contrasted and diffracted vision of the French educational system portrayed in the films. In the context of school reforms debated in France, the essay points out the variety and complexity of different schools visualized through the cinematic lens, and it questions the French Republic's ability to successfully fulfill its mission to educate young citizens of various social, racial, and cultural backgrounds.

Keywords: Bertrand Tavernier, Nicolas Philibert, Laurent Cantet, école française