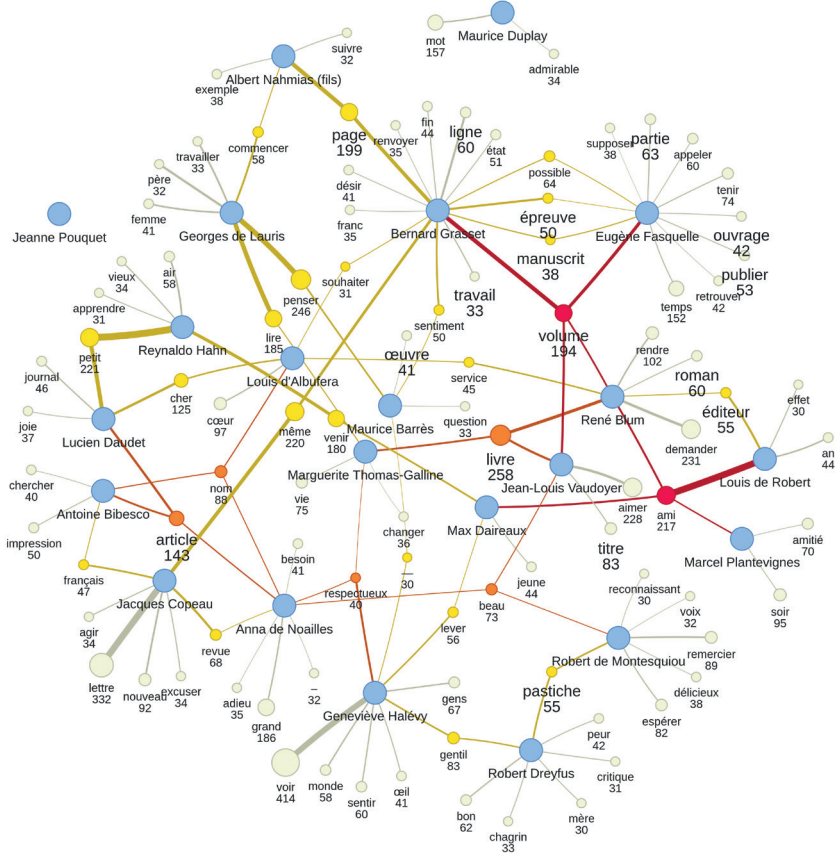# International Conference
The Work of Letters
Around the digital edition of Proust's correspondence

September 25–27, 2024, Paris

Organizing committee: Julie André, Françoise Leriche and Nathalie Mauriac Dyer

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Program

From letters to manuscripts, this colloquium, which marks the completion of the ANR Corr-Proust 1907-1914 project, is devoted to examining the role of epistolary writing in the creative process as well as reflecting on digital editions of correspondences and the possibilities offered by text mining tools.

Often considered solely through the prism of biography, letters play a crucial role in literary creation, whether they initiate fictional writing, reflect the hesitations of the writer and their editorial troubles, or bear witness to their multiple documentary sources. Updating Philip Kolb's monumental paper edition of Proust's letters, the Corr-Proust project aims not only to produce a new, enriched digital edition of the correspondence of Marcel Proust, but also to highlight the creative dimension of epistolary writing.

By fostering a dialogue among editors of correspondences of major writers and artists from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, this colloquium will help define the various functions of epistolary writing in the creative process as well as provide an overview of editorial choices and ongoing reflections in the field of digital editions of correspondences.

Wednesday, September 25

Fondation Robert de Sorbon – CCFS, 16-22, rue de Martignac, 75007 Paris

Correspondence and the creative process

1:15 pm Welcome

1:45 pm Opening remarks by Olivier Bertrand et Isabelle Schaffner
(*International Center for French language and culture, IP Paris*)

2:00 pm Presentation of *Corr-Proust*, the digital edition of Marcel Proust's correspondence, by the project partners
(*Litt&Arts, ITEM, LinX, Université de l'Illinois*)
Françoise Leriche, François Proulx, Caroline Szylowicz, Nathalie Mauriac Dyer, Julie André, Elisabeth Greslou, Anne Garcia-Fernandez
Corr-Proust: corrproust.org/

3:00 pm *"Proust's correspondence and his creative process"*
Françoise Leriche (*Université Grenoble-Alpes*)

4:00 pm Break

4:30 pm Roundtable:
Writers' correspondence and their creative process
Moderator: Jean-Yves Tadié (*Sorbonne Université*)
Jean-Marc Hovasse (*Sorbonne Université*): Hugo; Bertrand Marchal (*Sorbonne Université*): Mallarmé; Pierre Masson (*Université de Nantes*): Gide and Alain Pagès (*Sorbonne Nouvelle*): Zola

Thursday, September 26

École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, amphithéâtre Cauchy

Digital editions of correspondences: standards and uses

9:30 am   Welcome

9:45 am   Opening remarks by Dominique Rossin (Provost, École Polytechnique), and Michaël Foessel (Director, LinX)

10:00 am   Pioneering projects in digital edition of correspondences: *corpora*, editorial choices and stakes
Moderator: François Proulx (*University of Illinois*)

- Catherine Volpilhac-Auger (*ENS Lyon*)
  "Montesquieu's letters, between digital objects and complete works"
  montesquieu.huma-num.fr/editions/ecrits-prives/correspondance/presentation
- Yvan Leclerc (*Université de Rouen Normandie*)
  "The digital edition of Flaubert's correspondence: choices and constraints"
  flaubert.univ-rouen.fr/correspondance/correspondance/
- Gwenaëlle Sifferlen (*Université de Bourgogne*)
  "22,000 letters on one website: the scholarly digital edition of Juliette Drouet's epistolary diary to Victor Hugo"
  juliettedrouet.org/lettres/
- Nienke Bakker and Leo Jansen (*Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam*)
  "The Van Gogh Letters Project" – vangoghletters.org/vg/

12:30 pm   Lunch

2:00 pm   Innovations of the *Corr-Proust* edition: encoding, networking, and exploration of textual and genetic data
Moderator: Françoise Leriche (*Université Grenoble-Alpes*)

Julie André (*École Polytechnique*), Chiara Carraro (*ITEM*), Yuri Cerqueira dos Anjos (*Université Victoria de Wellington, NZ*), Solène Lépinay (*Litt&Arts*), Ludovico Monaci (*Université de Padoue*) and Théo Roulet (*Litt&Arts*) – corrpoust.org/

3:30 pm   Coffee break

4:00 pm   Roundtable (École Polytechnique Library):
Adventures in Proust's epistolary archives
Moderator: Jérôme Bastianelli (*Société des Amis de Marcel Proust*)

Pedro Corrêa do Lago (*collector*), Guillaume Fau (*Département des Manuscrits, BnF*), Jacques Letertre (*Société des Hôtels littéraires*), Caroline Szylowicz (*Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Illinois*) and Jean-Claude Vrain (*rare book and manuscript dealer*)

Friday, September 27

École normale supérieure, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris, salle des Actes

Digital tools for exploring correspondences

9:00 am Welcome

9:30 am Digital editions of correspondences and data mining
Moderator: Anne Garcia-Fernandez (*Litt&Arts*)

- Iris Fabry (*Université Grenoble-Alpes*)
"Letters and corpus linguistics: *PhraseoCorr* and its associated
mining tool, the Lexicoscope"

- Jean-Sébastien Macke (*ITEM-CNRS*)
*"Data visualization and mining in Emile Zola's sent and received
letters"*
eman-archives.org/CorrespondanceZola/

- Fatiha Idmhand (*Université de Poitiers et ITEM-CNRS*)
"Pablo Picasso through his letters"
translitterae.psl.eu/picasso-lettres/

11:00 am Coffee break

11:15 am Visualizations and data mining in the *Corr-Proust* project
Moderator: Fatiha Idmhand (*Université de Poitiers et ITEM-CNRS*)

- Arnaud Bey (*Litt&Arts*), Serena Crespi (*Litt&Arts*),
Anne Garcia-Fernandez (*Litt&Arts*)
"Representing and analyzing a multi-facetted object of study: the
letter"

- Ludovico Monaci (*Université de Padoue*), Théo Roulet (*Litt&Arts*)
"Data mining and literary creation: Corr-Proust 1907-1914, from
large scale to minute detail"

12:45 – 1:00 pm Conclusion: representing text genetics in the digital era