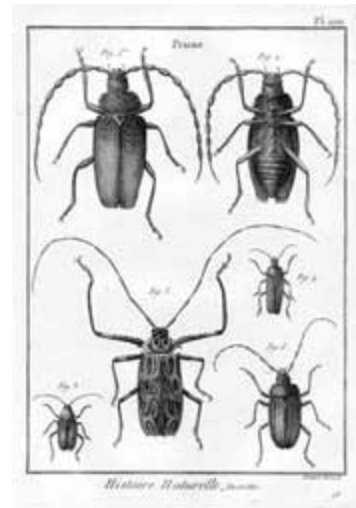


Cataloguing a Library in an Eighteenth-Century Château

How this came about

In 2005, my wife and I decided to spend a year in France. We were about to retire from full-time work and wanted to have a sabbatical before beginning freelance careers. We visited a high-school friend of Madeline's on the north coast of Brittany. Madeline's friend Christy introduced us to the Count de Carcaradec, who, while showing us around his château, mentioned that its impressive library had never been catalogued. Preparing a catalogue seemed like an enjoyable project for me, and our decision about where to spend our year was made. I worked on the catalogue from June 2006 through December 2007.



History of the collection

The château of Kérivon has a library of more than 4,300 volumes. The collection was in all likelihood started in the seventeenth century. The library contains more than 200 editions printed in the seventeenth century, making it all but certain that the manor house that preceded the current (1740) château had a small library.

The methodology for the catalogue

My catalogue lists all books at Kérivon printed before 1915. For this period, there are 1,733 editions comprising 4,317 volumes. An edition is often a single volume, but can include multiple volumes, as in a set of collected works. I included a few items of interest printed after 1914, such as books on the history and archeology of Brittany, but I made no attempt to comprehensively catalogue post-1914 items. The collection also has at least 298 unbound pamphlets and unbound issues of newspapers printed before 1915. The analysis that follows is limited to book editions printed from 1573 through 1914. The analysis excludes: 1) editions printed after 1914; 2) all nonprinted items such as scrapbooks, photo albums and handwritten notebooks; 3) approximately 125 textbooks; 4) approximately 150 devotional works of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; and 5) all unbound pamphlets and unbound issues of newspapers. Some 178 unbound book volumes from the first decades of the twentieth century were not catalogued individually but in lots. In addition to the printed catalogue, a digital catalogue was prepared using the database software Readerware.



Lacking expertise in French books, I relied heavily on the on-line catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) and other web-based catalogues. When sure that

I had the identical edition, I verified bibliographic information against the BNF's entry. I learned the French vocabulary for describing books and bindings by consulting booksellers' catalogues and reference works and talking to dealers and librarians. For each edition in my catalogue, I provided the title, author, publisher, place and date of publication, number of volumes in the edition, the size of the volumes, and a description of the binding and condition of the volume(s). Below is a sample entry.

Auteur : Soulés, François

Titre : Histoire des troubles de l'Amérique anglaise, écrite aux mémoires les plus authentiques.

Ville : Paris **Editeur :** Buisson **Date :** 1787

Description & Condition : 21.5 x 13.5 cm. 4 vols. Broché sous couverture de papier gris, 3 cartes dépliantes. Couvertures salies et parfois déchirées. Plus complet que l'édition de 1785; de valeur pour les cartes.

Emplacement : Armoire X, Planche 0

Analysis of editions printed from 1573 through 1914

The collection was analyzed by period, with the following results.

Period	Editions	Volumes	Leather-bound	Unbound	Publishers' hard binding	Publishers' soft binding	Unbound pamphlets & newspapers
16th century	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
1613-1700	227	275	274	1	0	0	0
1701-1788	617	2303	1580	573	0	0	80
1789-1815	104	279	77	202	0	0	28
1816-1914	783	1458	265	114	782	297	190
TOTAL	1733	4317	2198	890	782	297	298

Sixteenth Century

Two books in the collection date to the sixteenth century : a French translation of the history of the Roman wars (*Histoire des guerres romaines*) by the Greek historian Appian of Alexandria (c. 95 – c. 165), published in Paris in 1573 (missing its title page), and a work in Latin by Justus Lipsius (humanist of the Spanish Netherlands, 1547-1606), published in Leyden in 1590.

Seventeenth Century

For the period of 1613 through 1700, the Kérivon library holds 227 editions composed of 275 volumes. There are no editions from the period 1591 through 1612. The great French writers of the seventeenth century—Corneille, Molière, La Rochefoucauld, La Bruyère—are all represented, almost always in subsequent, rather than original, editions. There is also a 1657 Paris edition of the *Essays* of Montaigne. Among the seventeenth-century editions are several accounts of voyages: *Relation de la captivité du Sieur Moüette dans les royaumes de Fez et de Maroc* by Gabrielle Mouette (Paris, 1683) ; the original edition

(Paris, 1689) of *Journal du voyage fait à la mer du Sud avec les flibustiers de l'Amérique en 1684 et années suivantes*, by Raveneau de Lussan ; the first French translation of the Englishman Dampier's circumnavigation of the globe (*Nouveau voyage autour du monde*, two volumes, Amsterdam, 1698) ; the first French translation of the account of De Soto's expedition by the Gentleman of Elvas (*Histoire de la conquête de la Floride par les Espagnols sous Ferdinand de Soto*, Paris, 1685), and *Relation de l'Inquisition de Goa* by Charles Dellon (Paris, 1688). An interesting work on hunting is *La Vénerie royale, divisée en IV parties qui contiennent les chasses du cerf, du lièvre, du chevreuil, du sanglier, du loup et du renard* (Paris, 1665) by Robert de Salnove.

1701 – 1788

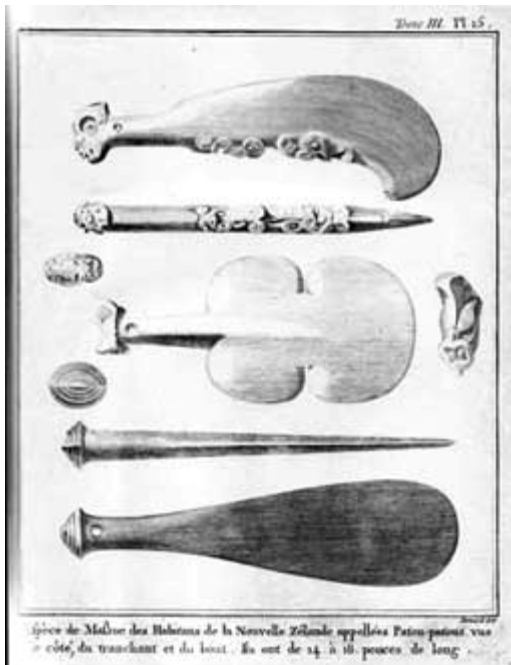
Throughout this period, the number of readers and published works in France increased. The Kérivon collection counts 617 editions numbering 2,303 volumes for this period.

Notable in this period is a set of the complete works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau in 38 volumes, *Oeuvres Complètes de J. J. Rousseau, nouvelle édition, classée par ordre de matières, et ornée de 90 gravures, avec Recueil de Plantes Coloriées*. This edition was started in 1788 by the Parisian publisher Poinçot. The most handsome of four editions of La Fontaine is *Fables choisies, mises en vers par Monsieur de La Fontaine*, in three volumes (Amsterdam, 1727-1728), illustrated with copperplate engravings. Other notable titles include a subsequent edition of Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* (*De l'Esprit des loix*, Geneva, 1750) ; the first translation into French of Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (*La Vie et les aventures de Robinson Crusoe*, Amsterdam, 1720) ; a medical treatise by Jean Adrien Helvétius, *Traité des maladies les plus fréquentes* (Paris, 1739) ; and a history of the crusade against the Cathars in France, *Histoire des croisades contre les Albigeois*, by Jean-Baptiste Langlois (Paris, 1703).

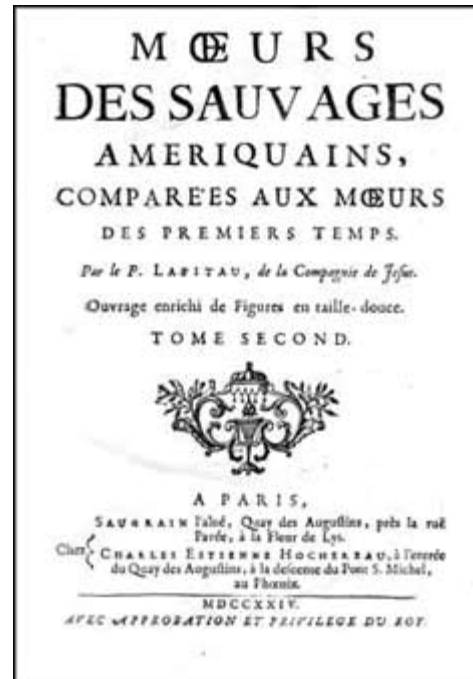


The French royal printer began the publication of the great *Natural History* of Georges-Louis Leclerc Buffon in 1749. The Kérivon collection contains some 51 volumes of Buffon, in various editions, bound and unbound, printed between 1769 and 1787.

European expansion and exploration continued apace in the eighteenth century, and accounts of voyages of discovery were very popular. Among such works at Kérivon are *Voyage du sieur Paul Lucas, fait en 1714 par ordre de Louis XIV, dans la Turquie, l'Asie, Sourie, Palestine, Haute et Basse Egypte* (Rouen, 1724) ; the second edition of *Voyage autour du monde, fait dans les années 1740, 41, 42, 43 et 44, par George Anson* ; Bougainville's *Voyage autour du monde par la frégate du roi la Boudeuse et la flûte L'Etoile* (Paris, 1772) ; Hawkesworth's *Relation des voyages entrepris par ordre de Sa Majesté Britannique et successivement exécutés par le commodore Byron, le capitaine Carteret, le capitaine Wallis et le capitaine Cook* (Paris, 1774), including four volumes of text and the volume of maps and engravings (two below from Cook's New Zealand stop) ; and *Nouveau voyage à la mer de sud, commencé sous les ordres de M. Marion* by Julien Marie Crozet (Paris, 1783). In addition, there are 64 volumes of *l'Histoire générale des voyages, ou Nouvelle Collection de toutes les relations de voyages par mer et par terre*, Rousselot de Surgy, editor (Paris, 1749-1761).



A work with considerable importance for the history of the discipline of ethnography is *Moeurs des sauvages américains comparées aux mœurs des premiers temps* (Paris, 1724) by Joseph-François Lafitau (1681-1746). Lafitau spent several years among the Iroquois of Canada.



An ancestor of the current count was an officer in the fleet of Admiral de Grasse, fighting alongside the Americans in their war for independence from Great Britain. For this reason, Kérivon holds several works concerning the American Revolution : *Révolution de l'Amérique* (London, 1781) ; *Extrait du Journal d'un officier de la marine de l'escadre de Monsieur le comte D'Estaing* (Amsterdam, 1782) ; *Histoire de la dernière guerre, entre la Grande-Bretagne, et les Etats-Unis de l'Amérique, la France, l'Espagne et la Hollande* (Paris, 1787) ; and *Histoire des troubles de l'Amérique anglaise, écrite sur les mémoires les plus authentiques* (Paris, 1787).

Kérivon has 11 unbound pamphlets concerning the affair of the queen's diamond necklace, a scandal that rocked the French monarchy in 1785-1786. This was an elaborate scam involving the most sumptuous necklace in Europe, Marie Antoinette, forged letters, a high-ranking cardinal who was the king's chaplain, a prostitute masquerading as the queen, and much, much more. The pamphlets set out the positions of various parties implicated in the scandal, such as Cardinal Rohan. Although Marie Antoinette seems to have been an innocent dupe in the affair, the scandal further tarnished her image.



The greatest encyclopedia of the eighteenth century, the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, intended to improve upon the encyclopedia of Diderot and d'Alembert, was started in 1782 by the Parisian publisher Charles Joseph Panckoucke. The *Encyclopédie Méthodique* was sold by subscription, and the Carcardec family maintained theirs

for almost 30 years. The latest volumes at Kérivon bear the date of 1810. The widow of Panckoucke's son-in-law finally declared the project completed in 1832. Kérivon's collection included 150 volumes, three-quarters of the total number published.

In 1788 and early 1789, in anticipation of the meeting of the Estates General announced by King Louis XVI for May 1789, declarations, remonstrances, and requests directed to the king and the notables of the realm proliferated. Among those at Kérivon are : *Très-humbles et très-respectueuses remonstrances... qui présentent au roi... les gens tenant la cour de Parlement de Bretagne* ; *Déclaration des notables de Saint-Brieuc fait 31 Décembre 1788* ; *Supplique que présente au roi le Tiers-Etat de la ville de Machecoul*. A landmark in the history of French feminism is the *Requête des dames, pour leur admission aux Etats-Généraux; à messieurs composans l'assemblée des notables (Ladies' Request for Admission to the Estates General)* of 1788.

1789 – 1815

The upheavals of this period of revolution and war made the publication and distribution of books very difficult. While Kérivon has 138 editions printed in the 1780s, the last decade of the old regime, there are just 28 from the 1790s. It is quite revealing that three-quarters of the volumes from this 27-year period (202 of 279) were never bound. Several works touch on the events of the Revolution: *Précis historique de la vie, des crimes et du supplice de Robespierre et de ses principaux complices* (Paris, 1797) ; *Défense des émigrés français adressée au peuple français* (Paris, 1797) ; *Le dix-huitième brumaire, ou Tableau des événemens qui ont amené cette journée* (Paris, 1799). The first 36 decrees of the Estates General are also in the collection, bound in leather.

The collection contains several pamphlets from 1814 and 1815 denouncing Napoleon Bonaparte and supporting the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy, for example : *Conspiration de Buonaparte contre Louis XVIII* ; *L'Ogre de Corse, histoire véritable et merveilleuse* ; *Le Règne de Louis XVIII, comparé à la dictature de Napoléon*. Although few, there are some works from this period that are wholly unconnected with the political situation in France. Among these are the first French translation of the English naturalist William Bartram's travels in Southeastern America, *Voyage dans les parties sud de l'Amérique septentrionale* (Paris, 1799) and a two-volume work on making brandy and liqueurs, *L'Art du distillateur contenant tous les procédés* by Dubuisson (Paris, 1803).



1816 – 1914

The making of books changed more in this period than it had in the first 350 years following Gutenberg. The mechanization of printing presses began in the 1820s. From the 1860s, paper mass-produced from wood pulp rapidly replaced handmade rag paper. More and more frequently in the nineteenth century, full-leather bindings were replaced by less expensive half-leather bindings, often supplied by the publisher. Traditionally,

binding had been commissioned by the purchaser of a book. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, publishers adopted the practice of binding books in percaline or other kinds of cloth over cardboard covers. For high-end editions, the front covers were lavishly decorated in color, as was the case with the many editions of the novels of Jules



Verne published by Hetzel. The Kérivon library boasts 28 Verne titles in Hetzel editions.

Giving evidence of the presence of François de Carcaradec (1781-1850) in the French chamber of deputies are several lists of representatives from the 1820s (*Listes par ordre alphabétique de messieurs les membres de la chambre des députés*). Also present are official reports, such as one on

lighthouses of 1825, *Rapport concernant l'exposition du système adopté par la Commission des phares pour éclairer les côtes de France* (Paris).

Books on horses, horse racing, coaching, and hunting are abundant in this period, including several in English. Some titles are: L. Vallet, *Le Chic à cheval, histoire pittoresque de l'équitation* (Paris, 1891); William Pollock, *Wild Sport of Burma and Assam* (1900); *Les Courses en France et à l'étranger* (London, circa 1900); Paul Niediek, *Mes chasses dans les cinq parties du monde* (Paris, 1907). A volume of great interest is *The Reunion Road Club Rules and Regulations* (Paris, 1893). This club united enthusiasts of coaching from three countries: France, England and the United States. Among the members were Anatole de Carcaradec, the count de Bourge and the viscount de la Rouchefoucauld in France and William K. Vanderbilt, J. R. Roosevelt, and O. P. H. Belmont in the United States.

The format of the catalogue

The printed version of the catalogue has two parts : a catalogue by subject and a shelf list. The catalogue by subject employs about 100 categories (history, literature, natural history/science, geography/voyages, etc.). Within each category, titles are listed by author. This portion of the catalogue provides full bibliographic information on each edition. The shelf list records the editions as they are placed on the shelves at Kérivon and gives only author, title, and date of publication. The two catalogues may be used in tandem. If one finds an edition of interest in the subject listing, the shelf list will allow one to locate the edition in relation to its neighbors on a particular shelf.

Robert Blythe
December 2007