

# Contents

<i>List of symbols</i>	vii
<i>List of figures</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>I The language of the earliest texts (AD 842 to the end of the 11th century)</b>	15
1 The Strasbourg Oaths (842): the earliest vernacular text	16
2 The <i>Sequence of Saint Eulalia</i> (c. 880–82)	31
3 Extract from the Bilingual Sermon on Jonah (c. 937–52)	40
4 <i>La Vie de Saint Alexis</i> (mid-11th century)	46
<b>II The ‘heyday’ of Old French (French in the 12th and 13th centuries)</b>	58
5 <i>La Chanson de Roland</i> (early 12th century)	60
6 <i>Le Chevalier de la charrette</i> (c. 1177–81)	68
7 <i>Le Jeu de saint Nicolas</i> (c. 1200)	72
8 The Old French Bible (first half of the 13th century)	74
9 Geoffroy de Villehardouin, <i>The Conquest of Constantinople</i> (early 13th century)	80
10 The <i>Lettre d’Hippocrate</i> (mid-13th century)	83
11 <i>Donation testamentaire</i> (1239)	88
12 <i>Lettre de Jean Sarrasin à Nicolas Arrode</i> (23 June 1249)	95
<b>III Middle French (French in the 14th and 15th centuries)</b>	98
13 <i>Cent nouvelles nouvelles</i> (mid-15th century)	100
14 Alain Chartier, <i>Le Quadrilogue invectif</i> (1422)	108
15 <i>Le Testament Villon</i> (mid-15th century)	114
16 <i>La Farce de Maître Pathelin</i> (mid-15th century)	119
17 <i>Le Menagier de Paris</i> (end of the 14th century)	123
18 Land sale, 23 May 1380	128
19 Nicolas Chuquet, <i>Le Triparty en la science des nombres</i> (late 15th century)	132
20 <i>La Manière de langage</i> (end of the 14th century)	136

<b>IV Renaissance French (French in the 16th century)</b>	140
21 François Rabelais, <i>Gargantua</i> (1534)	142
22 Michel de Montaigne, <i>Essais</i> (1588)	149
23 Jean Calvin, <i>Institution de la religion chrestienne</i> (1541)	153
24 Robert Olivétan's translation of the Bible (1535)	157
25 Ambroise Paré, <i>La Methode de traicter les playes faictes par hacquebutes et aultres bastons à feu</i> (1545)	160
26 André Thevet, <i>Les Singularitez de la France Antarctique</i> (1557/8)	167
27 Louis Meigret, <i>Le Trètté de la grammère françoëze</i> (1550)	171
<b>V Classical and Neo-Classical French (French in the 17th and 18th centuries up to the Revolution)</b>	178
28 Claude Favre de Vaugelas, <i>Remarques sur la langue françoise</i> (1647)	180
29 François de Sales, <i>Introduction à la vie dévôte</i> (early 17th century)	188
30 Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> (1759)	193
31 Pierre-Ambroise-François Choderlos de Laclos, <i>Les Liaisons dangereuses</i> (1782)	198
32 Jean Racine, <i>Britannicus</i> (1669)	204
33 <i>Mercure de France</i> (1732)	207
34 Victor Riqueti, marquis de Mirabeau and François Quesnay, <i>Philosophie rurale ou économie générale et politique de l'agriculture</i> (1763/4)	212
35 Jean Héroard's record of the Dauphin's speech (early 17th century)	216
36 French in the world: an early example of Haitian Creole (mid-18th century)	222
<b>VI Modern French (From the Revolution to the present day)</b>	229
37 Michel Tournier, <i>Gaspard, Melchior &amp; Balthazar</i> (1980)	232
38 Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i> (1856/7)	238
39 Robert Desnos, <i>Langage cuit</i> (1923)	242
40 <i>Le Monde</i> (13.4.1961): Gagarin in space	244
41 <i>Annales de l'Institut Pasteur. Microbiologie</i> (1986)	248
42 Decree of the National Assembly, 20 July 1790	252
43 Jacques Cellard, <i>Chroniques de langage</i> (1972)	255
44 Regional French: Spoken Midi French	260
45 Antonine Maïllet, <i>La Sagouine</i> (1971)	267
<i>Appendix I: Summary of main linguistic features</i>	274
<i>Appendix II: Glossary of selected technical terms and guide to the sounds of Modern French</i>	288
<i>Appendix III: Suggestions for further reading</i>	292
<i>References</i>	295