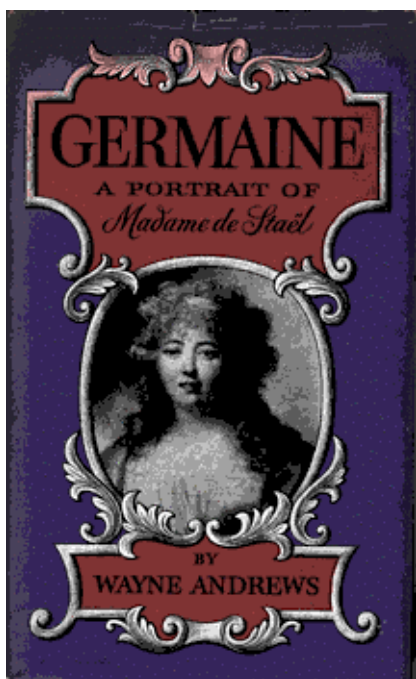


Madame de Staël Collection

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"The more I see of men the more I like dogs," is one of Madame de Staël's oft-quoted epigrams. During her lifetime, Staël's words were powerful enough to have her banned from her home country. Napoleon was so upset by her praise for German culture in *De l'Allemagne* that in 1810 he exiled Staël from France.

Born Anne Louise Germaine Necker, Staël grew up in a household steeped in intellectual activity and political awareness. Her mother, Suzanne Curchod, presided over a famous literary salon in the family home, and her father, Jacques Necker, was a respected French politician. Unhappy with her arranged marriage to Swedish ambassador Baron Eric Magnus de Staël-Holstein in 1786, Staël had numerous love affairs. Her two novels relate to her affair with writer Benjamin Constant.

Staël established her own salon, which attracted the liberal aristocracy, prior to the French Revolution. Although initially sympathetic to the cause, she escaped Paris after turning away from the revolutionary ideals. Following her return to Paris in 1795, she reestablished her salon, which espoused anti-Napoleon sentiments. Regarding her influence as a threat, Napoleon banned her from Paris. Staël moved to Coppet, near Lake Geneva, Switzerland, where once again intellectuals gathered at her home. After Napoleon's abdication, Staël returned to Paris, where she lived until her death in 1817.

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Staël's major works include *De l'influence des passions sur le bonheur des individus et des nations*, *De la littérature considérée dans ses rapports avec les institutions sociales*, *De l'Allemagne*, and the novels *Delphine* and *Corinne ou l'Italie*.

The collection, donated by Esther A. Renfrew Paddock, contains materials by and about Madame de Staël. Some items are in French. Materials are cataloged in the library's on-line catalog and may be found by searching on the following form of Staël's name as both author and subject: Staël, Madame de (Anne-Louise-Germaine), 1766-1817.