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INDEX

L’Abeille (The Bee), 20
L’Action Féministe (Feminist Action), 20, 30
Affaire Caillaux, 175
Affaire Humbert, 175–76
Affaire Steinheil, 175
agrégation exam, 26, 82
Albertini, Pierre, 16–17, 63
André Cornélis, 55
Angenot, Marc, 55
Angestelltenroman, 11
antifeminism, post–World War I emergence of, 214–17
apprenticeship: Barrès’s with Bourget, 61; in Chambige affair, 55; in Dames du Palais 180, 195; in educational development novels, 47, 49–50; in women writers novels, 152; in Zola, 10
archaeologist: in La Bachelière, 72n.29, 128, 130, 133; in Les Cervelines, 72n.29; in La Conquête de Jérusalem, 28, 71–74; in L’Immoraliste, 28, 68; art, in Belle Epoque era, 3–4. See also Orientalist
artist: as self-sufficient women, 12; definition of elite vs. popular, 153–54n.4; freedom of, 163; in Zola, 10; lawyer seen as, 184, 195–97; popular, 154, 156; success of, 151, 153–55, 157; suffering of, 156. See also Künstlerroman
L’Assommoir, 10
Au Bonheur des dames, 10
Auclert, Hubertine, 4
audience: impact on writer’s career, 152–53, 163; impact on writer’s personal decisions, 172–73; in Cervelines, 153; in La Rebelle, 159, 162; in La Vagabonde, 156–59; lawyer’s effect on, 176, 184, 188, 197; role in berufsroman of, 152–53
Auerbach, Nina, 86–87, 183
auscultation, 124, 136
L’Avenir de nos filles (The Future of Our Daughters), 26
L’Avocate (The Woman Lawyer), 36–37
Babin, Marcelle, 8, 38, 114, 141–47, 219
baccalauréat diploma: exams for, 82; Napoléon’s creation of, 32; for women, 25–26, 31
La Bachelière (The Female Graduate), 8, 72n.29; “brainy woman” image in, 114; class politics in, 46; plot summary of, 223; as quest narrative, 128–34
Bakhtin, M. M., 46, 79–80
Balzac, Honoré de, 151
Barjau, Madame A. Philip de, 24
Barney, Natalie, 2
Barrès, Maurice, 44, 46–48, 50, 61–67, 215
Bartkowski, Frances, 87n.9
Béatrix, 15
Beauvoir, Simone de, 150, 206n.4, 214–15, 216n.12
Becquerel, Henri, 113
Bel Ami, 151–52
Belle Epoque literature: Beauvoir’s dismissal of, 215; definitions of, 1–2; legacy of, 40–41; male-centered novels in, 48–49, 70–77; professionalization of women in, 33–41; stereotypes in, 5
Les Belles Images, 216n.12
Bentzon, Thérèse, 45
Bertaut, Jules, 22–23
Bertheaume, Marthe, 207–10, 212–13
berufsroman (professional development novel): examples of, 48; legacy of, 40–41; literary, social, and political history and, 7; male authors of, 41, 70–77; sources for, 47–48; style and characteristics of, 11; terminology of, 1; women writer protagonists in, 151–53. See also careers for educated women; professional development narratives
bildungsroman: evolution of, 1; historical origins of, 45–47; intellectual figure in, 43; *Les Déracinés* as example of, 62–67; post–World War I period and decline of, 213–17; professional development as theme of, 54, 67–77, 216–17; women lawyers and, 179–85; women scientists and, 114–15

Blackwell, Elizabeth, 11n.15
Bonvoisin, S. M., 19
Bourdieu, Pierre, 153n.4, 156, 160
bourgeois values: in Colette’s novels, 90–111; in *Les Dames du Palais*, 188–202; in post–World War I fiction, 205–7; professionalization of women and, 33–41, 54, 153–63; self-sufficient protagonists and, 163–73; women criminals and, 175–76; women scientists as threat to, 115–17
Bourget, Paul, 44, 47–50, 54–61; Barrès and, 61–67; Beauvoir’s dismissal of, 215
Branzac, Paule, 24
Brès, Gibelin, 37n.34
brevet, exams for, 82
Brombert, Victor, 43
Caillaux, Henriette, 175–76
Calmette, Gaston, 175–76
Camille Sée Decree, 16
*capés* diploma, exams for, 82
Carles, Emilie, 30
*Carnets d’une infirmière* (*Notes of a Nurse*), 203–4
“Le Cas de conscience d’une avocate,” 177n.5
Catholic Courage, 39n.37
Catholic Church: education for women criticized by, 23; in *La Conquête de Jérusalem*, 73–77; Third Republic and, 16, 55
cerveline. See brainy woman
*Les Cervelines* (*The Brainy Women*), 8, 21, 38, 72n.29; class politics in, 153–63; family life portrayed in, 189–90; historical influences on, 113–14, 116; medical profession in, 121–34; plot summary of, 223–24; as romance narrative, 118–21; scientific careers in, 125–26; self-sufficient protagonist in, 170–73, 195–98; woman writer as protagonist in, 151–56
*La Chaîne des dames* (*The Chain of Women*), 205
Chambige, Henri, 55–57, 61
Chauvin, Jeanne, 35
Chéri, 205
Clarétie, Léo, 23
Clark, Linda, 29, 89
class politics: in *berufsroman*, 60n.14; in *bildungsroman*, 46; cultural production and, 153–66; in educational novels, 26–28, 49–54, 89–111; in *La Vagabonde*, 156–63; in *Les Cervelines*, 153–56; professionalization of women and, 33–41; teacher training schools and, 28–31; in Tinayre’s fiction, 159–63; women criminals and, 175–76
*Claudine à l’école* (*Claudine at School*), 8, 13, 25, 30, 219; Beauvoir’s comments on, 215; plot summary of, 224; popular success of, 79–80
INDEX 241

Colette (Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette), 22
coeeducational systems, proposals for, 25
Colette, biographical sketch of, 219;
class politics in writing of, 156–63;
educational themes in novels of, 25, 29–30, 80–111; education of, 26; literary types used by, 22–23; magazine writing by, 20; post–World War I writings of, 205; self-sufficient protagonists in fiction of, 168–73; woman writer protagonists in fiction of, 151–53; women writers in work of, 21; World War I writings of, 203
Commune, education policies and, 15–16
Commune, in Belle Epoque literature, 11–12; in educational novels, 86–111; women lawyers Les Dames du Palais, 178–85
Compain, Louise-Marie, 8, 63n.20, 80; biographical sketch of, 220; conformity in fiction of, 149–50; educational novels of, 26, 31, 99–111
La Conquête de Jérusalem (The Conquest of Jerusalem), 48, 69–70, 75
counter-public position: definition of, 108; heroines located in, 108–10
Country Doctor, A, 111n.15
Crime et suicide passionnels (Suicide and Crimes of Passion), 52
criminal acts: by bourgeois women, 175–76; in La Conquête de Jérusalem, 75; in L’Immoraliste, 69–77; in professional development novels, 51–54
La Criminalité féminine (Feminine Criminality), 51–52
Cubists, 4
cultural production: by self-sufficient protagonists, 170–73; by women writers, 153–63
Curie, Eve, 117n.5, 121n.11
Curie, Marie, 113–14, 117n.5, 130n.26, 134, 150, 177; biographies of, 121n.11
Curie, Pierre, 113–14, 117n.5, 121n.11
Les Dames du Palais (Ladies of the Court), 8, 35, 37; brainy woman motif in, 186–95; plot summary of, 224–25; post–World War I misogyny contrasted with, 214; as professional development narrative, 114, 177–202; self-sufficient protagonists in, 195–202; women lawyers in, 177–202
Dans le jardin du féminisme (In the Garden of Feminism), 205
Daudet, Alphonse, 215
Debussy, Claude, 4
“Débuts des femmes avocats” (“The Beginnings of Women Lawyers”), 36
Decadent movement, 2, 7
Delarue-Mardrus, Lucie, 7
department stores, women’s careers in, 29
diagnosis, 122, 124, 131, 136, 188
Dilthey, Wilhelm, 45
director: in Sévriennes, 94, 96, 98–99; of L’Ecole Normale de Sèvre, 24, 93; of home for unwed mothers in La Rebelle, 162; of hospital in Les Cervelines, 122, 124; of magazine in La Rebelle, 161; of private schools, 25, 39; of teacher training school in L’Un vers l’autre 31. See also teaching careers, educational development novels
Le Disciple (The Disciple), 47, 49–50, 54–61, 76–77
Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin-de-Siècle France, 5
Distinction, 153n.4
divorce: in Les Cervelines, 155, in Dames du Palais, 185, 188, 191–93, 195, 198; in La Vagabonde, 156, 158, 169; practice of divorce law, 35; women’s right to, 4
Le Docteur Germaine, 203–4
Le Docteur Pascal, 10
Docteur Pascal, 43
doctor. See also medical profession, professional development novels
Dr. Odile, 212–13
Dr. Breen’s Practice, 111n.15
Dr. Zay, 111n.15
domestic duties: balanced with work responsibilities in *Dames du Palais*, 189–90

domestic service: professionalization of women and, 39–41; women’s employment in, 26–28

domesticated workspaces: in *La Bachelière*; *Les Cervelines*; *Dames du Palais*, 190; *Princesses de sciences*

Dumur, Louis, 22

Duplessis, Rachel Blau, 122n.16

Duquesne, Jacques 39n.37

Durand, Marguerite, 5, 19

Duruy, Victor, 15–16, 91, 93

École de Médecine de Paris, women’s admittance into, 37

*L’Ecole, L’Eglise, et la République*, 1871–1914 (School, Church, and Republic), 16

*L’Ecole des dames (The School for Ladies)*, 24

École Normal Supérieure de Sèvres, 16, 26, 60n.14, 80, 113, 205

economics, in educational novels, 49–54

educational development novel: of Belle Époque era, 8, 12, 15–41, 59–61; coeducational system proposals, 25; in Colette’s novels, 89–111; critics of, 23; defined, 1; dreams and disappointments in, 79–111; examples of, 47–48; inspector system in, 102n.28; literary trends in, 22–23; narrative structure of, 49–54, 81–111; *Pharmacie* as example of, 142n.37; political and historical hypotheses for, 26; in post–World War I period, 205, 210–12; renunciation plot in, 199–202; scientific novels compared with, 115–21; teaching careers and, 28–31. See also secondary schools for girls; teaching careers

*Education sentimentale*, 43

Edwards-Pilliet, Blanche (Doctor), 114, 177, 208

*L’Égalité en marche (Equality on the March)*, 206–7

*Elise ou la vraie vie*, 216n.12

Elliott, Philip, 32–33, 39, 179

emergence, in bildungsroman, 46

*Emilie ou la jeune fille auteure*, 45

employment for women, in post–World War I period, 205–6

equality, in post–World War I women’s fiction, 209–17

*erziehungsroman*. See educational development novel

*L’Étape*, 49

Etcherelli, Claire, 216n.12

“*L’Eternelle Sacrifiée*” (“The Eternal Sacrificed Woman”), 25n.20

*Études de sociologie féminine: Parisiennes de ce temps (Studies in Feminine Sociology: Parisian Women of Today)*, 20, 28

Eugénie, Empress, 37

Europe, influence of Belle Époque in, 2–3

*L’Évolution féminine; ses résultats économiques (Feminine Evolution: Economic Results)*, 26

examination system in France, in women’s educational novels, 81–82, 103–11

Exposition Universelle, 3

Fallières (President), 30

Falloux law of 1850, 15

family relations: in post–World War I women’s fiction, 208–17; in *Princesses de sciences*, 134–47; self-sufficient women protagonists and, 168–73; women lawyers and role of, 181–85, 188–95; in women’s scientific novels, 118–21, 125–26. See also marriage; motherhood

Farrère, Claude, 215

Fauvists, 4

Favres, Jules, 177

Felski, Rita 108, 108n.34, 110

*Fémina* magazine, 19–20, 160

féminisme: Belle Époque literature and, 2–5, 7, 150–51; Catholic Church on threat of, 24; in post–World War I women’s writing, 204–7, 210–17; women lawyers in fiction and, 186–95

*féministe* (the feminist) as literary type, 22

*Feminist Novelists of the Belle Époque: Love as a Lifestyle*, 2, 7–8
“Femme intellectuelle au foyer, La”
(“Intellectual Woman at Home”), 149
La Femme dans les organisations ouvrières
(Woman in Workers Organizations), 26
La Femme (journal), 39
La Femme Nouvelle (The New Woman)
(journal), 20, 24.
Femmes d’aujourd’hui: enquête sur les nouvelles carrières féminines (Women of Today: A Study of the New Feminine Careers), 175n.1, 205

femmes nouvelles: in Belle Epoque literature, 11; in professional development novels, 53–54; in scientific novels, 120–21; Third Republic educational reforms and, 17–18. See also self-sufficient women

Femmes nouvelles (novel), 151n.3

Ferry, Jules, 16–17
Fèvre, Henry, 217
Le Figaro, 35, 176
fille du peuple (daughter of the people) as literary type, 22
Finch, Alison, 44–45
fin-de-siècle studies, Belle Epoque era and, 1–2, 5
Flaubert, Gustave, 43
Forbes, Jill, 1
Forgotten, Generation, The, 118n.7,
150n.2
Foucault, Michel, 38, 115
France: bildungsroman in, 1–2, 46; dismissal of Belle Epoque literature in, 215–16; educational reforms of, 15–16, 19–20, 28–31, 55, 63–67, 93–111; employment hierarchy in, 31–32; exam system in, 81–82, 103–11; gendered social positions in, 48–49; influence of Belle Epoque in, 2–5; twenty-first-century literature in, 216; women scientists in, 115–16. See also Third Republic (France)
France, Anatole, 44n.2
“free” professions (France), women’s absence from, 31–32
French Women’s Writing, 7
La Fronde (The Revolt), 19–20, 151n.3
Gatti de Gamand, Isabelle, 25
Gelfand, Toby, 115–16
Germinal, 10
Goldberg, Nancy Sloan, 6, 9, 150n.2, 203
Goncourt brothers, 215
La Grande parade des Sévriennes (The Great Parade of Sévres Women), 205
Gueydan, Berthe, 176
gynecology: in Princesses de sciences, 35; women’s specialization 39

Harlequin Romances, 118n.8
harassment: in Les Cervelines, 38; in Pharmacie, 38, 142, 144; in professional development novels 120; in L’Un vers l’autre, 104; of women students, 38
Harry, Myriam, 19n.19, 48, 67–77, 220
Hartman, Mary S., 175–76
Hause, Stephen, 4, 87n.11
headmistress: first contact with, 85–86; in Claudine à l’école, 82, 88–39; in L’Un vers l’autre 100–101, 103; in Sévriennes, 94. See also director
Heilbrun, Carolyn, 6n.13
Heister, Marion, in.1
Hirsch, Charles-Henri, 22–23
Histoire de la littérature féminine en France, 6
Holmes, Diana, 7–9, 118, 150–51
Hôtel de la Ligue de l’Enseignement (Hotel for the League of Education), 30
Howells, William Dean, 11n.15
Hue, Gustave, 36–37
Humbert, Thérèse, 175–76
Huzard, Auguste, 133n.30
Idylle en Bretagne, 219
Ils apprenaient la France (They Taught France), 64
L’Immoraliste (The Immoralist), 48–49, 67–77
Impressionists, 3–4
independent woman. See self-sufficient women
inspector: in Claudine à l’école, 88; in L’Un vers l’autre, 102; in Sévriennes, 98–99.
See also teaching careers, educational development novels

Institutrice (Woman Schoolteacher), 8, 31, 80–111, 225

intellectuals, in French literature, 43–44

intellektuelle (the intellectual girl) as literary type, 22

L’Intellectuelle mariée (The Intellectual Wife), 214

Internat (medical school entrance), 208

L’Interne, 207–10

jeune filles (young girls) as literary type, 22

Jewett, Sarah Orne, 11n.15

Journal d’une femme de chambre (Diary of a Chambermaid), 27–28

journalism: in Tinayre’s fiction, 159–63; women in, 19–22, 157

Jullian, Philippe, 5

Klejman, Laurence, 206–7

Klumpke, Augusta, 114n.3

Künstlerroman: defined, 1; principles of, 47; women protagonists in, 151n.3

Laïcité, 16

Lapauze, Jeanne, 26, 30

Larson, Magali, 33–35, 131n.38

See also legal profession, professional development novels

Lectures de la femme (Women’s Reading), 20

legal profession, women in: barriers to practice by, 36–41; in Belle Epoque fiction, 8, 12–13, 34–41, 177–202. See also Les Dames du Palais (Ladies of the Court)

Le Garrec, Evelyne, 21

Le Rouge et le noir, 43

Lesueur, Daniel (pseud.). See Lapauze, Jeanne

licence diploma, exams for, 82

L’Invitée, 216n.12

Lippmann, Gabriel, 113

literacy rates for French women: class politics and, 26–28; Third Republic educational reforms and, 17–19, 22–23

L’Un vers l’autre (One Toward the Other), 8

Le Lycée corrupteur (The Corrupting High School), 23

Lycéennes, 83–86

Madame Bovary, 38n.35

“Madame Sourdís,” 10

Mademoiselle Dax, 215

magazines and periodicals, for women, nineteenth-century popularity of, 18–23

Maignien, M., 19

La Maison de Claudine (Claudine’s House), 205

male protagonists, in educational development novels, 49–54, 67–77

Marbo, Camille, 149

Margadant, Jo Burr, 25–26, 94

marriage: post–World War I misogyny and, 214–17; in post–World War I women’s fiction, 207–17; in Princesses de sciences, 137–47; in professional development novels, 76–77; self-sufficient women and, 163–73; women lawyers and role of, 181–95; in women’s scientific novels, 118–21, 125–26; women writers’ discussion of, 149–50, 156–63

Martin, Benjamin F., 176

Martin du Gard, Roger, 44n.2

Martin-Fugier, Anne, 27

masculine elements, of women lawyer protagonists, 187–95

Maupassant, Guy de, 151–52, 215

medical profession: barriers to women in, 10n.15, 34–41; in Les Cervelines (The Brainy Women), 121–34; history in France of, 115–16; in post–World War I fiction, 207–10, 212–17; women’s entrance into, 114–15; in women’s science novels, 117–21; in World War I fiction, 203

Mémoires d’une jeune fille range (Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter), 214–15

mentor-disciple: comparison of in

Le Disciple and Les Déracinés, 61–62, 62n.17; in La Bachelière, 129, 130; in Les Cervelines 122, 127; in Claudine
Meyer, Paulette, 111n.15
Millan, Gordon, 1
Milland, Edmond, 35–36
Millerand, Alexandre, 3n.5
Milligan, Jennifer, 9, 119n.7, 150n.2, 205n.3
Mirbeau, Octave, 27–28
misogyny, post–World War I emergence of, 214–17
Modleski, Tania, 118n.8
moral and behavioral guidelines: negative effects of novels and, 52–54; Third Republic educational reforms and, 28–31
Moses, Claire, 4
murder, by women, 175–76

La Naissance de la clinique, 38n.35
La Naissance du jour (Break of Day), 205
Napoléon Bonaparte, educational reforms of, 32–33
Napoleonic Code, 181
nationalism: in Belle Epoque literature, 48; French educational reform and, 16–17, 64–67
Naturalist school, 55
newspapers: serial novels in, 18–20; women journalists and, 19–22. See also magazines and periodicals
Nobel Prize, for Marie Curie, 113–14

Novelles lettres à Françoise ou la jeune fille d’après-guerre (New Letters to Françoise, or the Postwar Young Girl), 206

obstetrics, 39
Orientalism: in Belle Epoque novels, 48, 68–77; in La Conquête de Jérusalem, 71–77; women writers, 72n.29
Orientalism, 68n.24
Orientalist: in La Conquête de Jérusalem, 71; female orientalists in La Bachelière and Les Cervelines 72n.29. See also archaeologist
Ozouf, Mona, 6n.13, 16, 63, 106n.33

Palais de l’Electricité, 3
“Paris-by-Night” motif, in Belle Epoque era, 5
Paris-province opposition, in nineteenth-century novels, 43
paternalism, towards women lawyers, 183–85
pathology: student of, in Les Cervelines, 121; pathologist in Les Cervelines, 122, 123. See also medical profession, scientific novels
patriotism, Third Republic educational reforms and, 16–17
Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870–1914, 17
pediatrics, 39
Pelletier, Madeleine (Dr.), 114n.3
Pernot, Denis, 47
Pert, Camille, 20–21, 36, 157
Le Petit Journal, 36
Pharmacienne (Woman Pharmacist), 8, 83; autobiographical elements in, 219; “brainy woman” image in, 114, 116; plot summary of, 225; as professional development narrative, 38, 141–47
Phelps, Elizabeth Stewart, 111n.15
pioneer: as character type, 11–13, 29; in La Bachelière, 129, 132; in Les Cervelines, 126; in Dames du Palais,
politics: in educational novels, Post-Impressionists, 3–4
post office, women’s careers in,
Prix Femina (Prix Vie Heureuse), 115–21
Prix Goncourt,
Proal, Louis,
professional development narratives: les professions libres,
Prix Goncourt, 48; exclusion of women from, 19
Prost, Marcel, 51–52
professional development narratives: in Belle Époque literature, 7–12; criminal acts in, 51–54; Les Dames du Palais as example of, 175–202; male protagonists in, 49–54, 70–77; Pharmacienne as, 141–47; post–World War I misogyny and, 214–17; second-generation professional heroines, 207–17; sociological and historical theories of, 31–41; women writers’ critique of, 149
Prix Femina (Prix Vie Heureuse), 19, 48, 134
Prix Goncourt, 48; exclusion of women from, 19
Prop, Michel, 140–43
professional development novels,
professor: of English language in L’Un vers l’autre, 103; of history in Les Cervelines, 126; of history in L’Immoraliste, 69; of law in Dames du Palais 179–80; of literature in L’Un vers l’autre, 100; of literature in Sévriennes, 97; of medicine in Pharmacienne 116,
professionals in
renunciation plot: in Les Déracinés, 17–20; self-sufficient protagonist in, 196; women scientists in, 116; women writers’ critique of, 149
post office
post–World War I fiction, 208–17; self-sufficient protagonists of women writers and, 170–73; women criminals and, 175–76; women lawyers and, 184–85, 188–95
professional development narratives: in Belle Époque literature, 7, 10; careerism in novels of, 20; criminal acts in, 51–54; Les Dames du Palais as example of, 175–202; male protagonists in, 49–54, 70–77; Pharmacienne as, 141–47; post–World War I misogyny and, 214–17; second-generation professional heroines, 207–17; sociological and historical theories of, 31–41; women writer protagonists in, 151–53; in World War I fiction, 204–5
Professionalizing Modern Medicine, 115–16
professional development novels, 51–52
professional development novels, 115–16
professional development novels; teaching careers
Proust, Marcel, 4
professional development narratives: in Belle Époque literature, 7; educational reforms and, 64–67
public sphere, women in: in Belle Époque novels, 76–77; in Les Cervelines (The Brainy Women), 125–34; in Les Dames du Palais, 180–85; in women’s science novels, 119–21
Réal, Gabrielle, 8–9, 60n.14; La Bachelière written by, 128–34; biographical sketch of, 220; brainy woman image in novels of, 58; careerism in novels of, 29; educational
Rachilde, 2, 7, 177
Radway, Janice, 118n.6
Rambosson, Jules, 28–29
Ravel, Maurice, 4
Reading the Romance, 118n.6
La Rebelle (The Woman Rebel), 8, 21; mentor relationships in, 152; plot summary of, 227; self-sufficient protagonist of, 163–73, 198; woman writer as protagonist in, 151–53
renunciation plot: in Les Dames du Palais, 199–202; in post–World War I women’s fiction, 208–17; in professional development novels, 54
Republic Mother image, in World War I fiction, 20
Reval, Gabrielle, 8–9, 60n.14; La Bachelière written by, 128–34; biographical sketch of, 220; brainy woman image in novels of, 58; careerism in novels of, 29; educational
novels of, 24, 26, 80–111, 114; scientific novels: in Belle Epoque era, 8, 12, 34–41, 113–47; in post–World War I period, 210–17; “supermom” phenomenon in, 121n.11; women protagonists in, 34–41, 113–47.

Rigby, Brian, 1

Rise of Professionalism, The, 33–34

Les Rites de passage, 81–82

Roberts, Mary Louise, 5, 130n.26

Rochefort, Florence, 206–7

Roger, Noëlle, 203–4, 220

role model: in Claudine à l’école, 92–93; in Dames du Palais, 180; in Institutrice, 105; in Princesses de sciences, 133, 140; in scientific novels, 115; in Le Science et l’amour, 209; in L’Un vers l’autre, 99–100, 101, 103; maternal in Sévraines, 97. See also mentor-disciple

romance narrative: in La Bachelière (The Female Graduate), 128–34; in Belle Epoque novels, 52–54; in Les Cervelines (The Brainy Women), 125–34; in post–World War I fiction, 209–17; in Princesses de sciences, 136–47; in science novels, 117–21; self-sufficient protagonists and, 152, 159, 163–73; women writers of, 12

roman d’apprentissage, defined, 1

Le Roman de l’énergie nationale (The Novel of National Energy), 61

Roussel, Nelly, 251n.20

Rousselot, Paul, 15–16

Said, Edward, 68

sales clerk: in department stores and post offices, 29n.26; in Zola, 10

Sand, George, 45

Satie, Eric, 4

Sauvy, Anne, 18 19n.9

schoolteacher: compared to other professions, 34; in La Bachelière 131–33; married couples, 105–7; Third Republic patriotism of, 63–64. See also teaching careers, educational development novels

science, women professionals in, 117n.5, 130n.26, 134, 150, 177

La Science et l’Amour, 210–12

Séverine, 5, 21, 177

Sévraines (Women of Sèvres), 8, 29, 60n.14, 65n.21; community of women in, 180–82; educational themes of, 80–111; plot summary of, 227–28

sexual harassment: in Pharmacie, 143–47; of professional women, 38–41

sexuality: in Colette’s novels, 88–111; of self-sufficient women protagonists, 165–73

Sido, 205

social aspirations of women: in Belle Epoque novels, 8; in educational novels, 49–54; professional development and, 32–41; women lawyers and, 181–85

sociological theory; in professional development novels, 57–61

Sociology of the Professions, 32–33

Sokel, Walter, 46–47, 57

Staël, Germaine de, 45

status socialization, professionalization of women, 32–41

Steinheil, Meg, 175–76

stereotypes, Belle Epoque images as, 5

students, women as, 8
Suffrage des Femmes organization, 4
suffrage movement, women criminals
and, 176
superintendent: in Claudine à l’école,
88; in L’Un vers l’autre, 101–2, 104.
See also inspector, teaching careers,
educational development novels
supervisor: of medicine in Pharmacienne,
116, 143; of pathology in Les
Cervelines, 122–24, 125. See also
director, professor
Suze, Esther de, 8, 31, 80, 84, 104–8, 220

Théorie des passions (Theory of the
Passions), 56
thesis novel (roman à thèse), 62n.16

Taine, Hippolyte, 55
teaching careers: training schools for,
15–16; for women, 28–31, 177; women
lawyers compared with, 179–85. See
also educational development novel;
secondary schools for girls
technical training, access for women to,
34–41
telephone operators, 28
Thelen, Myriam, 207–10, 212–13
La Théorie des passions (Theory of the
Passions), 56

Thiesse, Anne-Marie, 18–19, 64

Third Republic (France): educational
reforms of, 16–17, 28–31, 55, 63–67,
93–111; mothering guidelines of,
28–29; Orientalist writings in, 74n.31;
women’s lives in, 15

Tinayre, Marcelle, 7–9; Beauvoir’s
dismissal of, 215; biographical sketch of,
221; conformity in fiction of,
149–50; fiction of, 21; magazine
writing by, 20; self-sufficient women in
fiction of, 163–73; women writer
protagonists in fiction of, 151–53,
159–63; World War I writings of, 203

transformisme period, impact on women
of, 3
Le Travail de la femme (Women's Work), 20
typists, 28

Ulliac-Trémadeure, Sophie, 45
Une Soupe aux herbes sauvages (A Life of
Her Own), 30–31

University educations, access for women
to, 31
L’Un vers l’autre (One Toward the Other),
31, 63n.20, 80–111, 181; plot
summary of, 228

Utopianism, in educational novels, 90–111

Uzanne, Octave, 9, 21

Waelti-Walters, Jennifer, 2

Weber, Eugen, “Woman, Your Hour Is Sounding”:
Continuity and Change in French
Women’s Great War Fiction, 1914–1919,
150

Weiss, John H., 32

Wilde, Oscar, 70n.27

Winzige Katastrophen, 11n.1

“Woman, Your Hour Is Sounding”:
Continuity and Change in French
Women’s Great War Fiction, 1914–1919,
150n.2, 203

Women: in Belle Epoque literature, 8–14;
communities of, in Belle Epoque
literature, 11–12, 86–111, 178–85; as
criminals, 51–54, 175–76; education
reforms in France for, 15–41; in
legal profession, 34–41, 175–202;
as murderers, 175–76; Orientalism
and, 74–77; in science, 113–47; as
self-sufficient protagonists, 163–73,
195–202

Women’s unions: history of, 26;
newsletters for, 20
Women’s Writing in Nineteenth-Century France, 44–45

women writers: acceptability as career choice, 21; as Belle Epoque literature protagonists, 2n2. 4, 6, 8, 12–13, 21, 151–53; class politics and, 153–63; educational and class backgrounds of, 26n.22; history in French literature of, 151–52; in interwar period, 118n.7; in journalism, 19–22, 157; literary criticism by, 149; in nineteenth century, 10; post–World War I obscurity of, 13

workplace activity, in women’s professional development novels, 53–54

World War I, women writers’ fiction during, 203–17

World War II, French literature following, 216

Writing Beyond the Ending, 122n.16

Yette, 45

Yver, Colette, 8–9; Beauvoir’s dismissal of, 214–15; biographical sketch of, 221; class politics and work of, 153–63; conformity in fiction of, 149–50; documentary-style postwar fiction of, 204–5; magazine writing by, 20; Orientalism in works of, 72n.29; post–World War I misogyny and fiction of, 214; professional development in novels of, 35, 37–38; response to Marbo by, 149–50; scientific novels of, 113–14, 126–47; self-sufficient women in fiction of, 170–73, 195–202; woman writers in fiction of, 151–53; women lawyers in fiction of, 175n.1, 177–202; women writers in work of, 21; World War I writings of, 203

Zanta, Léontine, 210–12

Zola, Emile, 10, 43, 46, 49, 164–65n.20
In *Career Stories*, Juliette Rogers considers a body of largely unexamined novels from the Belle Epoque that defy the usual categories allowed the female protagonist of the period. While most literary studies of the Belle Epoque (1880–1914) focus on the conventional housewife or harlot distinction for female protagonists, the heroines investigated in *Career Stories* are professional lawyers, doctors, teachers, writers, archaeologists, and scientists.

In addition to the one well-known woman writer from the Belle Epoque, Colette, this study will expand our knowledge of relatively unknown authors, including Gabrielle Reval, Marcelle Tinayre, and Colette Yver, who actively participated in contemporary debates on women’s possible roles in the public domain and in professional careers during this period. *Career Stories* seeks to understand early twentieth-century France by examining novels written about professional women and bourgeois and working-class heroines and the particular dilemmas that they faced. This book contributes a new facet to literary histories of the Belle Epoque: a subgenre of the *Bildungsroman* that flourished briefly during the first decade of the twentieth century in France. Rogers terms this subgenre the female *Berufsroman*, or novel of women’s professional development.

*Career Stories* will change the way we think about the Belle Epoque and the interwar period in French literary history, because these women writers and their novels changed the direction that fiction writing would take in post–World War I France.

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