

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1716 - Gregorian calendar



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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On January 15, in Canezac, commune of Montirat, in the diocese of Albi (present-day Tarn, canton of Montirat), Bernard Balssa was born, son of Bernard Balssa (1684- 1754), a ploughman, and Jeanne Nouvialle.

He was Honoré de Balzac's paternal grandfather, from a family of ploughmen in Albigeois and Rouergue, unrelated to the Balzacs of Entragues.



The village of Montirat



### Main historical events

Regent of the kingdom of France during the minority of Louis XV, Philippe d'Orléans headed the Conseil de Régence, appointed by the Sun King to govern France.

That year,

- Guillaume Dubois becomes State Councillor.
- Fleury was appointed tutor to King Louis XV, then aged 6.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1744 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On October 19, at Saint-Sauveur church in Paris (between rue Montmartre and rue Saint-Denis), Louis Sallambier (d. 1764), a gallon merchant and manufacturer on rue Saint-Denis, married Marie-Catherine Kyriel (d. 1764), daughter of a master button-maker on the same street.

They are Balzac's maternal great-grandparents.

The Sallambiers were originally from Saint-Denis, near Paris.

### Main historical events

- March 14: Louis XV declares war on Great Britain and Austria.
- March 29: Great Britain counter-declares war on France.
- April 20: Anglo-Sardinian defeat at the Battle of Villafranca (Villefranche-sur-Mer). Franco-Spanish armies cross the Var (April 13) and seize the county of Nice.
- May: Louis XV leaves Versailles to take command of the Flanders army.
- July 19: Battle of Pierrelongue.
- August: French troops cross the Rhine.
- October 5-10: Louis XV of France visits Strasbourg.

It was the <sup>1st</sup> time since 1681 and the visit of Louis XIV that a monarch had visited Alsace. The king was received with pomp and circumstance, leaving the town in debt for many years to come.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1745 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On October 4, Bernard Balssa, ploughman (widower of Marie Blanquet), and Jeanne Granier (1727-1797) were married in the church of Saint-Martin de Canezac.

This union produced eleven children, the eldest of whom was Balzac's father.



Eglise St-Martin de Canezac

### Main historical events

- February 23: Maria Theresa of Spain marries the Dauphin Louis of France. She died in childbirth in 1746.
- May 11: Battle of Fontenoy won by the French against the British.
- July: Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, Dame Le Normant d'Etiolles, is made Marquise de Pompadour. Presented to the court in February, she becomes the King's official mistress. She exerted great influence on the monarch and ruled until her death in 1764.
- Anti-Huguenot repression resumed between 1745 and 1752, marked by the resumption of shipments to the galleys for Calvinism, executions of pastors (Grenoble, Montpellier, Toulouse) and forced "baptisms" in the Nîmes region (1752). Repression eased after 1756.
- 25.3 million inhabitants within the borders of the time.
- Bordeaux's total trade with the Caribbean rose from 13 million pounds in 1717 to over 50 million pounds between 1740 and 1745. 200 million pounds of domestic exports to France.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1746 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Bernard-François Balssa, son of Bernard Balssa and Jeanne Granier, born on the Nougayrié farm on July 22, is baptized the same day in the parish of Canezac.



The rite of baptism

### Main historical events

- February 21: French capture of Brussels.
- March 21: Franco-Saxon treaty.
- June 16: Battle of Piacenza. France and Spain, occupying the Po plain, are forced to withdraw. Austrian invasion of Provence.
- August 5: Christophe de Baumont (1703-1781) becomes Archbishop of Paris. He fights against the Jansenists and philosophers.
- October <sup>1</sup> - 8: Unsuccessful British offensive in Brittany against Lorient.
- October 11: Maurice de Saxe wins the battle of Rocoux against the Austrians.
- December 16: A British fleet captures the island of Sainte-Marguerite in Provence (ends May 27, 1747).
- Founding in Mulhouse of the <sup>1st</sup> factory producing indiennes, colored, painted or printed cotton fabrics.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1748 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Claude-Louis-Joseph Sallambier* (1748-1803), second child of the Sallambier-Kyriel family, was born in Paris.

Balzac's future maternal grandfather had eight brothers and sisters, and lost his parents at the age of sixteen.



In the mid-nineteenth century, baby carriages were made of wood or wicker, and were connected to the pram by a cable with copper joints.

## Main historical events

- February 29: Premiere of *Zaïs*, Jean-Philippe Rameau's heroic pastoral.
- April 13: Capture of Maastricht by Maurice of Saxony.
- May: Louis XV writes to Ferdinand VI of Spain to announce that he wants peace without annexations.
- October 18: The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, negotiated in April between Lord Sandwich and San Severino, puts an end to the War of the Austrian Succession. Louis XV renounces his conquests (Netherlands, Savoy, Nice), undertakes to expel the Stuart pretender from England and not to create a war port at Dunkirk. The Treaty of Vienna confirming France's inheritance of Lorraine is confirmed. Great Britain returns Louisbourg and Cape Breton Island (Canada) to France, which returns Madras in India. French public opinion is disappointed.
- November 25: François Trouvé becomes Abbot General of Cîteaux and remains so until the revolution of 1790.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1750 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

That year, *Marie-Barbe-Sophie* Chauvet was born in Paris, the daughter of a gallon merchant on rue Saint-Denis and cousin of *Claude-Louis-Joseph* Sallambier. She was Balzac's maternal grandmother.



Rue Saint-Denis

## Main historical events

- January-May: Riots in Paris following Count d'Argenson's decision to moralize the city by expelling prostitutes and vagrants to Louisiana.
- February: Refusal of the twentieth by the assembly of the States of Languedoc and its dissolution by the King's commissioners.
- May: The Paris Parliament registers the Edict of the Twentieth. Dominated by the Episcopt, the clergy assembly refused the edict - it was dissolved by the king. The political crisis fosters popular unrest - Parisians revolt.
- Summer: Child abduction case. The police make mistakes in their arrests. The people rise up, accusing the police of covering up the activities of a leper lord who bathes in blood to cure his disease.
- November 25: Edict granting hereditary nobility to officers with the rank of general. Strong devout party at Court, supporting the Church's opposition to the new taxes. De facto tolerance of Protestant cults.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1761 - 1765 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Bernard-François Balzac, who learned to read and write from Charles-Alexis Vialar (1702-1771), parish priest of Cazenac, signs deeds as a witness for notary Jean Albar (1697-1768).

He left Canezac for good after February 1766, following a prison sentence for impregnating a carpenter's daughter.



Madame de Pompadour

### Main historical events

**1761:** - January 16: British capture of Pondicherry.

- March: Dissolution of the Jesuit congregation.
- March 31: French peace proposals to Great Britain.
- Oct.Nov.: Suicide of M.-A. Calas and lawsuit against the family.

**1762:** - March 9-10: Death sentence and execution of Jean Calas.

- March: The principality of Dombes (Ain) becomes part of the kingdom.
- August 6: Suppression of the Society of Jesus in the kingdom.
- November 3: Preliminary peace talks at Fontainebleau.

**1763:** - February 10: The Treaty of Paris puts an end to France's <sup>1st</sup> colonial zone.

- Introduction of the land registry by Comptroller General Bertin.
- Choiseul reorganizes the army (creation of a military school, arsenals, etc.).

**1764:** - April 15: Death of Mme de Pompadour.

- June 4: The King's Council overturns the Calas judgment.
- June 30: The Beast of Gévaudan begins its rampage.
- August 6: Second Treaty of Compiègne between France and Genoa.

**1765:** - March 9: The memory of Jean Calas is rehabilitated.

- September 20: François Antoine kills the Beast of Gévaudan, a large wolf that is naturalized and sent to Versailles.
- December 20: Death of the Dauphin, son of Louis XV.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1768 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Bernard-François Balzac settles in Paris.

He works in a public prosecutor's office.



On April 3, 1768, a 36-year-old widow, Rose Keller, accused the Marquis Donatien de Sade (1740-1814) of luring her into a brothel and tying her to a bed.

### Main historical events

- April 3: Rose Keller affair. *The Courier du Bas-Rhin* reports on the sad exploits of the Marquis de Sade for abusing and blaspheming a woman on Easter Sunday.
- May 15: Genoa relinquishes its rights over Corsica to France.
- June 24: Death of Queen Marie Leszczyńska of France.
- September 15: René Nicolas de Maupeou is appointed Chancellor of France.
- September 18: R.-N. de Maupeou becomes Keeper of the Seals.
- September 22: E. Maynon d'Invault becomes Controller General of Finance, then Minister of State on December 10.
- October 9: Paolist troops rout the French army at Borgo.
- Referral of parliaments.
- Secret plan to land in England by the Chevalier d'Eon, embassy secretary in London.
- Frost on olive trees in Provence.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1776 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On January <sup>1</sup>, Bernard-François Balzac joined King Louis XVI's Privy Council as secretary to Joseph-François d'Albert (1722-1790), Maître des requêtes de l'Hôtel du Roi, for whom he prepared numerous files until 1788.

He remained on the Council, while fulfilling various other functions, until its abolition on Germinal 12, Year II (April <sup>1</sup>, 1794).



Model request to the King

Joseph d'Albert: jurist and administrator. - Member of the Paris Parlement on April 25, 1764. - Intendant du commerce in 1769-1771 then 1774. - Lieutenant-General of Police of Paris (May 12, 1775 - June 1776). - Maître des requêtes on August 17, 1775.

## Main historical events

- January 5: Turgot submits to the King's Council a draft of six edicts abolishing the corvée royale, abolishing commercial privileges and jurandes, and imposing taxes on the nobility.
- March: Freedom of work; abolition of Jurandes, maîtrises, corporations. Edict instituting the free circulation of goods in the kingdom.
- May 12: Political hostility and resignation of Turgot.
- May 21: Clugny de Nuits is appointed Comptroller General of Finance.
- July 4: The United States of America declares its independence.
- August 28: Re-establishment of guilds.
- October 21: L.-G. Taboureaux des Réaux appointed Controller General of Finance.
- November 12: Geneva banker Necker succeeds Turgot. He is appointed *Director General of the Royal Treasury*.
- December: American Benjamin Franklin comes to ask France for help against the British.
- *Louis Roederer* champagne house founded.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1777 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On November 9, the marriage contract of *Claude-Louis-Joseph Sallambier* and *Marie-Barbe-Sophie Chauvet* is signed.



### Main historical events

- January 1: *Le Journal de Paris* is the first Parisian daily newspaper.
- April 24: Creation of the IGC Inspection générale des carrières.
- June 8: Charles Bonaparte, father of Napoleon<sup>1</sup>, is elected deputy of the nobility for Corsica.
- June 24: J.-P. Marat is appointed physician to the bodyguards of the Count of Artois.
- June 29: Necker is appointed Director General of Finance. He launches a series of loans to finance the war effort.
- July 3: Beaumarchais founds the Société des auteurs dramatiques.
- December 4: Birth of Mme Julie Récamier, woman of letters.
- December 9: The Mont de Piété, a pawnbroking organization, is founded in Paris.
- December 17: King Louis XVI recognized the independence of the United States, becoming the first head of state in the world to do so.
- King Louis XVI officially granted all Jews in France the right to reside wherever they wished.
- Maximum growth for the wool industry: 1.8% per year (1777-1787).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1778 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On May 23, Bernard Balssa, Honoré's grandfather, who died at La Nougayrié, is buried in the Canezac cemetery.

On October 22, *Anne-Charlotte-Laure*, daughter of *Claude-Louis-Joseph* Sallambier and his wife *Marie-Barbe-Sophie* Chauvet, is born in Paris.

She was to be Balzac's mother.



Anne-Charlotte-Laure Sallambier

### Main historical events

- January 30: Treaty of friendship and trade agreement between France and the USA (Principle of freedom of the seas and the right of neutral states to trade with warring nations).
- February 6: Second France/USA treaty: defensive alliance against Britain in the event of war. Neither country may conclude a peace/treaty with Great Britain without the consent of the other.
- March 30: Voltaire returns to Paris shortly before his death on May 30.
- June 17: The battle between the Belle Poule and the Arethusa triggers war on the European front.
- July 2: Death of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
- July 12: Creation of the Berry assembly in Bourges. Necker creates provincial assemblies with a consultative role to involve notables in local administrations (the Berry assembly in 1778 and the Hte-Guyenne assembly in Montauban in 1779), which provokes the wrath of the Parliaments.
- July 27: Combat d'Ouessant.
- September 2: Birth of Louis Bonaparte (died 1846).
- September 6: Battle of Dominica.
- December 19: Birth of Marie-Thérèse de France, known as "Madame Royale", daughter of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1791 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On September 18, B.-F. Balzac, "commissaire de la section de la Place-Royale", becomes secretary to Antoine-François-Bertrand, Marquis de Molleville, Minister of the Navy; He held this position until March 15, 1792.



B.F. Balzac

## Main historical events

- January 7: Patent Act (or "patents")-.
- January 17: Law on authors' rights to the performance of their works during their lifetime and 5 years post-mortem for the benefit of their heirs.
- January 30: Mirabeau is elected President of the National Assembly.
- February 13: Combat de Vannes.
- March 2-17: Principle of freedom of trade and industry.
- April 2: Death of Mirabeau.
- April 13: The Pope condemns the Civil Constitution of the Clergy as schismatic and heretical.
- April 18: Parisians prevent the King and Queen from leaving the Tuileries to go to St-Cloud.
- April 21: La Fayette resigns from the National Guard.
- May: octroi abolished in Paris.
- June 20: Flight of the royal family, arrested at Varenne on June 21.
- July 11: Voltaire's remains are transferred to the Panthéon.
- July 16: Club des Feuillants founded.
- July 17: Fusillade du Champ-de-Mars, marking the break between the Constituante (La Fayette, Bailly) and the Sans-Culottes.

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Year 1791 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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The Villeparisis house where  
the Balzac family lived from  
1819 onwards

### Main historical events

- July 29: The Assembly granted human rights to the deaf.
- July 30: Abolition of titles of nobility - A decree stripped French nationals abroad affiliated to an order of chivalry of their nationality.
- August 18: The Constituent Assembly abolishes religious congregations with solemn vows.
- September 3: Completion of the Constitution, promulgated on September 14, establishing the legal basis for a representative monarchical regime.
- September 8: Letter from the Queen to her brother Leopold II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire: "*Only armed force can repair everything*".
- September 13: Louis XVI approves the Constitution. He becomes *King of the French*.
- September 14: the city-state of Avignon and the Comtat Venaissin, pontifical states, become part of France.
- September 21: Penal Code.
- September 23: Decree supplementing the provisions of Sept. 14. Creating the Ouvèze district, with Carpentras as its administrative center, attached to the Drôme, and the Vaucluse district, with Avignon as its administrative center, attached to the Bouches-du-Rhône, thus satisfying the active citizens of Carpentras, who had solemnly made it known that their assembly "would rather endure death than adhere to the union of this town with the state of Avignon".



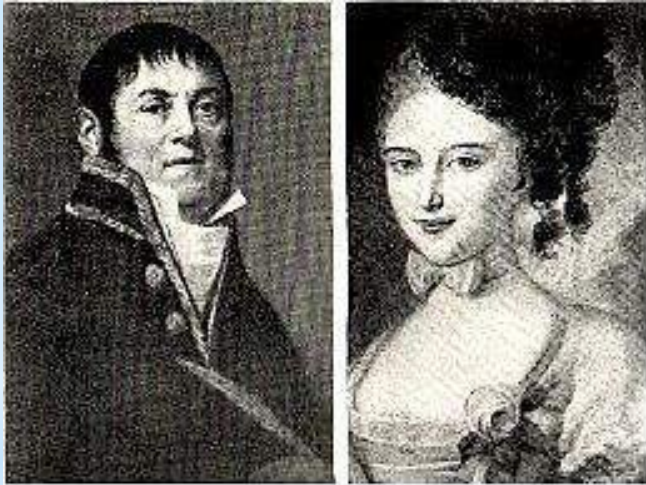
## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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François de Balzac, Mme. F. de Balzac, née Sallambier, father and mother of the great novelist.

B.F. de Balzac and his wife, née Salambier - father and mother of the famous writer

### Main historical events

- September 28: French Jews are granted full citizenship rights by a decree of the Constituent Assembly.
- September 30: Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly. Legislative elections in September (60-75% abstention rate).
- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Opening of the Legislative Assembly.
- October 9 and 11: Riots against refractory priests in Paris.
- October 14: Decrees making membership of the National Guard compulsory for all voting citizens between the ages of 18 and 60.
- October 16 and 17: La Glacière massacres in Avignon.
- October 31: The Count of Provence is threatened with the loss of his succession rights if he does not return to France.
- November 9: Decree against émigrés, whose numbers had increased after Varennes. The Assembly ordered them to return to France by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1792. Beyond that date, emigration would be considered a crime akin to conspiracy, punishable by death and confiscation of property.
- November 11: The King vetoes the decree against the émigrés.
- November 16: Jérôme Pétion is elected mayor of Paris.
- November 29: Decree requesting the King, who is in charge of diplomacy, to summon the Rhineland princes, who are sheltering the émigrés, to hand them over.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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A moment in the country

### Main historical events

- November 29: With the decree against refractory priests, the Assembly decides that all priests must take an oath or lose their pensions and salaries. The law makes refractory priests personally responsible for religious unrest. The King refused to sanction these decrees on November 11 and December 19.
- December 3: Break in diplomatic relations between revolutionary France and Austria. The letter from Leopold II accompanying the *Conclusum* is interpreted as a definitive break between the princes in possession and the revolutionaries, who had been entrusted by Merlin de Douai on November 28, 1790 with the task of conducting negotiations.
- December 9: Louis XVI sets up a moderate feuillant ministry.
- December 12: Robespierre speaks out against the war at the Jacobin Club.
- December 14: Louis XVI asks the Elector of Trier to expel emigrants who form armies on his territory before January 15, 1792.
- Violent fighting between the Avignon and Carpentras militias (winter 1791-1792). Confiscation of clergy property.
- The National Assembly establishes a postal service for all roads in France and orders 120 mail trunks.
- Average harvest. Price rises due to inflation caused by the circulation of assignats and the distrust of farmers, who prefer to store their grain rather than deliver it in exchange for currency which depreciates rapidly.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Living at 19, rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Bernard-François was a respected member of the Roi-de-Sicile section, which became the Droits-de-l'Homme section after August 10; he was appointed secretary, then president. In November, he was elected member of the General Council of the Paris Commune and, on December 2, municipal officer, along with Hébert and Chaumette. He joined the administration of military supplies, first as treasurer of the Bureau Central des Fourrages (Central Fodder Office) for the Armée du Nord, based in Verdun, then transferred to the Camp sous Paris.



Ferdinand III  
and IV, King  
of Sicily

### Main historical events

- January: Creation of the Société patriotique du Luxembourg.
- February<sup>1</sup>: The Passport Decree re-establishes internal traffic control.
- March<sup>1st</sup>: Creation of the commune of Aubazine by dismemberment of the commune of Cornil in Corrèze.
- March 10: Constitution of a Brissotin government (ends June 13).
- March 19: Doumouriez appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- March 23: the feuillants ministers are replaced by Girondin ministers.
- March 30: Decree confiscating the property of nobles emigrated since July<sup>1</sup>, 1789.
- April<sup>1</sup>: The Legislative Assembly adopts Chappe's optical telegraph.
- April 20: France declares war on the King of Bohemia and Hungary (i.e. Emperor Francis II of Austria, who had sent Louis XVI an ultimatum on April 15 concerning the rights of the Princes in possession of Alsace).
- April 20 and 21: Reading of the report and draft decree on the general organization of public education presented to the Constituent Assembly by Concordet.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Within his section in Paris, of which he was commissioner, he took part in the preparations for August 10, 1792. As a member of the general council of the Paris commune in early 1793, he was not only one of those Parisian sans-culotterie militants of bourgeois origin, but also, according to



Chappe's telegraph

### Main historical events

- April 25: Rouget de l'Isle composes the Army of the Rhine song (future Marseillaise) in Strasbourg.
- First execution by guillotine in the Place de Grève.
- May 27: Decree against refractory priests.
- May 29: Decree on the dismissal of the King's Constitutional Guard, a body suspected of exaggeratedly royalist views.
- The Duc de Cossé-Brissac (1734-1792), Commander-in-Chief of the Constitutional Guard, was accused of instilling a counter-revolutionary spirit in the corps. (Guards swore an oath to follow the King wherever he went).
- June 4: Royal veto of the decree deporting refractory priests.
- June 8: Decree on the formation of a camp of federated provincial national guards at Soissons, to defend Paris.
- June 11: Royal veto of the decree organizing the raising of 20,000 federates.
- June 12: Jean Duprat, a silk merchant suspected of involvement in the Glacière massacres, is elected mayor of Avignon.
- June 13: With his Council, the King forces the Brissotin ministry to resign. The new ministry is composed of Feuillants.
- June 15: Dumourier resigns as Foreign Minister.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Jean-Louis Dega, a double-dealing matchmaker, informs the espionage networks of former minister Bertrand de Moleville.



Les Feuillants, revolutionary club founded in July 1791 by moderates from the Jacobin Club and housed in the Convent des Feuillants. Marquis de La Fayette

### Main historical events

- June 20: A day of demonstrations by the 48 Parisian sections: the people invade the Tuileries, demanding the return of the Brissot ministers and the acceptance of several decrees vetoed by the King. Louis XVI, cornered in a window embrasure, is wearing a red bonnet. He did not give in. The demonstration provoked a backlash in Paris (restriction of the right to petition, takeover of the National Guard) and in the provinces.
- June 28, Before the Assembly, La Fayette called for prosecution of the "faction" and a definitive solution to domestic problems to enable the army to fight the free spirit.
- July 7: Influx of federates into Paris despite the king's veto.
- July 10: Resignation of the Feuillants ministers.
- July 11: The Legislative Assembly proclaims the fatherland in danger.
- July 12-13: Raising of volunteers - dispersal of the "Catholic army of the south", gathered at the Jalès camp (royalists), by the national guards of the Gard and Ardèche.
- July 14: Fête de la Fédération, illegally attended by the federates, most of whom remained in Paris after the event.
- July 19: Guard battalions reduced from 60 to 48 and assigned to each section.

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac père, maintained the best relations in the world with one of his relatives, Jean-Pierre Lacombe Saint-Michel (1753-1812), deputy for the Tarn region at the Legislative Assembly and then at the Convention, while playing his useful relations in the service of the King in the network of his first "boss", Bertrand de Moleville.



The people of Paris invade the Tuileries

### Main historical events

- July 25: Brunswick's manifesto to the people of Paris, including threats in the event of contempt for the royal family. Arrival of contingents of "Breton" federates. The 48 Parisian sections are authorized to sit permanently by decree.
- July 30: Arrival of Federated "Marseillais" contingents, who popularize the *Chant de guerre pour l'Armée du Rhin* (*War Song for the Army of the Rhine*).
- August 3: Brunswick's manifesto becomes known in Paris, sparking an intense national defense movement. 47 sections of the National Guard out of 48 demand the King's deposition and propose a program of government (convocation of a Constituent Assembly and renewal of local administrations by universal suffrage). The sections set a deadline for the Assembly to adopt their program. The Assembly failed to decide on a policy, triggering the August 10th Day of Action.
- August 10: The Tuileries are seized by the people (sectionnaires and federates). The royal family took refuge in the Assembly, which declared itself in permanent session and had the seal of state issued to mark its seizure of power.
- That evening, the Legislative Assembly, which had assumed all powers, appointed a provisional executive council by acclamation, comprising six ministers (E.Clavière, Roland, J.Servan, Danton, Monge and Lebrun). It sent 12 deputies with extensive powers (including the suspension of generals) to the armies.



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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Following the latter's disgrace, he lost his job at the Ministry of the Navy in 1792, but thanks to Lacombe Saint-Michel, Balzac was soon appointed treasurer at the central fodder office of the northern army.



Royal family at the Temple Prison

### Main historical events

- August 11: Universal suffrage is introduced for the <sup>1st</sup> time in France (August 10-11); Danton becomes Minister of Justice.
- August 11-13: Creation of an insurrectionary Commune in Paris (Chambon, Pache, Fleuriot-Lescot, mayors) elected by universal suffrage.
- August 13: Suspension of the King. The royal family is imprisoned in the Prison du Temple.
- August 14: A new oath, based on the principles of Liberty and Equality, is required of all priests. It is widely taken.
- August 17: Creation of an extraordinary criminal court (Réal, public prosecutor).
- August 18: Decree abolishing religious congregations, including teachers, and confraternities. La Fayette, leaving France, is arrested by the Austrians for his active role in the early days of the French Revolution - he remains in prison for 4 years.
- August 20: Prussian victory over France at the Battle of Verdun.
- August 21: National Convention.
- August 26: Decree banishing rebels.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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The September massacres

### Main historical events

- August 27: The Paris Commune fortifies Paris, forges weapons and authorizes home visits. Decrees against refractory priests are executed (3,000 arrests in just a few days). The Commune pursues a policy of decatholicization (requisition of bishop's palaces, ban on religious vestments outside churches, ban on processions).
- Jean Cottereau, known as Jean Chouan, rebels against a levy of men in Mayenne.
- September 2: Danton addresses the Legislative Assembly.
- September 2-5: The September Massacres. Hundreds of prisoners, as well as aristocrats, priests and some bishops, designated as traitors, are summarily tried and massacred. Maillard Tribunal.
- In Reims, Caen, Meaux and Lyon, local societies also carried out executions. The Commune took requisition measures to force peasants to thresh grain, set prices and punish those who stored grain. The Executive Council (Danton) ratified these decisions, extending them to the entire country and deciding to send commissioners to the provinces.
- September 8: Jean Duprat, mayor of Avignon since June, is elected deputy for Bouches-du-Rhône at the Convention.
- September 9: Massacres at Versailles.



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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Girondins holding salon at Madame  
Roland's

### Main historical events

- September 18: The Legislative Assembly dissolves the Paris Commune.
- September 20: Secularization of civil status and divorce law. End of the legislature. Battle of Valmy: victory of Dumouriez and Kellerman's armies over the Prussians.
- September 21: <sup>1st</sup> meeting of the National Convention; abolition of the monarchy; proclamation of the Republic. The Executive Council set up after August 10 is maintained. The Assembly ratifies the union of the Comtat Venaissin and Avignon with the French nation. Convention girondine until June 2, 1793. The Brissotins dominated the Assembly from the very first sessions. Pétion is elected President of the Assembly. Danton is removed from the Executive Council under threat of an inquiry into his management.
- September 22: Proclamation of Year 1 of the French Republic, (*but counting - until November 24, 1793 - from January <sup>1</sup>, the year of Julius Caesar*). The Republic is "one and indivisible".
- Late September to November: Girondins versus Montagnards at the National Convention.
- The "Brissotins" (or Girondins), convinced revolutionaries backed by the provinces, sit on the right (Brissot, Vergniaud, Guadet, Pétion de Villeneuve, Condorcet, Gensonné, Barbaroux, Buzot, Dumouriez, Servan, Roland de la Platière, Louvet, Isnard). They had left the Jacobin Club in August and were meeting at Madame Roland's. Concerned with legality and hostile to any interference in the Assembly's debates, they wanted to reduce the political role of the Assembly of the capital.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1792 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 16 to 20



The Sans-Culottes at the Tuileries

### Main historical events

- Late September to November: The "**Montagnards**" sit on the left, on the highest benches (Robespierre, Danton, Marat, Billaud-Varenne, Collot d'Herbois, Saint-Just, Couthon). They rely on the Jacobin Club and affiliated provincial clubs. They were ready to take tough, extreme measures, and found support in the Paris Commune.
- In the center, moderate republican deputies (Sieyès, Cambacérès, Daunou, Grégoire, Boissy d'Anglas) acted as arbiters between the two extremes.
- The **Sans-Culottes** have played an important role in political life since August 10. Drawn from the middle class (shopkeepers, craftsmen, small proprietors), they relied on Parisian sections and supported popular sovereignty (referendums, right of petition and insurrection). The Club des Cordeliers with Hébert and the Enragé movement (Jacques Roux, Momoro, Leclerc) represent sans-culotterie tendencies.
- October 2: Creation of the General Safety Committee (Amar, Basire, David, Le Bas, Legendre, Tallien, Vadier).
- October 6: Jean-Nicolas Pache, Minister of War (ends in Feb.93)
- October 21: The Allobroges National Assembly declares the forfeiture of the Duke of Savoy and reunion with France. The Convention accepts the reunion and forms the Mont Blanc department (November 27).

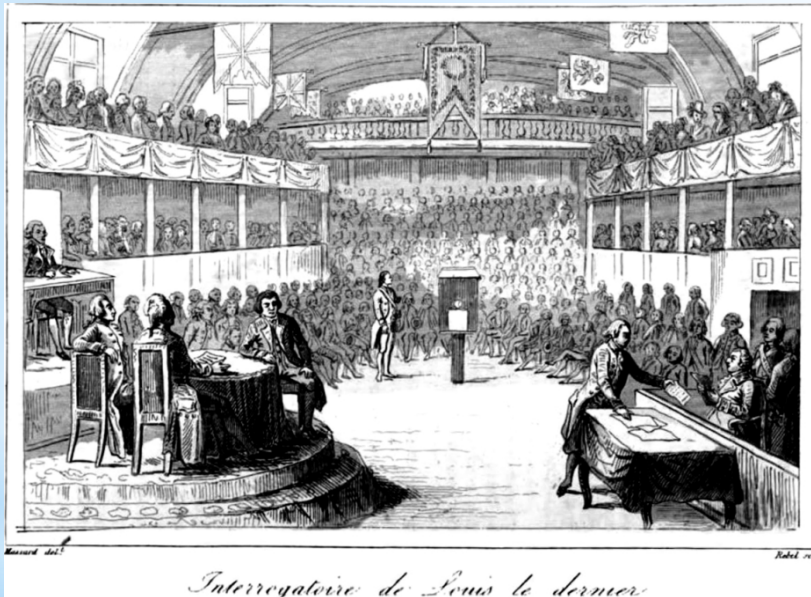
## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 16 to 20



The interrogation of Louis XVI

### Main historical events

- November <sup>1</sup>: J.-B. Bessièrès, future Marshal of the Empire, joins the <sup>22nd</sup> Regiment of Mounted Chasseurs.
- November 19: Decree promoting propaganda warfare. It grants "fraternity and assistance to all peoples who wish to conquer their freedom". Decree specifying the policy that the generals were to follow in the countries they occupied: destruction of the Ancien Régime, abolition of feudal rights, seizure of Church property.
- November 20: Episode of the "Iron Cupboard", containing documents accusing the King of high treason.
- November 27: France annexes Savoy. Creation of the Mont-Blanc department.
- November 30: Abolition of the Extraordinary Court.
- December 2: Chambon replaces Pétion as mayor of Paris.
- December 6: The Convention sets up a commission known as the "Commission des Vingt et Un", with Girondin Valazé as rapporteur, tasked with presenting the enunciative act of the crimes of which Louis XVI would be accused and the series of questions to be put to the king at his trial.
- December 11: Louis XVI's trial opens at the Convention, defended by Desèze, Tronchet and Malesherbes.
- December 15: The Convention votes on the Decree on Administration French revolution in conquered countries.



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On October 20, 1793, Bernard-François Balzac became director of services for the northern army (Lille, Soissons, and the twenty-two squares from Dunkirk to Mézières).

He held this position until March 20, 1795, during which time he was given a three-month assignment in Brest to organize the navy's food supply service.



Execution of Louis XVI

### Main historical events

- January: Unable to draw up a pricing policy, Interior Minister J.-M. Roland resigns.
- January 19: King Louis XVI is sentenced to death by the Convention, with a majority of 387 "unconditional death" votes out of 721 deputies voting.
- January 21: Execution of Louis XVI, guillotined in Paris.
- January 31-February 4: The county of Nice and Monaco are attached to France after a vote by the population, forming the 85th department under the name of Alpes-Maritimes.
- February 6: Beurnonville succeeds Pache at the Ministry of War.
- February 21: The Convention abolishes the dignity of Marshal of France.
- February 23: the Convention votes for the mass draft (300,000 men), which provokes strong peasant discontent and riots in Rouen, Amiens and Montargis. The Convention sent 82 deputies to suppress them and speed up the mass levy. The mass draft triggers an uprising in the Mauges region of the Vendée.
- March 2: The County of Salm is annexed to France.
- March 7: First use of the guillotine in Rouen.
- March 9: Jean-Adam Pflieger, the eldest member of the Upper Rhine Convention, is sent to Alsace to carry out the levy of 300,000 French citizens.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 25



General Charles-François DUMOURIEZ

### Main historical events

- March 10: Creation of the Revolutionary Tribunal.
- March 11: Massacres at Machecoul: constitutional priests and 300 supporters of the Convention are massacred, marking the start of the Vendée Wars.
- March 13: A 5-member central committee is set up in Nantes, chaired by the city's mayor René Gaston Baco de La Chapelle, with powers from the department, the district and the city. A criminal court is also set up to judge insurgents, and the guillotine is erected in Place du Bouffay.
- France raises the first conscript army to face the anti-French coalition.
- April<sup>1</sup>: Accused of treason, Dumouriez handed over to the Austrians the commissioners sent by the Convention to investigate his conduct, before going over to the enemy himself. His defeats and their consequences precipitated the fall of the Girondins.
- Decree of indictment of the deputies of the Convention.
- April 6: Decree creating the Committee of Public Safety: Danton, Cambon, Treillard, Barère, Bréard, Debry soon replaced by Lindet, Guyton-Morveaux, Delacroix, Delmas...Pierre Joseph Cambon becomes president of the Finance Committee (1793-1795).
- April 13: Marat is arrested.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 25



The triumph of Marat (1743-1793)

## Main historical events

- April 24: Jean-Paul Marat triumphantly acquitted by the Revolutionary Tribunal.
- April 28: Capture of Porrentruy.
- May 4: Maximum Grain Act.
- May 5: Battle of Thouars.
- May 16: <sup>1st</sup> battle of Fontenay-le-Comte.
- May 18: Commission of inquiry into the Commune.
- May 25: <sup>2nd</sup> battle of Fontenay-le-Comte.
- May 26: The Vendéens take Lyon against the National Convention.
- May 29: The Lyon uprising against the National Convention begins.
- May 31-June 2: Montagne and Commune against the Girondins.
- June 2: Arrest of 31 Girondin deputies. Beginning of the Montagnard Convention (ending July 27, 1794) - Federalist insurrections.
- June 5: Equal sharing of estates.
- June 9: Battle of Saumur: the Vendée armies take Saumur.
- June 10: Napoleon Bonaparte and his family leave Corsica for good.



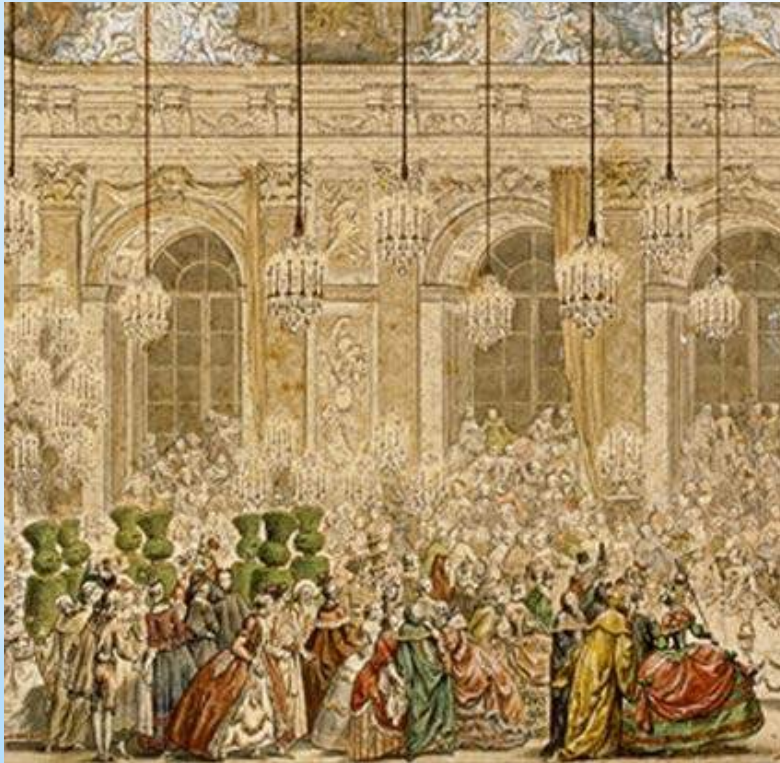
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 25



Inauguration of the Louvre Museum

### Main historical events

- June 18: The Brossinière affair begins.
- June 24: The Constitution of Year I is promulgated. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1793 in the preamble.
- June 29: Battle of Nantes.
- July: Triumvirate: Robespierre, Couthon, Saint-Just.
- July 13: Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat by Charlotte Corday; defeat of the Norman Federalists at the battle of Brécourt.
- July 27: Robespierre joins the Comité de Salut Public.
- July 31: On the report of Bertrand Barère, the Convention decrees that the tombs and mausoleums of the "former kings", erected in the church of Saint-Denis, "in Temples and other places", throughout the Republic, will be destroyed on the following August 10.
- August: First wave of desecration of tombs in the basilica of Saint-Denis.
- August 6-8: First destruction of tombs in the Saint-Denis necropolis.
- August 8: Lyon revolts against the Montagnard Convention; decree to close all academies.
- August 9: Pierre Jadart Dumerbion is appointed General-in-Chief of the Army of Italy; the siege of Lyon begins.
- August 10: Inauguration of the Louvre Museum.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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## Main historical events

- August 14: Battle of Luçon.
- August 15: Garat resigns and Paré takes over as Interior Minister.
- August 23: Mass mobilization of the male population.
- August 24: *Grand livre de la dette publique* by P.-J. Cambon.
- August 29: Toulon revolts and surrenders to the British. Beginning of the siege of Toulon.
- September 2-3: Carnation plot.
- September 3: The Comédie Française is closed and all members of the troupe imprisoned.
- September 5: The Terror is the order of the day.
- September 8: Battle of Hondschoote.
- September 11: National grain and flour maximum.
- September 15: Universities abolished.
- September 16: Napoleon Bonaparte is assigned to the siege of Toulon.
- September 17: The law on suspects is passed.
- September 19: Battle of Tiffauges.
- September 29: Introduction of a *general maximum* for foodstuffs and wages.
- October 9: Lyon recaptured.

The National Convention takes all measures to save the gains of the Revolution. The assembly puts "the Terror on the agenda".

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 25



Manon Roland (1754-1793)

### Main historical events

- October 10 (19 Vendémiaire II): The government is declared revolutionary until peace; decree adopting Fabre d'Eglantine's republican calendar.
- October 12-25: <sup>2nd</sup> wave of desecrations of tombs in the Saint-Denis necropolis.
- October 14: Marie-Antoinette appears before the Tribunal.
- October 16: Marie-Antoinette, condemned to death, is guillotined at around 11 a.m.; battle of Wattignies; decree of the Convention inviting communes with names reminiscent of royalty, feudalism or superstition to replace them with other names.
- October 17: The Vendéens are defeated at Cholet.
- October 18: The Virée de Galerne begins.
- October 25: François-Armand de Saige, mayor of Bordeaux, is guillotined; Battle of Entrammes (ends October 27) in Vendée.
- October 31: Execution of the Girondins.
- November 3: Battle of Fougères.
- November 7: Execution of Philippe d'Orléans.
- November 8: Execution of Mme Roland.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1793 - page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 25



Looting of a church during the revolution

### Main historical events

- November 8-12: Decree banning the use of formal titles in France.
- November 10: Chaumette organizes the cult of Reason in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.
- November 11: Execution of Bailly, the first mayor of Paris.
- November 14: Siege of Granville.
- November 23: the Convention decides to close all Catholic churches in the capital.
- November 24: in France, the Convention publishes the Republican calendar, replacing the Gregorian calendar. *The same day*: Closure of churches in France.
- December 3-4: Siege of Angers.
- December 12 (22 frimaire II): The Vendéens are defeated at the battle of Le Mans; Couthon is elected president of the Convention.
- December 19: Bonaparte takes Toulon from the British.
- December 23 (3 nivôse an II): The Vendéens are crushed by Westermann at the battle of Savenay. End of the Virée de Galerne.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1794 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In April 1794, Balzac père fled the guillotine, which fell on the indulgent, and took up a post as food director in Soissons.



Massacres under the Terror

### Main historical events

- January 12: Compagnie des Indes scandal.
- January 19: The British gain a foothold in Corsica.
- January 21: Tureau's "infernal columns" during the Vendée war.
- February: Saint-Just presides over the Convention.
- The Terror claimed 16,594 victims between March 1793 and August 1794, with 500,000 arrests.  $\frac{3}{4}$  were executed under martial law in insurgent departments, 15% for crimes of counter-revolution (conspiracy, emigration, treason, intelligence with the enemy). 2% were refractory priests, 1.5% accapareurs. 28% of victims were peasants, 31.25% were "workers".
- February 4 (16 pluviôse): The Convention abolished slavery in mainland France and all the French colonies.
- February 21: Maximum prices and wages are generalized throughout France.
- Feb. 26 and March 2: Confiscation and distribution of émigrés' property.
- March 11: A commission is set up to create a central public works school, to become the Ecole Polytechnique.
- March 13-14: Elimination of the Hebertist and Dantonist "factions" by the Comité de salut public.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1794 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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"Elimination of the Hebertist and Dantonist  
"factions" by the Committee of Public Safety".

### Main historical events

- March 24: Execution of the Hebertists.
- March 30 (10 germinal): Danton arrested by night.
- The Chouannerie begins.
- April 1: Abolition of land-grabbing commissions.
- April 2 (13 Germinal): Opening of the trial of Danton and the Dantonists before the Revolutionary Tribunal.
- April 5 (Germinal 16): Execution of Danton and his supporters.
- April 10: Trial of the "Luxembourg prison conspiracy".
- April 16 and 24: Increased penalties and centralization of judicial investigations in Paris.
- April 22: Creation of the "grand livre de la bienfaisance publique" (public charity ledger), in which indigent beneficiaries are recorded.
- May 7: Worship of the Supreme Being.
- May 10: Pache, mayor of Paris, is arrested and replaced by Fleuriot-Lescot - Mme Elisabeth, sister of Louis XVI, is guillotined.
- May 18: The provincial revolutionary courts are abolished.
- June 1: Battle of 13 Prairial Year II (naval battle between the British and French fleets off Ouessant Island).
- June 4: Application of the December 24 decree making elementary education free and compulsory.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1794 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 32



June 8 (Prairial 20): Feast of the Supreme Being

### Main historical events

- June 8: Feast of the Supreme Being.
- June 10: Reorganization of the Revolutionary Courts: elimination of defenders, witnesses and preliminary investigations in the trials of suspects (1,376 people were guillotined in Paris up to the 9th of Thermidor).
- June 26: Victory over British-Dutch troops at Fleurus.
- July 3-23: Robespierre is ill. He no longer attends meetings of the Comité de salut public or the Convention.
- July 25: Execution of the poet André Chénier.
- July 26: Robespierre takes the floor of the Convention and presents his program: maintenance of the Terror, renewal of the Committee of General Safety and total subordination to the Committee of Public Safety. He denounces the moderate deputies. He names no one, but everyone feels threatened. He did not obtain a single vote from the Convention. In the evening, he rallied the majority of the Jacobin Club to his program.
- July 27: Maximilien de Robespierre falls and is arrested. He is no longer listened to by the Convention, which decides to "outlaw" the Robespierrists. The Commune and a few sections attempt an insurrection to save Robespierre, but without success.
- July 28: Execution of M. de Robespierre, Louis Saint-Just, Georges Couthon and 19 other Robespierrists.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1794 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 32



### Main historical events

- July 29: Execution of 71 members of the Paris Commune.
- July 31: The apparatus of Terror is dismantled: the Comités de salut public and de sûreté générale are replaced by a rule of monthly renewal of members, and to avoid permanent members, a deputy can only be re-elected after a period of one month.
- August 5: British occupation of Corsica begins (ending in 96).
- August 9: Bonaparte is arrested in Nice on suspicion of Robespierism. He is released 11 days later.
- August 24: Reorganization of the revolutionary government.
- September 1<sup>st</sup>: Claude Chappe's optical telegraph enabled news of the French victory at Condé-sur- l'Escaut to be transmitted: it took 15 minutes to reach Paris from Lille.
- September 18: Law on the separation of Church and State.
- October 9: An address to the people by the Convention is adopted on behalf of 3 committees: legislation-public safety-general security. A fixed regime is re-established.
- October 10: Creation of the Conservatoire national des arts & métiers.
- October 11: J.-J.Rousseau's remains transferred to the Panthéon.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1794 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 32



The abolition of slavery in 1794

### Main historical events

- October 12: Closure of clubs, including the Jacobin Club, by the Convention. The sans-culotte movement runs out of steam and is weakened by a rising golden youth.
- October 16: Trial of the Nantes Revolutionary Committee. The trial of the Nantes terrorists is the trial of the Terror: Carrier, a representative on a mission, and the members of the Nantes Surveillance Committee are sentenced to death.
- October 24: Creation of the Ecole normale supérieure.
- November 9: The law on land grabbing is amended. Confiscation of food replaces the death penalty. The setting of maximum prices was transferred from the Convention to the district authorities.
- November 27: Health schools organized in Paris, Montpellier and Strasbourg. They award doctorates in medicine and surgery after 4 years of study.
- December 8: The 73 Girondins return to the Convention.
- December 16: Execution of Carrier in the Place de Grève.
- December 24: Abolition of the Maximum Law.
- Amnesty for the Chouans in Vendée.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1795 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On March 21, Bernard-François Balzac was appointed director of food and supplies for the military division in Tours.<sup>22nd</sup>

His career in various positions in Touraine continued until the autumn of 1814.



1795 start of the DIRECTOIRE

## Main historical events

- February 17: La Jaunaye agreement between Ruelle and Charrette for the Vendéens, suspending the Vendée war.
- February 21: Restoration of freedom of worship in France. Restoration of churches not yet alienated as national property.
- February 25: Creation of the Central Schools to replace the former religious colleges and university faculties of arts.
- March 21: The Convention passed a police law designed to allow the requisition of the national guard or army to protect the assembly against "seditious" persons.
- April 1-2: Parisians protest against high food prices. The majority of the Convention took advantage of the departure of the sans-culottes to pass arrest and deportation decrees against former terrorist personnel, and to declare a state of siege in Paris. Pichegru was appointed commander of the Paris troops.
- April 3: The Convention chooses the members of a commission charged with applying the Constitution of 1793. The report concludes that the Constitution is inapplicable and that a new one must be drafted.
- April 4-5: Treaty of Basle, peace with Prussia, recognizing France's occupation of the left bank of the Rhine. Both countries agree to observe strict neutrality.
- April 7: The centuries-old monetary system based on the pound (livre-sou- denier) is abolished in favor of the decimal monetary system (franc,ct).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1795 page 2 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The Jacobin Balzac becomes a notable.



Boissy d'Anglas salutes the head of deputy Féraud  
(May 20, 1795, days of 1,2,3 Prairial an III)



### Main historical events

- April 20: Treaty of La Mabilais and La Prévalaye with the Chouans.
- Deportation of the "Four" (Collot d'Herbois, Billaud-Varenne, Barère, Vadier) to French Guiana.
- April-May: First white terror; anti-Jacobin actions led by the Golden Youth (Bordeaux, Nantes, Marseille). Royalists reign terror in the south of France, and royalist opinion gains ground.
- May: Treaty of Saint-Florent le Vieil with Stofflet. Restitution of seized rebel property, exemption from military service, freedom of worship.
- May 6: A commission of moderates is appointed to draft a constitution (Daunou, Boissy d'Anglas).
- May 16: Treaty of The Hague with the Dutch Republic.
- May 20,21,22: The armed crowd invades the Convention. Deputy Féraud is killed and his head carried on a pike. The Convention is forced to: release those arrested since the 9th of Thermidor, re-establish home visits against hoarders, the permanence of the sections and the renewal of the Committees. At midnight, a short battle broke out between the sectionnaires from the East and the National Guards from the West. Majority deputies resume debates. The 6 deputies who had declared their support for the insurrection were arrested and sentenced to death on June 16; Duquesnoy, Goujon and Romme committed suicide, while Duroy, Bourbotte and Soubrany were guillotined. The sectionnaires were disarmed. Anti-Jacobin repression followed, with the arrest and execution of deputies and the prosecution of government members revolutionary, purification of the national guard.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1795 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 37 to 38



#### Louis XVIII

Born in Versailles on November 17, 1755 as Louis Stanislas Xavier de France, Comte de Provence (1755-1795).

### Main historical events

- May 20 (Floréal-Prairial year III): White Terror (May-June): execution of Fouquier-Tinville.
- May 30: restitution of churches - division of buildings between decadal, constitutional and refractory worship.
- Reopening of the churches.
- May 31: Abolition of the Revolutionary Tribunal - annulment of convictions for federalism. Removal from the lists of individuals who emigrated after May 31, 1793. Restitution of unsold property of those condemned to death.
- Société de philosophie chrétienne founded in May by Abbé Grégoire.
- June 8: Death of the young Louis XVII in the Temple. The Count of Provence takes the name of Louis XVIII and publishes a manifesto in Verona (punishing regicides, re-establishing orders and the monarchy). Part of moderate opinion turns away from him.
- June 13: The future Marshal of the Empire L.-A. Berthier is appointed Major General.
- June 23: The emigrants disembark at Quiberon.
- July<sup>1</sup>: Annexation of Belgium.
- July 21: Unsuccessful landing attempt by the émigrés (royalists) and the British at Quiberon.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1795 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 37 to 38



13 Vendémiaire an IV: Royalist insurrection against the Convention

### Main historical events

- July 22: Treaty of Basle with Spain: France returns the occupied territories in return for the cession of half of Santo Domingo. Spain turns against Great Britain. It loses Minorca and Trinidad.
- August 22: The Constitution of Year III is approved by plebiscite. 1795 Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the Citizen.
- August 23 and 31: Two-thirds decree.
- September 18: Separation of Church and State and abolition of the sworn church budget.
- October 1: France annexes the Austrian Netherlands; Luxembourg becomes the French *Department of Forests* until 1814.
- October 5 (Vendémiaire 13, an IV): Royalist uprising against the Convention, crushed by Napoleon Bonaparte, at St-Roch church.
- October 26: Separation of the Convention, beginning of the **Directoire** (ending November 9, 1799). Daunou becomes president of the Conseil des Cinq-Cents. La Révellière-Lépeaux, president of the Conseil des Anciens. La Révellière-Lépeaux, Le Tourneur, Rewbell, Barras, Carnot, directors.
- October 25: Daunou law on education. Creation of the Institut de France.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1796 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary for year 1795



The first Italian Campaign

## Main historical events

Good harvests (1796-1797, 1798). Fall in prices and farm income.

- January 25: Republican victory at the battle of Grand-Champ, near Vannes.
- February 19: Assignats abolished.
- February 26: Clubs close.
- March 2: Napoleon Bonaparte is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Italy.
- March 9: General Bonaparte marries Joséphine de Beauharnais, widow of the Vicomte de Beauharnais.
- March 18: Creation of the mandat territorial, a new banknote put into circulation on the basis of 30 francs of assignat for one franc mandat. The mandat can be exchanged for national property. Mandat holders were quick to transform them into land and estates: the mandat collapsed within a year (it was then worth 1% of its issue value).
- April 2: Counter-revolutionary and royalist movement in Cher-Nord, led by Phélippeaux. Capture of Sancerre.
- April 11: Start of the Italian Campaign (1796-1797).
- April 16: Law of 27 Germinal IV imposes the death penalty on "provocateurs à la royauté et au rétablissement de la Constitution de 1793 et à la dissolution du Corps législatif ou du Directoire".

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1796 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary for year 1795



Napoleon marries Josephine

### Main historical events

- May 10: Arrest of the leaders of the Conjuration des Egaux (Babeuf, Buonarroti, Darthé, Maréchal).
- May 15: Treaty of Paris: Sardinia (House of Savoy) cedes Savoy and the County of Nice to France.
- June: The West returns to obedience. End of the Vendée war.
- August 18: Treaty of San Ildefonso with Spain.
- September 9-10: A failed attempt at military insurrection at the Grenelle camp.
- September 15-30: Irish Expedition.

Creation of the Société des Amis de l'Ordre or Institut Philanthropique, a royalist secret society.



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On Monday January 30 (II pluviôse an V), Bernard-François Balzac married *Anne-Charlotte-Laure Sallambier*, daughter of the director of the *régie des hospices de Paris*, his son-in-law's former colleague in the food administration, at the town hall in the 8th arrondissement of Paris, place des Vosges. The groom was fifty and the bride eighteen: her dowry was the farm of La Volaille, located near Rambouillet, in Gazeran. On May 21, *Marguerite-Michèle-Sophie Sallambier* (1781- 1810), his sister, married *Marie-Sébastien Malus* (1769-1816), commissaire aux revues and former relation of *Claude-Louis-Joseph Sallambier*, in Paris.

December 9, 1797, death at La Nougayrié of Jeanne Balssa, mother of Bernard-François Balzac.



Extract from an investment booklet issued by the Conseil général des Hospices civils et secours de Paris.

### Main historical events

- February 4: The Directoire decides to return to metallic coinage.
- February 7: Abolition of territorial mandates.
- The metal stock, valued at 2.5 billion francs in 1789, now stands at just 300 million. Deflation, a fall in prices due to the scarcity of monetary signs, was as violent as inflation. Ramel-Nogaret, in charge of finance, implemented a stabilization policy. The war brought in substantial contributions to balance the budget: Bonaparte sent 51 million and Hoche 10 million (March).
- February 20: Trial of Babeuf and Darthé, who are sentenced to death on May 25.
- March 20: Publication of the <sup>1st</sup> issue of the *Journal des dames et des modes*, which remained in print until 1839.
- April: Germinal Year V elections for the renewal of the Councils. 250 republican deputies lose their seats, to the benefit of the royalist right, which obtains the presidency of both assemblies (Barbé-Marbois at the Conseil des Anciens, Pichegru at the Cinq-Cents). Barthélemy was elected director. Monarchist deputies met at the Club de Clichy, and branches of the Institut philanthropique developed their activities in the provinces. The bands of the White Terror reappeared, directing their reprisals against purchasers of national property (Jehu's companions in the Lyonnais region). Moderate Republicans also **formed** clubs.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1797 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 43



### Main historical events

- May 27 (8 prairial an V): Execution of Gracchus Babeuf.
- Talleyrand is appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs (ends in July 1799).
- September 4 (18 fructidor an V): Coup d'état by the Directoire (Barras, la Révellière-Lépeaux, Reubell) with army support (Hoche, Augereau) against the moderates and royalists of the Club de Clichy.  
Barthélemy and eleven members of the Conseil des Anciens were arrested and deported. The germinal elections were annulled in 49 départements (177 deputies were invalidated), as were measures in favor of émigrés (160 death sentences). Executive power was strengthened at the expense of legislative power. François de Neufchâteau and Merlin de Douai joined the Directoire, replacing Barthélemy, who had been arrested, and Carnot, who had fled.
- The second Directoire pursued an authoritarian policy of political, financial and external stabilization. Annexationist in tendency, they encouraged the revolutionary policy of expansion (La Révellière-Lépeaux, Merlin de Douai), aimed to ensure security through the acquisition of "natural frontiers" (Reubell), and were aware of the financial resources of war.

In 1802 - the First Consul and his Foreign  
Minister Talleyrand

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1797 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 43

### Main historical events

- September 5: The Ministry of Police is given responsibility for monitoring the press.
- September 30: Two-thirds bankruptcy. The public debt is reduced by the "consolidated third" operation: two-thirds of the capital of claims on the State and annuities are reimbursed in Treasury bills accepted in payment of taxes or national property; the remaining consolidated third is entered in the public debt ledger, and interest is paid in Treasury bills.
- November 12: Tax assessment and collection are entrusted in each département to a Direct Tax Agency staffed by government employees.

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This time in francs, assignats in circulation exceeded 10 billion pounds in August 1795, and 45 billion pounds in January 1796.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1798 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On May 20 in Tours, Louis-Daniel Balzac, the first child of the Balzac-Sallambier household, was born; he died on the following June 22, aged thirty-three days.



Bernard-François Balzac and his wife *Anne-Charlotte-Sophie*

### Main historical events

- January 4 (15 nivôse): Reunion of the Republic of Mulhouse with France.
- January 28 (9 pluviôse): Administrative division of the left bank of the Rhine into four departments.
- January 31: To guard against an unpleasant electoral surprise, the Directoire has the Councils take a precautionary measure; the Councils in place will validate the elections of Germinal year VI and elect the Director. The elections were favorable to the advanced republicans.
- March 9: J.-B. Bessières, future marshal of the Empire, is made brigade commander.
- March 30: The armistice of March 30, 1798 allows Toussaint Louverture to settle the details of the English army's retreat from Saint-Domingue.
- April 3: Decree (14 germinal an VI) introducing decadal worship. It will be a failure.
- April 26: Geneva becomes French.
- May 11: Coup d'état of 22 Floréal Year VI against the neo-Jacobins: 106 newly elected officials are invalidated and the administrative and judicial bodies are purged (law of 22 Floréal Year VI).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1798 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 46



Looting and demolition of churches during the revolution

### Main historical events

- May 16: Black general Toussaint Louverture and his army of ex-slaves enter Port-au-Prince in triumph.
- May 20: Jean-Baptiste Treilhard, elected Director, replaces François de Neufchâteau, Minister of the Interior.
- July 1: Bonaparte's campaign in Egypt begins, with the aim of threatening Great Britain in the eastern Mediterranean and cutting it off from the route to India, as well as distancing Bonaparte, whose popularity was worrying the Directoire. It left Toulon in May in the greatest secrecy.
- July 7: Veritable undeclared naval war between the United States and France for economic reasons.
- July 21: In Boulogne-sur-Mer, auction of the cathedral, bishop's palace and outbuildings for 510,000 francs. All will be demolished stone by stone by the bidders.
- September: The second coalition begins.
- September 5: The Jourdan-Delbrel law establishes the principle of conscription for all young people aged 25, for 5 years in peacetime and indefinitely in wartime. Military service was compulsory, in addition to voluntary service. Recruits were selected by lot.
- September 24: The law of 3 Vendémiaire en VII orders the raising of a contingent of 200,000 men.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1799 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

HONORE BALZAC was born at 11 a.m. on May 20 (Prairial <sup>1</sup>, Year VII), at 25 rue de l'Armée d'Italie in Tours (the house, destroyed in 1940, was then 39 rue Nationale).

Perhaps to spare him the fate of his brother, his mother did not feed him and put him in the care of a gendarme's wife in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire.



Honoré de Balzac childBirth certificate by Honoré de Balzac

## Main historical events

- April 18 (29 germinal an VII): The elections of germinal year VII take place in a climate of anxiety (deflation, conscription, fiscal reorganization, insecurity, war). They were unfavorable to the triumvirs (Barras, La Révellière-Lépeaux, Reubell). The Councils validated the elections.
- May 20 (Prairial <sup>1</sup>, An VII): Sieyès, in favor of a revision of the constitution, replaces Reubell on the Directoire - Bonaparte's defeat at Saint-Jean-d'Acre.
- June 18: **Day of Prairial 30, An VII**. From June 16 to 20, under pressure from the assemblies, Treilhard is eliminated because he is elected Director less than a month after leaving the Conseil des Cinq-Cents; La Révellière-Lépeaux and Merlin de Douai resign to cut short accusations of treason and concussion. Ducos, Moulin and Gohier replaced them. The majority was based on an alliance of moderate Republicans and Jacobins - Cambacérès, Minister of Justice, Fouché, Minister of Police, Lindet, Minister of Finance.
- June 27 (9 messidor an VII): Call for conscripts and abolition of replacement.
- July 12 (24 messidor an VII): Hostage law against the *White Terror*: hostages will be chosen in each department to respond to rebellions; relatives of émigrés or rebels are deported in response to the assassination of a civil servant, a soldier or a purchaser of national property)-.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1799 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 48

### Main historical events

- July 14 (26 messidor an VII): On the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille, General Jourdan toasts "*the resurrection of the pikes*".
- July 27 (9 thermidor an VII): Compulsory borrowing from the wealthy.
- Early August: Royalist insurrection in Haute-Garonne.
- August 13: The Directoire re-establishes the right of police to visit homes and declares certain départements to be in a "state of disorder".
- August 23: Bonaparte leaves Egypt.
- October 8 (16 vendémiaire an VIII): Bonaparte lands at Fréjus - the Chouan, Georges Cadoudal, seizes Sarzeau.
- October 14: Bourmont's royalist troops occupy Le Mans.
- October 16 (24 vendémiaire an VIII): Bonaparte returns to Paris by surprise - public opinion is worried and in favor of a constitutional revision to strengthen the executive. The Jacobins call for measures and consider a coup d'état (Bernadotte). Sieyès, supported by the moderate revisionist current, also envisaged a coup d'état. Bonaparte was approached.



Under the Directoire



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1799 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 48



General Bonaparte at the Conseil des Cinq-Cents  
in Saint-Cloud, November 10, 1799

### Main historical events

- November 9 (18 brumaire an VIII): **Coup d'état of 18 brumaire:** Bonaparte overthrows the Directoire, beginning of the provisional Consulate - the Conseil des Anciens votes to transfer the Corps législatif to Saint Cloud to protect it from an attempted Jacobin plot. Bonaparte was given command of the troops, while Sieyès obtained the resignation of the Directors. The executive was vacant on the evening of Brumaire 18. On the 19th, at Saint-Cloud, Bonaparte presented himself to the Anciens, then to the Cinq-Cents. He was booed and threatened. The President of the Cinq-Cents, his brother Lucien Bonaparte, used the threats as a pretext to call in the troops, who cleared the session room. The legislature was vacant, which had not been the aim of the conspirators, who had hoped for a legal investiture by the Corps législatif. During the night, a few deputies from both chambers were brought together, who voted to abolish the Directoire and expel 62 deputies. They decided to form a legislative commission (Sieyès, Roger Ducos, Bonaparte) and appointed a committee to revise the Constitution.
- November 11 (20 brumaire an VIII): Bonaparte appoints Martin Michel Charles Gaudin Minister of Finance, the day after the coup d'état of 18 brumaire. He held this post throughout the Consulate and Empire until April <sup>1</sup>, 1814, then again during the Hundred Days, from March 20 to June 22, 1815.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1799 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 48



Installation of the Conseil d'État at the Palais du Petit-Luxembourg on December 25, 1799

### Main historical events

- December 12: Treaty of Pouancé with the Chouans.
- December 13 (22 frimaire an VIII): Proclamation of the Constitution of An VIII.
- December 15 (24 frimaire an VIII): Beginning of the Consulate (ending in 1804); Napoleon takes power and proclaims himself First Consul.
- December 25 (4 nivôse an VIII): The Constitution is implemented. Bonaparte asks Sieyès to appoint the Consuls. He doesn't dare put himself on the list and chooses Bonaparte, Cambacérès and Lebrun - Lazare Carnot, Minister of War (ends in 1800). Talleyrand, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Laplace, Minister of the Interior. 3,011,077 French people approve the Constitution in a plebiscite in February 1800. The Revolution was over. Universal suffrage is maintained, but reduced to the establishment of lists of confidence, at several levels (communal, departmental, national). A Senate of 80 irremovable members was co-opted from lists proposed by the First Consul, the Corps législatif and the Tribunat. The Senate oversees the constitutionality of laws and appoints members of the legislative assemblies from the national confidence list. Article 24 made it legal for Sieyès, Roger Ducos, Cambacérès and Lebrun to appoint the absolute majority of the Senate, with co-optation taking place only afterwards.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1799 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 48



Creation of the Conseil d'Etat December 22, 1799

### Main historical events

- December 25 (4 nivôse an VIII): Legislative power is exercised by the Tribunat and the Corps législatif, appointed by the Senate from the national confidence list and renewed by fifths every year. The Tribunat (100 members) discusses bills and forwards them to the Corps législatif (300 members), which votes on the bills without the right to discuss them. The executive is entrusted to three consuls appointed for ten years and indefinitely re-electable by the Senate (the First Consul, who promulgates laws, has the initiative for legislation and appoints the Conseil d'Etat, which drafts bills, ministers, ambassadors, officers and judges. He is the sole judge of public spending, sets the rate and denomination of currencies, directs the armies and diplomacy, but must submit declarations of war, peace negotiations and trade treaties to the legislature.
- December 26 (5 nivôse an VIII): Decree establishing the Conseil d'Etat (equivalent to the King's Council) in France.
- December 28: Proclamation by the consuls of the Republic to the inhabitants of the West. End of the great Chouannerie.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1800 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Laure-Sophie Balzac, Honoré's sister, is born in Tours on September 29.

She joins her brother at his nanny's in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire.



Laure Sophie Balzac

### Main historical events

- January 6: Victor de l'Aveyron, a wild child, is discovered in Saint-Sernin-sur-Rance.
- January 7: Benjamin Constant intervenes at the Tribunal, and, in a speech that makes him appear to be the leader of the opposition, denounces "the regime of servitude and silence" that is being prepared.
- January 12: Western pacification treaty between the government, represented by Hedouville, and the Chouans chiefs, represented by d'Andigné, Boumont, Kainlis and La Roche Saint-André.
- Jan 17: The number of authorized Parisian newspapers is reduced to 13.
- January 18: Peace of Montfaucon putting an end to the Chouans rebellion on the left bank of the Loire.
- January 21: Chaptal, Minister of the Interior (ends in 1804) - Chouans win the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Saint-James.
- Jan. 24: Minor victory for the Chouans at the Battle of Loch Bridge.
- January 26: Republican victory at the Battle of Les Tombettes.
- January-February: The Vendée Chouans lay down their arms.
- February 13: Creation of the Banque de France through the merger of several private banks into a joint-stock company.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1800 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 53



Alexandre Volta shows his electric battery to  
Napoleon Bonaparte in 1800

### Main historical events

- February 17: Law of 29 *Pluviôse, An VIII*, reorganizing the administration; Bonaparte extended the powers of the Republic's commissioners, who became prefects and sub-prefects, appointed and dismissed by central government. A system of administrative guardianship was introduced for municipalities; prefects appointed mayors and municipal councillors in towns with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, while central government appointed those in towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants. Paris has a Seine prefect and a police prefect. A general council of 16 to 24 members, chosen from the departmental confidence list by the government, has a consultative role - the department of Mont Terrible is incorporated into the Haut-Rhin.
- March 18: Law of Ventôse 27, reorganizing the judicial system: elected justices of the peace in the cantons, <sup>1st</sup> instance courts in the arrondissements, criminal courts in the départements, 28 courts of appeal. Judges are appointed by the government and paid from the state budget. They are appointed for life and cannot be removed.
- Centralizing reforms of An VIII: tax assessment and collection assigned to an administration of direct taxation (November 24, 1799 and March 18, 1800).
- April 27 (7 Floréal year VIII): Jean-Baptiste Grenier, former deputy to the Estates-General for the Third Estate of Riom, is appointed sub-prefect of Brioude.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1800 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 53



Battle of Marengo

## Main historical events

- May 16 (Floréal 26th, year VIII): France's first general population census.
- June 14: Battle of Marengo.
- August 13: Bonaparte asks Cambacérès to head a commission charged with drafting the Code des Lois (Civil Code).
- September 29: Birth of Laure Surville, sister of Honoré de Balzac.
- October 10: Arrest of members of the so-called Dagger Conspiracy.
- October 19: *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste* leave Le Havre as part of the Baudin expedition.
- November 21: Founding of the women's religious congregation of the *Dames du Sacré-Cœur* by Madeleine-Sophie Barat.
- December 3: Battle of Hohenlinden.
- December 16: Treaty of Mortefontaine, agreement signed between France and the United States ending the near war.
- December 24 (3 nivôse an IX): Failed "infernal machine" attack on the First Consul Napoleon in rue Saint-Nicaise, Paris, by Georges Cadoudal, supported by the British.  
The explosion killed 22 people. Initially suspected, the Jacobins were arrested and deported en masse. Once it was proven that the attack had been carried out by royalists, the king's supporters were arrested.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1801 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The Balzac family consists of :

- Bernard-François Balzac, the father
- *Anne-Charlotte-Sophie* Balzac, the mother
- Honoré Balzac, eldest son
- Laure-Sophie Balzac, youngest daughter



Napoleon and the Concordat, symbol of freedom of worship

## Main historical events

- January 5: The Senate passes a "sénatus-consulte" allowing 133 Jacobins on a list drawn up by Fouché to be deported without trial.
- January 27: Law of 7 Pluviôse, year IX, instituting the secrecy of investigations.
- February 2: The Congregation is convened in Paris by former Jesuit Father Jean-Baptiste Bourdier-Delpuits.
- February 7: On 18 pluviôse, creation of special tribunals in 32 troubled departments. During the vote on these laws, a rift appears between the Brumairians, disappointed at being excluded from power, and Bonaparte.
- February 9: Peace of Lunéville with Austria.
- March 21: The public debt is reduced by the finance law of 30 ventôse an IX; bonds given to State creditors are taken back and converted into a 5% annuity paid in cash.
- March 28: Creation of the Germinal Franc.
- July 15: Concordat between France and Pope Pius VII. Catholicism becomes the religion of "the majority of French people".
- July 17: The validation procedure for the draft French Civil Code drawn up by Jean-Jacques-Régis de Cambacérès begins.
- Summer-Autumn: Liquidation of the Chouannerie.

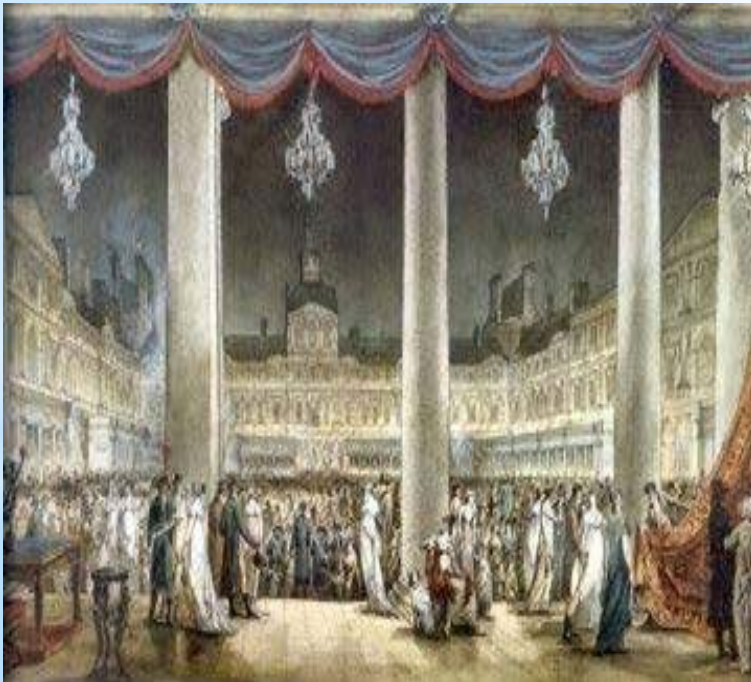
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1801 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 56



In 1801, the Exhibition of Industrial Products in the  
Cour Carrée

### Main historical events

- September 18: Exhibition of national industry in the courtyard of the Louvre.

#### In general

- Hot summers (1801-1811)
- Poor harvests: rising prices lead to food riots
- Census: 27,349,631 inhabitants in France.
- Trade treaties with Naples (March) and Russia (October).
- Creation of district commercial courts.
- Commercial channels are being revived, with rural producers and homeowners starting to buy industrial products again.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1802 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On April 18, Laurence-Sophie Balzac, sister of Honoré and Laure, is born.

On the baptismal certificate issued by an insertive priest (May 13), she is declared the legitimate daughter of Bernard-François *de* Balzac. It was on this day, for the first time in his life, that he added the particle "de" to his name.



Sénatus-consulte of 14 thermidor year X (August 2, 1802) proclaiming Napoleon First Consul for life

### Main historical events

- In France **Year X** of the revolutionary calendar.
- January 18: Purge of the Tribunal.
- January 24: Bonaparte becomes President of the Cisalpine Republic
- March 25: Peace of Amiens with the United Kingdom.
- April 1 (10 germinal an X): A Tribunat regulation diminished the role of this assembly: it deliberated behind closed doors and was divided into three sections with no relations between them.
- April 8 (18 germinal an X): Promulgation of the Concordat signed by Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul, and Pope Pius VII; resignation of all bishops and reorganization of bishoprics in France.  
Bonaparte obtained a say in ecclesiastical appointments (Articles organiques). Priests were paid by the State, as the Pope had recognized the sale of Church property. The Catholic religion was recognized as "that of the majority of French people". Protestant worship is officially recognized and Protestant ministers are paid by the State - vote on the Organic Articles.
- April 14: Publication of *Génie du Christianisme*.
- April 18: The Concordat is promulgated at Notre-Dame.
- April 26 (6 Floréal year X): A sénatus-consulte grants amnesty to émigrés and decides on the restitution of their unsold property.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1802 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

A new stage in the rise of Bernard-François is reached. His position in Tours grew stronger by the day, under the protection of his friend General de Pommereul. Both worked at the "La Parfaite Union" lodge, which included many notables.



Establishment of one school per commune

### Main historical events

- May <sup>1st</sup> (11th Floréal year X): Creation of 28 lycées and scholarships. Teaching is entrusted to civil servant teachers. Napoleon Bonaparte created the Ecole spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr to teach the arts of war.
- May 12 (22 Floréal Year X): The Tribunal, unanimously minus 1 vote, that of Lazare Carnot, and the Corps législatif, unanimously minus 3 votes, vote for the Consulate for life.
- May 19 (29 floréal an X): Napoleon Bonaparte creates the Legion of Honor.
- May 20 (30 Floréal Year X): Slavery is maintained in the territories recovered by the Treaty of Amiens (such as Martinique...), and in the Mascareignes (Réunion...) where it has never been abolished in practice.
- June 7: Arrest of Toussaint Louverture.
- June: Trade agreements with Turkey.
- July 29 (10 thermidor year X): The Senate proposes to re-elect Bonaparte for ten years. Bonaparte accepts, on condition that the people ratify the proposal in a plebiscite.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1802 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

A subscription is opened for the establishment of a high school in Tours: citizen Balzac's contribution is 1,300 F.

For BF Balzac, this major financial contribution, far superior to the financial contributions of the general-prefect or the concordant archbishop newly appointed in June, was an investment designed to consolidate his influence and reputation.



Coat of arms of the city of Tours

### Main historical events

- August 2 (14 thermidor an X): Following a plebiscite, Napoleon Bonaparte becomes Consul for life (3.5 million yes, 8,374 no).
- August 4 (16 thermidor year X): Proclamation of the Constitution of An X. A Sénatus-consulte (August 2) modifies the Constitution in a monarchical direction: the electoral system is modified: the "listes de confiances" are replaced by electoral colleges, whose members are elected for life from among the 600 most highly-taxed citizens of the département. The colleges proposed lists of candidates for elective office, to be chosen by the First Consul. The latter may also choose a successor. The powers of the Senate were increased. The assembly was renewed by co-option from a list presented by the First Consul. It was given the right to legislate by senatus-consult, to dissolve legislative assemblies, to suspend juries for 5 years and to declare departments "hors constitution". Senatus-consults are presented to the Senate by the "Conseil privé" (the Consuls, two ministers, two senators, two conseillers d'Etat and two officers of the Légion d'honneur appointed by the First Consul). The Tribune was reduced to 50 members.
- August 26 (8 fructidor an X): Senatus-consulte attaching Elba to France. The island has one deputy in the Corps législatif, bringing the total to 301.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1802 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 58 to 60



### Main historical events

#### Self-portrait by Louis-Désiré-Joseph Donvé

- September 11 (24 fructidor an X): Piedmont, occupied by French troops, is annexed to French territory and divided into six departments.
- September 13: Disgrace of Joseph Fouché.
- Oct. 29-Nov. 14: Napoleon travels to Normandy.
- November 2: Definition of "standard cadastres" for property tax collection.
- December 24: Creation of 22 chambers of commerce.

#### Births

- February 12: Albert de Dietrich, Alsatian industrialist.
- February 26: Victor Hugo, French novelist, playwright, poet and politician (d. May 22, 1885).
- July 24: Alexandre Dumas, French writer (d. Dec. 5, 1870)

#### Deaths

- April 27: Jean Antoine Rossignol, general of the French Revolution.
- December 3: Louis-Désiré-Joseph Donvé, French painter.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1803 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré's first trip to Paris took place at the beginning of the year, when he was introduced to his Sallambier grandparents, who lived in the Marais on rue de Harlay (now rue des Arquebusiers). Struck by apoplexy, grandfather Claude, Louis, Joseph Sallambier dies on May 22, aged 55. Shortly afterwards, the grandmother moved to Tours to live with her children. She brings the Balzac household 5,000 francs in annuities. Honoré and Laure leave their nurse and are entrusted to Mlle Delahaye.

As Napoleon was visiting Tours, the mayor handed him a petition from Bernard-François Balzac, reminding him that he had already sent the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor a report on "This petition remained without effect, so he petitioned in 1814.

Under the protection of General François-René de Pommereul (1745-1823), Prefect of Indre-et-Loire since January <sup>1</sup>, 1801 and a man of many connections, Bernard-François Balzac was appointed administrator of the Hospice Général de Tours on October 13 (a position he held until

## Main historical events

February 11, 1814);

- January 4: Creation of the senatorial system.
- January 24: Consular decree reorganizing the Institut de France into 4 classes, abolishing the moral and political sciences class.
- February 25: Creation of the Ecole de Compiègne, the first technical teaching establishment.
- March 28: Introduction of the Germinal franc (Law of 7 Germinal An XI, which sets the value of the franc at 5.90 grams of silver), which remains stable until 1914.
- April 12: Labor regulations in factories and workshops once again prohibit workers' coalitions (strikes and unions).
- April 14: The Banque de France becomes a state-controlled issuing bank. Resumption of minting of gold, silver and copper coins according to the decimal system, which eliminates money of account.



Germinal Franc



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On December 23, he was appointed deputy mayor of Tours by the First Consul, and served only as a civil registrar until May 8, 1808.

He then ceased his duties as assessor to the Justice of the Peace in Tours, a position he had held since 1798.



3000 fragments of a meteorite fall in the Aigle region of north-west France

### Main historical events

- April 26: A fireball causes a meteor shower over Normandy. Jean-Baptiste Biot's report is the first scientific recognition of the extraterrestrial origin of meteorites.
- May 3: Louisiana is sold to the United States.
- May 5: Opening of the Saint-Cyr special school, housed in a wing of the Fontainebleau palace. In 1808, it returned to the Maison royale de Saint-Cyr, where it remained until 1840.
- May: Loi de prairial taxing non-French colonial products at 50%.
- May 16: Breach of the Peace of Amiens, following the occupation of Hanover.
- August: Cadoudal's second plot begins, with the complicity of Pichegru. The plot is foiled and Cadoudal is executed on June 25, 1804.
- November 24: Inauguration of the Pont des Arts in Paris.
- December<sup>1</sup>: Introduction of the workers' passbook (abolished in 1890) - Creation of factory chambers.
- December 11 (Frimaire 19, Year XII): Promotion to the Legion of Honor.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1804 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On January 12, Bernard-François Balzac bought a house at 29, rue d'Indre-et-Loire (now 53, rue Nationale) in Tours for 40,098 francs payable in two annual installments. Seven days later, on January 19, he purchased the Saint-Lazare farm on the road from Tours to Saint-Avertin, covering 7 ha 71 à 33 ca, for 23,703 francs.



July 15, 1804, the first distribution of Legion of Honor crosses

### Main historical events

- January<sup>1</sup>: Haiti becomes independent.
- February 25: Creation of the administration des droits réunis.
- February 29: Discovery of Cadoudal's plot.
- March 13: Establishment of 12 law schools to award the licence en droit and the capacité en droit.
- March 20: Execution of the Duc d'Enghien, accused of plotting.
- March 21: Promulgation of the French Civil Code, drafted by Tronchet, Maleville, Portalis and Bigot de Préameneu. Its scope is nationwide: it institutes civil marriage and divorce. The family is the foundation of society. The father is the head of the family: women are treated as minors and the management of their property is entrusted to their husbands; children can be imprisoned for disobedience and are subject to parental authority in matters of marriage up to the age of 25. Individual ownership is full and complete. Long-term contracts and subordination are forbidden. The right to test is limited: assets must be divided equally between children (no birthright). Fixed rules in contracts enable the development of the market economy. The employee's inferiority to the employer is enshrined.
- April 6: Pichegru commits suicide in prison.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1804 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In April, Honoré is placed as a day student "à la lecture" for six francs a month at the Le Guay boarding school at 71, rue de la Scellerie, in Tours, not far from his parents' hotel. Catechism classes were taught by Abbé Laberge. He remained there until 1807.



Pension Le Guay in Tours, rue de la Scellerie,  
where Honoré stayed from 1804 to 1807.

### Main historical events

- April<sup>1</sup>: Law of 24 germinal year XI; prohibition of the right of association and assembly for workers.
  - May 18: On 28 Floréal Year XII, after a series of skilfully orchestrated solicitations, a senatus-consult proclaimed Napoleon Bonaparte Emperor of the French (decisions ratified by plebiscite on August 2, with 2,569 "no" votes to 3.5 million "yes" votes).
- Beginning of the First Empire (late 1814).
- May 19: Napoleon<sup>1st</sup> re-establishes the dignity of Marshal of France and appoints the first 18 Marshals of the Empire.
  - May 20: Opening of Père-Lachaise cemetery.
  - May 25: Napoleon<sup>1</sup> founds the new town of La Roche-sur-Yon.
  - May 28: Cadoudal sentenced to death and Moreau banished for life.
  - June 22: Religious congregations require authorization.
  - June 25: Georges Cadoudal is guillotined in Paris.
  - July 10: Fouché returns to the Ministry of Police.
  - July 11: Talleyrand is appointed Grand Chamberlain.
  - July 15: Distribution of the first Legion of Honor crosses.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1804 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Like the ladies of Tours, Mme de Balzac now has her own day, the one when her admirers flock to her salon, Jean-François de Margonne, wealthy bourgeois owner of Château de Saché, who soon becomes her lover.



Napoleon<sup>1st</sup> and Josephine

### Main historical events

- August 2: The English fleet attacks Le Havre de Grâce. Fructidor 7, year XII, creation by decree of the Conseil Général des Ponts et Chaussées; the English fleet attacks Boulogne-sur-Mer.
- September 18: Naval battle of Vizagapatam.
- October<sup>1</sup> - 2: British attack on the Boulogne camp.
- Night of December<sup>1</sup> to December 2: Religious wedding of Napoleon and Josephine de Beauharnais, celebrated by Pope Pius VII.
- December 2: Napoleon<sup>1st</sup> is crowned at Notre-Dame by Pius VII.
- December 14: Renewal of the alliance with Spain; creation of the livret ouvrier (workers' passbook) by decree of 22 frimaire an XII, which makes it possible to monitor workers' movements.

### Architecture

Napoleon commissioned his architects Charles Percier and Pierre Fontaine to transform Paris along the lines of the sumptuous architecture of imperial Rome, making it the most prestigious capital in Europe (the Carrousel triumphal arch and the opening of Rue de Tivoli). Work began in 1806.

### Births

- January 26: Eugène Sue, French writer (d. August 3, 1857).
- July<sup>1</sup>: George Sand, French writer (died June 8, 1876).

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1805 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The Balzac couple, who have paid off their house in Tours (January 8), sell on August 30 for 30,000 francs the Volaille farm in Gazeran, which Mme B.-F. Balzac brought as a dowry to enable them to buy the St-Lazare farm near Tours.



### Main historical events

- February 6: Building numbering is introduced on Paris streets.
- March 17: Napoleon becomes King of Italy.
- July 28: Battle of Cape Finisterre.
- August 9: Austro-Russian-British alliance. Birth of the <sup>3rd</sup> coalition.
- August 27: Napoleon <sup>1</sup> abandons the Boulogne camp with his armies and marches towards Austria.
- October 14: Victory at Elchingen.
- October 19: Victory at Ulm.
- October 21: Defeat at Trafalgar.
- December 2: Victory at Austerlitz.
- December 26: Treaty of Presburg.
- December 31: The revolutionary calendar is abandoned.

### Economy and society

The postmasters obtained a monopoly on the supply of relay horses, imposing an indemnity on those who dispensed with their services.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1806 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Long opposed by the archbishops of Tours, Prefect Pommereul left Tours for Lille on February 24; he was replaced by Baron Lambert, who caused B.-F. Balzac many difficulties, writing reports in which he questioned his honesty.



Prefect René-Jean de Pommereul  
December 12, 1745 - Fougères †  
January 5, 1823 - Paris

### Main historical events

- January<sup>1</sup> (10 nivôse an XIV): Official abandonment of the Republican calendar in France and return to the Gregorian calendar; financial crisis resulting from speculative operations by Ouvrard, supplier to the navy, which implicates the Spanish government, the Banque de France and the Ministry of the Treasury. Crisis of confidence.
- January 27: Barbé-Marbois, Minister of the Treasury, falls, replaced by Mollien. Napoleon reserves for the State the appointment of the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Banque de France.
- February 13: Napoleon and Pius VII break up.
- February 18: Napoleon orders the construction of the Arc de Triomphe atop the Chaillot hill.
- February 19: Decree making August 15, the anniversary of the emperor's birth, a national holiday under the name of "Saint-Napoleon".
- March 15: Murat becomes Grand Duke of Berg.
- March 18: Creation of industrial tribunals, with employers in the majority.
- March 30: Joseph Bonaparte becomes King of Naples.
- April 4: Publication of the *Imperial Catechism*, mandatory throughout the Empire.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1806 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 68

Census: in 1806, France had a population of 29,107,425.



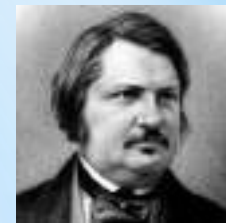
Napoleon reviews the Imperial Guard at Jena

## Main historical events

- April 14: Promulgation of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- May 10: Law creating the "Imperial University" or University of France. On September 17, 1808, it is granted a monopoly on teaching - the Court of Auditors is re-established.
- June 5: Louis Bonaparte becomes King of Holland.
- July 12: Foundation of the Confederation of the Rhine.
- July 26-April 6, 1807: Napoleon convened an assembly of Jewish notables to find out whether Jewish laws were compatible with common law. The notables submit to the prince's law in civil and political matters.
- August<sup>1</sup>: Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire.
- August 14: Extension to the whole Empire of the constitution of hereditary fiefs.
- August 15: Celebration of Saint-Napoléon and laying of the<sup>1st</sup> stone of the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile.
- August 22: Death of Jean Honoré Fragonard in Paris (b. 5.4.1732).
- October 14: Victory at Jena and Auerstaedt.
- November 21: Berlin Decree: establishment of the continental blockade against the United Kingdom.
- December 10: Meeting of the members of the Great Sanhedrin.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1807 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On June 22, 1807, Honoré de Balzac entered the Collège de Vendôme, run by secularized Oratorians, as a boarder (June 22). He remained there until 1813 (see *Louis Lambert*). B.-F. Balzac publishes his first brochure, *Mémoire sur les moyens de prévenir les vols et les assassinats...* Henri-François Balzac, the last child of the Balzac couple, born on December 21, is baptized the same day at Saint-Gatien Cathedral.

Thought to be the natural son of Jean de Margonne (1780-1858), the latter designated him as his heir at the end of his life.

Nevertheless, it was BF Balzac who registered it with the town hall and gave it its name.



Château de Saché

## Main historical events

- January 7: Blockade of French ports and colonies by the British navy.
- February 8: Battle of Eylau.
- March 9: Publication of the civil status of the Jews by the Great Sanhedrin.
- March 26: Napoleon decides to create the Train des Equipages Militaire, which will become the Arme du Train in 1945.
- June 14: Battle of Friedland.
- June 22: Honoré de Balzac enters the boarding school of the Collège des Oratoriens in Vendôme.
- July 4: Chateaubriand is exiled.
- July 7: Treaty of Tilsit with Tsar Alexander I.
- July 22: Creation of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
- July 29: Napoleon signs a decree limiting the number of theaters in Paris to eight.
- August 9: Talleyrand's disgrace.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1807 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré made many visits to the châtelain de Saché.

Bernard-François Balzac takes up his post as Chief Agent at the General War Supply Department in Tours, with a salary of 4,200 francs.

Appointed general food agent for the <sup>22nd</sup> military division, he remained in this position until September <sup>1</sup>, 1814.



Bernard-François Balzac

### Main historical events

- August 15: Birth of Jules Grévy, President of the French Republic (died 9.9.1891).
- August 16: Jérôme Bonaparte becomes King of Westphalia.
- August 19: Abolition of the Tribune - Returning to Paris after Tilsitt, Napoleon reinforced the authoritarian nature of the regime and pursued his domestic reforms, ensuring his absolutism in every respect: control of the police and the Imperial University by Grandmaster Fontanes, abolition of the Tribune created under the Consulate (sénatus-consulte of August 18), curtailment of public liberties.
- September 10-11: The Commercial Code comes into force.
- September 15: Finance Act. Start of the Napoleonic cadastre.
- September 16: Creation of the Cour des Comptes.
- September 20: Promulgation of the Commercial Code.
- October 13: Reinforcement of the continental blockade.
- October 27: Treaty of Fontainebleau on Portugal.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1808 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In April, Bernard-François Balzac publishes, again with Mame, a second brochure: *Mémoire sur le scandaleux désordre causé par les jeunes filles trompées et abandonnées*; on May 8, he resigns as deputy mayor.



The bourgeoisie in the 19th century

## Main historical events

- January 4: Count Bigot de Préameneu (1747-1825) becomes Minister for Religious Affairs.
- February 20: Murat is the Emperor's Lieutenant General in Spain.
- March 1: The nobility of the Empire was established as an honorary distinction. It is recruited from the former nobility (22%), the common people (22%) and the bourgeoisie (56%).
- March 7: Fontanes is appointed Grand Master of the University.
- March 17: Reorganization of the Jewish faith, with the obligation to bear a family name; decree on the organization of the Imperial University: all education is now under state control; creation of the baccalaureate.
- March 24: Laying of the 1<sup>st</sup> stone of the Paris Stock Exchange; purification of the judiciary. Despite the rule of irremovability, 68 judges are dismissed and 94 are asked to resign by two decrees, in application of the senatus-consulte of October 12, 1807.
- April 20: Birth of Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, President of the Republic (died 9.1.1873).
- May 2: Madrid uprising against the French.
- May 10: The University of France obtains a monopoly on teaching.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1808 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 72



May 22, birth of Gérard de Nerval

### Main historical events

- June 4: Joseph Bonaparte becomes King of Spain.
- June 15: Murat becomes King of Naples.
- July 22: Capitulation of Baylen.
- August 8: Napoleon <sup>1st</sup> visits the new town of La Roche-sur-Yon.
- August 15: Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>'s decree on education, article 38, stipulates that schools must henceforth comply with the following  
"Article 109 states that the Brothers of the Christian Schools are responsible for primary education and for training teachers.
- September 27: Erfurt meeting.
- November 17: Decree promulgating the Code of Criminal Instruction, which establishes the functions of the examining magistrate and introduces the principle of investigative secrecy, abolishes the indictment jury and gives prefects the power to choose jurors for the trial jury from the censal lists.
- The Spanish War, which lasted five years, cost France 300,000 dead and wounded and helped weaken the regime. Massive conscription: 250,000 conscripts were mobilized (80,000 in 1806 and as many in 1807). Contributions from defeated countries and an increase in indirect taxes in the Empire provided the necessary resources for the war.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1809 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré, a 7th grade student, wins an accessit de discours latin from the "Académie du Collège" and receives a copy of Voltaire's Histoire de Charles XII (Metz, Collignon, 1805, in-12). Engraved in gold lettering on the front cover is "PRIX A HONORE BALZAC, 1808".

In this school year, the ratings for Honoré are as follows:

- Driving: "good"
- Character: "slow"
- A "very happy" disposition



### Main historical events

- January 4: Birth of Louis Braille, inventor of the writing system for the blind and partially sighted.
- January 23: Napoleon returns from Spain.
- January 28: Disgrace of Talleyrand, implicated in a plot against the Emperor.
- February 7: Decree creating the Dieppe Chamber of Commerce.
- April 22: Victory at Eckmühl.
- May 12: Capture of Vienna.
- May 22: Battle of Essling.
- June 12: Napoleon is excommunicated.
- June 29: General Malet's first plot.
- July 6: Battle of Wagram.
- August 26: The Pope refuses canonical investiture to the French bishops.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1809 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the Collège de Vendôme, Zulma Tourangin, future Mme Carraud, then aged 13, met Honoré for the first time, while visiting her first cousin Alix Tourangin, a boarder at Vendôme.

A third brochure by B.-F. Balzac was published in May: *Mémoire sur deux grandes obligations à remplir par les Français*



Zulma Carraud

### Main historical events

- October 14: Peace of Schönbrunn (Vienna)
- December 15: Sénatus-consulte pronouncing the divorce of Napoleon and Joséphine de Beauharnais - The number of draft dodgers increases. They formed bands to resist the gendarmerie, with the support of the population.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1810 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

B.-F. Balzac publishes a fourth brochure, containing a tribute to the Emperor: *Histoire de la rage et moyen d'en préserver, comme autrefois, les hommes*. July 15, death of Mme Sébastien Malus, Honoré's aunt and Henri's godmother.



Publication of the Penal Code

### Main historical events

Series of good harvests. Agricultural surpluses due to the Continental Blockade.

Ferdinand de Bertier de Sauvigny founded the Ordre des Chevaliers de la Foi, a royalist secret society, dissolved in 1826.

Survey of manufacturers carried out by prefects: industrial fortunes acquired before 1789 accounted for 60-80% of industrial fortunes.

- February 5: Censorship and state prisons are reinstated.
- February 12-22: Publication of the Penal Code: reappearance of the offences of vagrancy and begging, reinforcement of marital authority (prison sentence for female adultery, fine for male adultery), freedom of association subject to government authorization, workers' coalition made an offence.

Confirmation of the decriminalization of homosexuality in the 1791 Penal Code.

- February 17: Rome reunited with the Empire.

Law of March 3 re-establishing the authorization given to administrative authorities to arrest and detain people guilty of "undermining State security, plotting" whom it is not "appropriate (...) to bring before the courts or to release".



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1810 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Prize-giving at the Collège de Vendôme. For the 6<sup>th</sup> grade "cours", "M. Honoré de Balzac de Tours" wins first place in Latin version and spelling, with the following assessments:

- Driving: "good"
- Character: "gentle"
- Dispositions: "happy"



Gymnastics accessory - 1884

### Main historical events

- April 2: Napoleon Bonaparte marries Marie-Louise of Austria, daughter of Emperor Francis I of Austria.
- April 28: Promulgation of the Penal Code.
- May 23: France's first primary teacher training college is founded in Strasbourg.
- June: Nicolas Appert publishes *L'Art de conserver pendant plusieurs années toutes les substances animales ou végétales*.
- June 3: Joseph Fouché is disgraced again.
- Night of July 1 to 2, 1810: The Austrian Embassy in Paris burns down during a grand ball given by the Prince of Schwarzenberg, Austrian Ambassador to France, to celebrate the Emperor's marriage.
- July 3: By decree of Saint-Cloud, Napoleon authorized French merchants to apply to the government for licenses to export cereals, wine and brandies to the UK.
- July 9: Annexation of the Netherlands.
- August 3: Authorization to publish a single newspaper in each département and 4 in Paris (laws of August 3, 1810 and February 21, 1811).

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1810 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 76 to 77



The First Empire 1804-1815

## Main historical events

- Statute of August 4: Teaching congregations are authorized to resume their activities. Primary education is left to the Christian Brothers or to private initiative.
- August 5: Napoleon raises customs duties considerably (Trianon decree).
- August 15: Inauguration of the Vendôme column.
- September: Seizure of proofs of *De l'Allemagne* by Mme de Staël.
- September 19: A small tsunami hits the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer (assessed at an intensity of 3.0 by BRGM, i.e. with the following effects: "Quite strong. Generally noticed. Flooding of gently sloping coasts. Light boats aground. Slightly damaged light constructions near the coast. In estuaries, reversal of watercourses up to a certain distance upstream").
- October 19: The Fontainebleau decree increases penalties for smugglers.
- December 13: Annexation of the Valais, which forms the Simplon department, to ensure links with Italy; annexation of the German North Sea coast. The Empire counts 130 departments.
- December 14: Creation of the Bar Association.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1811 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré completes his fifth Humanities class:

- Driving: "good"
- Character: "childish"
- Dispositions: "happy"



School becomes public

### Main historical events

- January: Bremen, Lübeck and many parts of northern Germany are annexed to the French Empire.
- The son of Marie-Louise of Austria and Napoleon, born on March 19, is proclaimed King of Rome.
- The pope refused canonical institution to 17 candidates for the episcopate presented by the emperor.
- June 17: Napoleon convened the Council of Paris (1811) to consider transferring the canonical institution from the pope to the metropolitan archbishop (August 5). The prelates decided to submit all their decisions to the approval of Pius VII, who had been in captivity in Savona since July 1809. On July 14, Napoleon threatens the Pope with canonical deposition if he continues his policy.
- The 1811 harvest was catastrophic, and from June onwards, grain prices soared, exacerbating the effects of the industrial crisis. Unrest broke out, with bands of vagabonds, looting of wheat convoys and market riots. The government reacted by building up stocks (August 28), distributing free soup through economic stoves (March 24, 1812), requiring wheat to be sold on markets and stocks to be declared (May 4, 1812), and setting maximum prices by prefects (May 8, 1812).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1811 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 79



Creation of the Paris fire department in 1811

### Main historical events

- September 15: Exceptional harvest ("comet wine")
- September 18: Creation of the Paris Fire Brigade.
- December 16: Imperial decree on the roads of the Empire, divided into imperial roads and departmental roads.



Appearance of the famous comet (of 1811)  
seen from Quai de la Vallée

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1812 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré de Balzac, a fourth-year student at the Collège de Vendôme, wins second prize for Latin version.



School Distinction Model

## Main historical events

### **Series of cold springs and summers (1812-1817).**

- February 23: Napoleon cancels the Concordat - Franco-Prussian alliance.
- March 2: Riot in Caen.
- March 4: Franco-Austrian alliance.
- June: Napoleon had the Pope transferred from Savona to Fontainebleau to overcome his resistance to the adoption of the decisions of the Council of Paris (1811).
- June 2: Napoleon promulgates a liberal constitution.
- June 12: Doctor Claraz saves Pope Pius VII's life at the Mont-Cenis hospice, when he has just received extreme unction.
- June 20: Pope Pius VII arrives at the Château de Fontainebleau (during his secret transfer from Savona to Fontainebleau) accompanied by his surgeon, Dr. Balthazard Claraz. The pontiff remained there for the nineteen months of his captivity.
- June 24: Crossing of the Niemen.
- Summer: A good harvest puts an end to the agricultural crisis.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1812 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 81



### The Russian campaign

### Main historical events

#### **Series of cold springs and summers (1812-1817).**

- September 5 and 7: Battle of Moskowa.
- September 14-18: Capture and burning of Moscow.
- October 19: The retreat from Russia begins.
- Night of October 22-23: General Malet's second conspiracy in Paris, revealing the weakness of the regime. Malet, a republican detained in a nursing home since 1808, escapes and rallies some troops. With a forged sénatus- consulte, he presented himself as head of a provisional government formed after the emperor's death in the Russian campaign, and succeeded in controlling the Prefecture of Police, the Ministry of Police and the Prefecture of the Seine. The chief of staff of the first military region, sniffing out the deception, had Malet arrested at around 10 a.m. On October 28, 24 conspirators were tried, and 12 were executed on October 29.
- November 26-28: Crossing the Berezina.
- State subsidies and orders to alleviate the industrial crisis, organization of major works to keep the workforce busy. The crisis dragged on due to the business community's lack of confidence in the regime. The Russian war interrupted the recovery.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1813 page 1 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

B.-F. Balzac sells his house in Tours to Honoré Marchant (February 13). Young Honoré's health gives cause for concern, and his parents are asked to withdraw him from the Collège de Vendôme on April 22. Honoré spends his first summer vacations at the family home.

Shortly afterwards, he became a boarder at the Lefebvre institution in Paris, run by Beuzelin and Ganzer and located in the Marais district on rue de Thorigny (formerly the Hôtel Salé and now the Picasso Museum). From the start of the 1813 academic year, he attended the Collège Charlemagne, where his fellow students included the Cavaignac brothers (before October).



A 100 franc bill from 1855



### Main historical events

- January 11: Senatus-Consult mobilizes 350,000 men.
- February 13: Fontainebleau Concordat promulgated following the January 19-25 meeting. The text stipulates that in the event of the pope's refusal to grant a canonical institution, the metropolitan of the episcopal see to be filled may confer it after a period of 6 months.
- March 17: Prussia declares war on Napoleon.
- March 24: Pope Pius VII withdraws his signature from the Concordat of Fontainebleau.
- May 2: Battle of Lützen.
- May 20-21: Battle of Bautzen.
- May 20-23: Stock market panic in Paris.
- June 21: Battle of Vitoria: loss of Spain
- August 10: Austria declares war on Napoleon.
- October 16-19: Battle of Leipzig: loss of Germany.
- November 9: Napoleon arrives at St-Cloud. Returning to France after Leipzig, he managed to build up an army of young conscripts (the Marie-Louise) over the winter and wage a "War of Liberation".

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1813 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



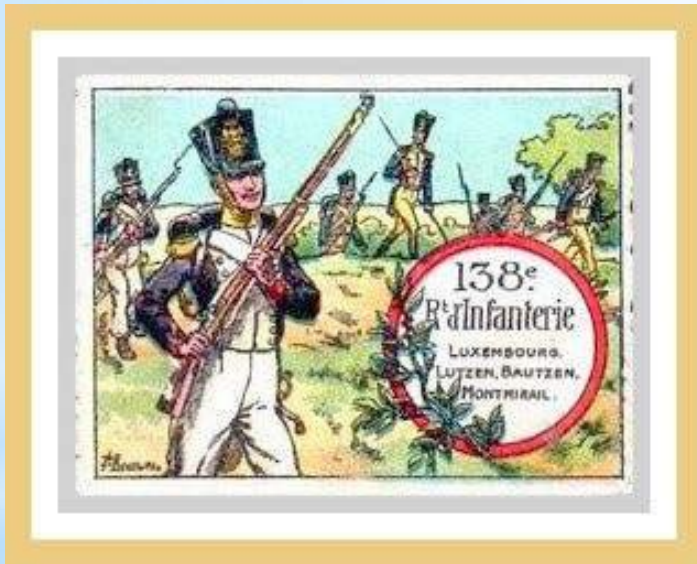
### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 83

### Main historical events

- November 9: Proposal of Frankfurt; the Allies propose to Napoleon, via Saint-Aignan, a general peace with the condition of returning to the natural borders (Rhine, Alps, Pyrenees). Napoleon proposes the opening of a peace congress in Mannheim.
- November 16: Loss of Holland.
- December 4: Frankfurt Declaration, dated December 2. The Allies declare that they are not at war with France, but with Napoleon.
- December 21: Austrian and Bavarian troops enter Alsace. They lay siege to Huningue, defended by Colonel Jean-Hugues Chancel's troops until April 15, 1814.
- December 29: Lainé Report: parliamentary assemblies wake up.

Wages fell from 5 francs a day in Paris in 1810 to 1.25 francs.



Soldiers of the imperial army

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the beginning of the year, Honoré is still a boarder at rue de Thorigny.

On January 13, at the Tuileries, the 15-year-old Honoré, along with all the other schoolchildren and their teachers, attended the Emperor's last great military parade for Parisians.

He would never forget this historic moment, which he painted in *La Femme de trente ans*.

Following Napoleon's abdication on April 20, and just before the arrival of the Allies, Honoré's parents had him repatriated to Tours.

On February 11, B.-F. Balzac stepped down as administrator of the Tours General Hospice.

Conveniently, B.-F. Balzac publishes a second edition of his *Histoire de la rage*, in which the tribute to the Emperor has disappeared, and a fifth brochure: *Opuscule sur la statue équestre que les Français doivent faire ériger pour perpétuer la mémoire de Henri IV*, which he sends to the Minister of the King's Household in July.

### Main historical events

- January 1<sup>1</sup>: Proclamation from the Count of Provence (the future Louis XVIII) inviting his French subjects to welcome the Allied invaders.
- January 3: Beginning of the siege of Metz; the coalition forces lift the siege on April 10, without taking the city.
- January 17: Murat withdraws.
- January 23: Regency entrusted to the Empress.
- January 25: The French campaign begins. France is invaded. Napoleon takes command of the army.
- January 29: French victory over Blücher at the Battle of Brienne.
- February 1<sup>1</sup>: French defeat of Blücher at the Battle of La Rothière.
- February 3: Combat de la Chaussée. Tactical victory for the Prussians (General Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg).
- February 5: Congress of Châtillon-sur-Seine between the coalition forces and the French parliamentarian Caulaincourt. Negotiations suspended on February 8.
- February 9-14: Six-Day Campaign. Napoleon succeeds in defeating the allies separately at Champaubert, Montmirail, Vauchamps (February 10-15) and Montereau (February 17-18).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

From July to September 15, Honoré repeats his third year at the Collège de Tours; on September 5, he receives the "Lys" decoration. On November <sup>1</sup>, B.-F. Balzac is appointed director of food supplies in Paris, and the family moves to 40, rue du Temple (present-day 122). Honoré becomes a pupil at the Lepître institution, 9, rue Saint- Louis (37, rue de Turenne) "See *Le Lys dans la vallée*".



### Main historical events

- February 10: French victory over Blücher at Champaubert.
- February 11-12: Napoleon I defeats Blücher at the Battle of Montmirail.
- February 12: French victory over Blücher at the Battle of Château-Thierry. Battle of Nogent-sur-Seine during the French Campaign.
- February 14: French victory over Blücher at the Battle of Vauchamps.
- February 15: Wellington's Allies win the Battle of Garris.
- February 17: French victory over the Austrians at Mormant.
- February 18: French victory over the Austrians at Montereau.
- February 27: Austrian victory at the battle of Bar-sur-Aube; Wellington's victory at Orthez; Wellington begins the siege of Bayonne.
- March <sup>1st</sup>: Capture of Fort l'Ecluse.
- March 2: Battle of Saint-Julien.
- March 6-7: Napoleon defeats Blücher on the Craonne plateau.
- March 9: The Chaumont Pact binds the coalition forces together until the final victory.

French troops take Fort l'Ecluse

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 86



Paris capitulates - Napoleon I  
abdicates on April 5, 1814

### Main historical events

- March 9-10: Failure against Blücher at Laon.
- March 12: Wellington takes Bordeaux, called by its mayor.
- March 17-23: Combat des Balmettes.
- March 20-21: French defeat by Schwartzemberg at Arcis-sur-Aube.
- March 21: The Austrians take Lyon.
- March 25: Victory for the coalition forces at the battle of La Fère-Champenoise.
- March 28: Claye and Villeparisis battles.
- March 30: Paris capitulates.
- March 31: The Allies enter Paris.
- April: The marshals of the Empire refuse to continue fighting. Publication of *De Buonaparte et des Bourbons*.
- April<sup>1</sup>: Talleyrand is recognized by the assemblies as head of a provisional government made up of royalists.
- April 2: Napoleon I is deposed by the Conservative Senate, then by the Corps législatif the following day.
- April 3: Joseph-Dominique Louis, known as *Baron Louis*, is appointed Minister of Finance.
- April 5: Napoleon I abdicates in favor of his son, at Fontainebleau. Under pressure from the marshals, he renounces the throne for all his people on April 6.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 85 to 86



The Restoration: the laborious  
return of the Bourbons 1814

### Main historical events

- April 6: The Conservative Senate adopts a draft constitution aimed at re-establishing the monarchy. It offers the throne to the Count of Provence (Louis Stanislas Xavier de France, Louis XVIII) and votes on a constitutional plan drafted by a commission (Lebrun, Barbé-Marbois, Destutt de Tracy, Emmery and Lambrecht).
- April 7: The provisional government re-establishes censorship.
- April 10: Battle of Toulouse, in which General Taupin dies. Wellington takes the city.
- April 11: Signing of the Treaty of Fontainebleau. Unconditional abdication of Napoleon I. He retains the imperial title, receives an annuity and sovereignty over the island of Elba.
- April 12: Charles D'Artois enters Paris.
- April 13: The Treaty of Fontainebleau settles the practical details of Napoleon's departure (April 20-May 4). Empress Marie-Louise of Austria and her son the King of Rome are entrusted to the Emperor of Austria.
- April 18: An armistice agreement is signed between France and Wellington (Anglo-Hispano-Portuguese army).
- April 19: Louis XVIII leaves Hartwell House for France; he arrives in Calais on April 24.
- April 23: Armistice between France and the allies.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 85 to 86



### Main historical events

- May 2: Saint-Ouen Declaration. Louis XVIII indicates his principles of government and the forthcoming drafting of an organic text (Charter) on public powers by a committee composed of nine senators (including Boissy-D'Anglas, Barbé-Marbois, Fontanes), nine members of the Corps législatif and three royal commissioners (including Abbé de Montesquiou and Beugnot).
- May 3: Louis XVIII enters Paris.
- May 4: Napoleon arrives on the island of Elba. Bayonne surrenders.
- May 12: Ordinance of May 12, 1814, reorganizing the infantry corps of the French army in order to "determine the strength and organization of the infantry of the French army for the foot of peace" and abandoning the tricolor flag in favor of the white flag of the kingdom of France.
- May 30: First Treaty of Paris. France's territory is reduced to the borders of 1792, with a few concessions (Avignon, part of Savoy, Montbéliard and Mulhouse). Almost all colonies lost to the United Kingdom. Public opinion is not satisfied with the loss of Belgium and the left bank of the Rhine.
- June 4: Constitutional Charter granted by the King, establishing a representative regime. Article 2 of the Charter abolishes conscription and calls for voluntary enlistments.

Napoleon's arrival on Elba

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1814 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 85 to 86



Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand

### Main historical events

- June 4: The last emigrants to enter France with the King criticize the Charter and want a return to the Ancien Régime. Despite his desire for national unity, the King often listens to the advice of the ultra-royalists: the ordinance of June 7 re-establishes Sunday as a public holiday. Cabarets were to be closed during worship. The public Corpus Christi procession was reinstated in June.
- June 14: Charles d'Artois is appointed lieutenant general of the kingdom by the Senate.
- August: A debate opens in the assembly on the restitution of unsold national property, raising fears of a wider operation against all national assets. Fifteen thousand civil jobs and twelve thousand military jobs are abolished, with many receiving only half pay, while six thousand military jobs are created in the royal guard for émigrés. The royalist press spoke of the re-establishment of tithes and feudal rights. All these measures made the king suspect of pursuing a reactionary policy.
- September 23: Talleyrand and the French delegation arrive in Vienna.
- November <sup>1</sup>: Solemn opening of the Congress of Vienna.
- November 18: Law imposing Sunday rest.
- December 3: Soult is appointed Minister of War.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

During the Hundred Days (March 20 - June 22), Honoré's seconde class was taught by the royalist Lepître, 9, rue Saint-louis (now 37, rue de Turenne), who had great difficulty in dominating his Bonapartist pupils. He was expelled in September 1815 with a mediocre certificate, and once again became a boarder at Ganser, rue de Thorigny, while studying rhetoric at the Collège Charlemagne.



Napoleon leaves Elba

### Main historical events

Louis XVIII inherited the Empire's budget deficit and had to maintain the entire fiscal apparatus, in particular collecting the "droits réunis" (indirect taxes), a source of discontent. Joseph-Dominique Louis, known as **Baron Louis**, managed to balance the budget by supplying the Treasury with ten million of the Emperor's precious metal crockery and the Empress's diamonds, as well as ten million three-month bills from the public coffers. He cut army appropriations by two-thirds and navy appropriations by half. He "forgot" to pay the annuity promised to Napoleon, giving him yet another reason to leave Elba. The abolition of the blockade led to the depreciation of colonial commodities accumulated at a high price, and ruined beet sugar factories. Marseille was unable to regain its former franchises.

Decrees abolish 16 arts faculties and 3 science faculties. The imperial lycées became royal colleges. Their staff and students were purged: 34 administrators, 134 teachers and 306 scholarship holders were expelled for their personal or family options.

Abbaye-aux-Bois taken over by Notre-Dame nuns. Creation of the Angers School of Arts and Crafts.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré wrote a preserved essay "Autre discours sur la mort des enfants de Brutus" (PI, XIII, 1003-1104, as well as an eulogy of the 16th century.



Napoleon arrives in Golf-Juan

### Main historical events

- February 26: Napoleon leaves Elba.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>: Napoleon lands at Golfe-Juan with 500 men. The **Hundred Days** begin. He rallies the troops sent to stop him, arousing public enthusiasm and rallying troops as he passes through France (Laffrey, Grenoble, Lyon, Auxerre, where Ney rallies).
- March 5: Four days later, Louis XVIII learns of Napoleon's landing in Provence. With the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment of line infantry in front of Grenoble, Napoleon, alone with his rifles, convinced the troops to rally behind him. The following day, the 7<sup>th</sup> line infantry regiment joined his troops.
- March 7: Louis XVIII convenes a meeting of foreign ambassadors at the Tuileries to reassure them.
- March 13: Soult resigns following rumors of an army plot against Louis XVIII.
- March 16: Louis XVIII addresses the chambers, calling for the defense of the charter at all costs.
- March 18: Louis XVIII begs the army to be loyal to him to avoid a foreign occupation of France.
- March 20: Napoleon arrives at the Tuileries while Louis XVIII, isolated, flees to Belgium and sets up a government with no real powers. Lazare Carnot becomes Minister of the Interior.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92

### Main historical events

- March 23: Louis XVIII crosses the French border.
- March 25: The Pact of the Allies in Vienna gives rise to the **Seventh Coalition** (United Kingdom, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden). Blücher's 100,000 Prussians are stationed around Namur, and Wellington's 93,000 Dutch-British around Brussels. Napoleon, believing he could surprise and defeat them separately, marched towards Belgium with 125,000 men. He reached the border on June 15 and drove Zieten's troops back to Charleroi.
- March 29: Imperial decree abolishing the slave trade.
- March 30: Louis XVIII arrives in Ghent.
- April 6: The British return Bourbon Island to France.
- April 8: Convention de La Palud. Abolition of duties on beverages.
- April 22: at Napoleon's request, Benjamin Constant drafts the Acte additionnel aux Constitutions de l'Empire, approved by plebiscite (2/3 abstentions) and favoring the bourgeoisie. Napoleon asks the Allies for peace, but they ban him from Europe, renewing the Chaumont Pact. He then decided to take the initiative and attack.
- May: The Vendée and Brittany rise up against the Emperor's return.
- May 8 and 22: Elections for the new House of Representatives dominated by liberals hostile to Napoleon.



The Hundred Days: Napoleon's last defeat and second loss of power. It was June 18, 1815

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92



Prussian-British  
troops, led by :

Arthur Wellesley,  
Duke of Wellington  
and General  
Blücher



### Main historical events

- June <sup>1</sup>: Proclamation of the plebiscite results at the Champ de Mai ceremony.
- June 4: Opening of the session of the House of Representatives. Liberal Lanjuinais becomes President of the Assembly.
- June 9: End of the **Congress of Vienna** (Nov. 1814-June 1815). France loses all the territories conquered by Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>.
- June 9: Discharged conscripts are recalled, with the essential result that they join the refractory ones left in the forests. The Chouans of Maine seize Le Lude. Other conscripts, led by an Empire cavalry colonel, cut off the roads between Lyon and Montbrison (June 18).
- June 16: Napoleon's victory at Ligny, against General Blücher's Prussian troops. Grouchy is commissioned to pursue them.
- June 18: Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, against the Prussian-British troops of generals Duc de Wellington and Blücher. Napoleon makes contact with the British troops at Quatre-Bras (June 16-17), deploys his artillery on soggy ground and begins the battle on the 18th. The British, hastily fortified in farmhouses, resisted cavalry charges and the imperial guard until the evening, when Blücher, who had escaped from Grouchy, burst onto the battlefield, causing panic and rout in the French army.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92

### Main historical events

- June 21: Napoleon returns to Paris.
- June 22: Having lost all support, Napoleon abdicates for the <sup>2nd</sup> time. A provisional government led by Fouché recalls Louis XVIII.
- June 26: The Austrians lay siege to Huningue, which surrenders on August 26.
- June 28: Proclamation of Cambrai. Louis XVIII admits his errors and reinstates the Charter.
- June 28-29: Battle of La Souffel. Contrary to orders to withdraw to Paris, General Jean Rapp, commander of the Army of the Rhine, decides to stay and slow down the Allied advance. The arrival of reinforcements prompts Rapp to order the retreat from Strasbourg.
- July 1: Napoleonic Imperial troops defeat the Prussians at the Battle of Rocquencourt.
- July 2: Napoleon arrives at Rochefort.
- July 3: Prussian victory at the Battle of Issy, the last attempt by the French army to defend Paris.
- July 8: King Louis XVIII returns to Paris.
- July 9: Napoleon takes refuge on the island of Aix.
- July 12: Maubeuge surrenders.
- July 14-July 22: Election of the "Untraceable Chamber", dominated by ultraroyalists.



Napoleon 1st takes refuge on the island of Aix

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92



### The Second Restoration (1815 to 1816)



Armand Emmanuel du  
Plessis de Richelieu  
becomes <sup>1st</sup> minister

### Main historical events

- July 15: Napoleon goes aboard the *Bellérophon*, where he surrenders to the English.
- July 24: Louis XVIII promulgates an ordinance drafted by Fouché ordering the arrest of several officers who had favored Napoleon's return.
- July 26: The *Bellerophon* anchors in Plymouth, with Napoleon on board.
- July 31: The English announce Napoleon's intention to exile him to St. Helena.
- July: Talleyrand becomes President of the Council. He resigns on September 24 and is replaced by Richelieu (ends 1818).
- August 2: Treaty of Paris: Austria, Prussia and Russia entrust the prisoner Napoleon to the United Kingdom.
- August 7: Napoleon is transferred from the *Belerephon* to the *Northumberland*, which immediately sails for Saint Helena.
- August-September: Second white terror orchestrated by the chambre introuvable. In the west and southeast, bands of *verdets* (wearing the green rosette of the Count of Artois) massacred Jacobins and Bonapartists, killing Marshal Brune in Avignon (August 2), General Lagarde in Nîmes (November 12) and General Ramel in Toulouse (August 15). They attacked Protestants (Nîmes and Uzès) and purchasers of national property. In Marseille, several hundred Bonapartists and Egyptians brought back fifteen years earlier were massacred.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92



the civil service (almost a quarter of civil servants, or around 60,000 people, were made redundant).

The execution of Colonel La Bédoyère.

### Main historical events

- September 24: Duke Armand Emmanuel du Plessis de Richelieu, a moderate-minded former émigré, becomes prime minister of France.
- September 26: Treaty of the Holy Alliance, signed in Paris between Austria, Prussia and Russia, designed to defend Europe following the Congress of Vienna. The sovereigns unite on the principle of divine right to protect "religion, peace and justice" and to govern in a "spirit of brotherhood".
- October 16: Napoleon is exiled by the British government to St. Helena.
- Richelieu's government purged the civil service and organized repression, giving it the appearance of legality:
  1. General Safety Act (October 29);
  2. Seditious Speech and Writing Act (November 9);
  3. Law creating the provost courts (December 27);
  4. The courts handed down sentences ranging from fines to death to over 100,000 people;
  5. Sanctions against those who rallied to Napoleon during the Hundred Days. Marshal Ney (December 7) and several generals (La Bédoyère and the Faucher brothers in August 1815, Mouton-Duvernet in July 1816) were sentenced to death and executed. Regicides (including Fouché) were banished from the country. Mere participation in elections was considered "the exercise of a public function during the interregnum".



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1815 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 91 to 92



L'Aiglon, NAPOLÉON's son, died on July  
22, 1832 at Schoenbrunn Palace in  
Austria.

### Main historical events

- November 20: The United Kingdom joins the Holy Alliance, which becomes the Quadruple Alliance. It unites the Allies to fight "revolutionary principles" throughout Europe.
- Second Treaty of Paris signed by Richelieu: harsher than the Treaty of 1814, France reverted more or less to the borders of 1789. She lost the rest of Savoy and her enclaves of Philippeville, Marienbourg and Bouillon, which passed to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sarrelouis and Saarbrücken to Prussia and Landau to Bavaria. It must pay a war contribution of 700 million and pay for the occupation of its territory by 150,000 men of the coalition armies, planned for five years (June). The treaty provides for the cooperation of Austria, the United Kingdom, Prussia and Russia should Napoleon or a Bonaparte wish to return to the throne.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1816 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Graduating 32<sup>nd</sup> in Latin, Honoré completes his secondary studies and, in September, starts work as a "petit-clerc" for the solicitor J.-B. Guillonnet-Merville (1773-1855), 12, rue Coquillière (in the Halles district); this is an internship for his studies at the Paris law faculty, where his parents enroll him on November 4.

His teachers were Boulage for the Civil Code, Blondeau and Pigeau.



The food shortage of 1816-1817 accelerated emigration. This votive painting from 1819 depicts a group of Fribourgeois on Lake Neuchâtel, bound for Brazil via Holland.

### Main historical events

A year without summer, following the explosion of the Tambora volcano in Indonesia in April 1815. Continuous rain. Late harvest in northern France (October 24). Poor harvest leading to famine.

- January 12: Amnesty law.
- January 31: King's decree creating a royal marine college and a company of marine students.
- February 29: Letter from Wellington warning King Louis XVIII of the danger of parliamentary debates jeopardizing "the budget in which all Europe is essentially interested".
- March 16: Treaty of Turin with Switzerland.
- March 21: Ordinance of March 21, 1816. Reorganization of the Académie française: 11 members are expelled and immediately replaced.
- April 13: The Ecole Polytechnique is dismissed for indiscipline by royal decree, in particular the class of 1814 to which Auguste Comte belongs.
- April 28: Creation by law of the Caisse des dépôts et consignations, to re-establish state credit after the financial disorders of the First Empire.
- May 4-5: Didier conspires in Grenoble in response to the intensification of purification. Fribourgeois on Lake Neuchâtel, bound for Brazil via Holland

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1816 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Main historical events

#### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He also studied with Guizot, Villemain and Victor Cousin at the Sorbonne, and with Cuvier and Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire at the Muséum.



The sinking of the Méduse

- May 8: Divorce abolished. Following the bill (tabled by Viscount de Bonald) designed, like others, to counteract the legal and social transformations brought about "in recent years", the new Chamber (ultra-royalist, elected in August 1815, then described as "*untraceable*" by the pleasantly surprised King) abolished the right to divorce by 225 votes to 11. France would not return to divorce until 1884.
- May 29: The Paris Stock Exchange lists only seven stocks when the monopoly of stockbrokers is re-established (38 in 1830).
- July 5: Sinking of the Méduse, a frigate set out from Brest to re-establish French sovereignty over Senegal, due to the inexperience of the captain, an émigré who had returned to France in 1814. The crew and passengers were divided between canoes and a large raft. A series of false maneuvers caused the cables between the raft and the canoes to break. The canoes arrive safely in port (July 8). On July 15, 15 of the 150 survivors were found on the raft. The affair was dramatized by the liberal press to highlight the favoritism shown to incompetent but royalist officers.
- The king gave in to the demands of the Allies and diminished the authority of his brother, the Comte d'Artois, who had in fact set up a parallel government supported by carefully purged National Guards.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1816 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 99 to 100



Regicide against Przemysł II.  
Regicide refers either to the assassination  
of a king, or to the death sentence  
pronounced against him by a legislative  
assembly set up as a court of exception.

### Main historical events

- September 5: Louis XVIII is forced to dissolve the untraceable Chamber, dominated by the ultra-royalists, who have come into conflict with the ministry of the Duc de Richelieu, trusted confidant of Tsar Alexander.
- The September elections, which were held under the electoral college system, altered the distribution of tendencies in the Chamber: the ultras went from 350 to 100 deputies (elected in the West and Midi), the constitutionals went from 30 to 150 deputies (elected in the big cities, the Centre and the North), and the independents or liberals had around ten seats. Shortly afterwards, the electoral law was amended: voters gathered in the departmental capital to form a college that directly elected the deputies. To be a voter, you had to pay 300 francs in direct taxes (around 100,000 voters). To become a deputy, you had to pay 1,000 francs (15,000 eligible voters).
- November 4: ***Honoré de Balzac enters the Faculty of Law to obtain his bachelor's degree.***
- Royer-Collard and Guizot founded the "doctrinaire" party, which advocated a certain limitation of royal power by the Chambers.
- Lazare Carnot is banished as a regicide.
- France postponed the decisions taken in London in 1816 to abolish privateers, hoping to limit Britain's maritime power.
- 54.3% literacy rate in France (1816-1820)
- Joseph Nicéphore Niepce perfected heliography, the first photographic process..

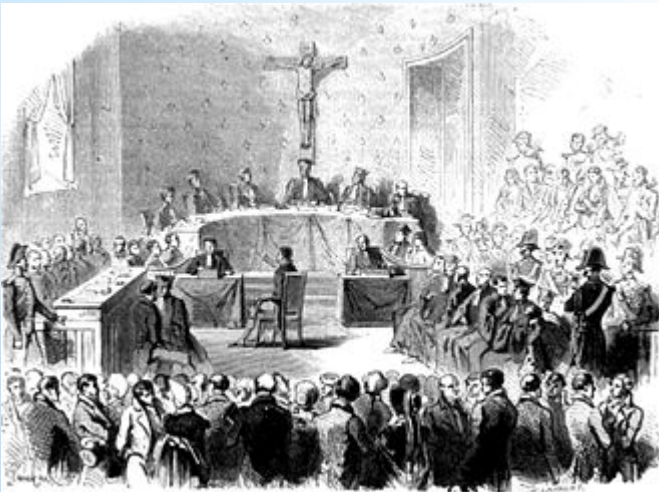
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1817 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Before starting his second year of law studies, Honoré spends his vacations with the mayor of L'Isle-Adam, Louis-Philippe de Villers-La-Faye (1749-1822), a native of Burgundy who has lived there since 1810 and is an old friend of the Balzac family. He continues to work as a clerk for Guillonnet-Merville.



Drawing of the Fualdès trial

### Main historical events

- January 17: the Ecole Polytechnique is re-established by Louis XVIII as the Ecole Royale Polytechnique.
- February: Charles Delezenne gives his first public lectures in physics and mechanics at the Ecoles académiques on rue des Arts in Lille, in an early attempt to apply science to the industrial arts;
- New censal electoral law (reserved for people paying a certain level of tax); fewer than 90,000 French people can vote.
- March 3: For abandoning his frigate La Méduse, its passengers and crew, commander Hugues Duroy de Chaumareys is sentenced to three years in prison.
- March 19: Assassination of former imperial prosecutor Antoine Bernardin Fualdès, whose body is found floating in the Aveyron, the starting point of the famous Fualdès affair, which had a huge impact throughout France and Europe.
- June 11: Draft concordat re-establishing the episcopal sees; in the face of opposition from the Chambers, the draft is withdrawn, then partially reintroduced in the law of July 4, 1821. The Catholic religion, protected by the State, was recognized as the "religion of the majority of French people". The last canonical conflicts were settled. The number of bishoprics increased to 80, corresponding to the administrative centers. The parish clergy suffered from ageing and lack of training. The reopening of major and minor seminaries enables the training of new clergy.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1817 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

April 14:

Honoré enrolled for the <sup>2nd time in</sup> the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris (no. 1335) - Professors: Boulage (Civil Code); Blondeau, Pigeau.

April 18:

Letter from Bernard-François to his nephew Jean-François Balzac, a "practitioner" in Albi: "My son has been working in one of the biggest prosecutor's offices in Paris for almost a year now, where he is <sup>3rd</sup> clerk and at the same time studying law to become a lawyer."

July 11

Honoré enrolls for his <sup>3rd year at</sup> the University of Paris Law School (no. 1088). Professors: Boulage (Civil Code); Blondeau, Pigeau.

November 11

Honoré enrolls for the <sup>4th time in</sup> the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris (no. 988). Professors: Boulage (Civil Code); Blondeau, Pigeau.

### Main historical events

- June 11 (continued): Male congregations are struggling to re-establish themselves, but female congregations are making rapid progress, both old orders (Filles de la Charité, Ursulines, Visitandines, Dames de Saint-Maur, Carmélites, Clarisses) and new orders (Dames du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, Sœurs de la charité de Besançon). They provided female education and assistance. To achieve mass recatholization, the clergy organized missions (Mazenod in Provence), set up a religious press, re-established the liturgical calendar and disseminated Catholic teaching.
- August 8: Anne Louis Henri de La Fare, former bishop of Nancy and former deputy to the Estates General of 1789, is appointed archbishop of Sens.
- September 20: Legislative by-elections; success for the Liberals. From 1817 to 1819, the ultras lost ground to the independents.

Economic crisis. Deficit. First wheat imports from Ukraine. Poor harvests (1816-1817) lead to under-consumption of industrial products. Prices in the industrial sector fell by 15-20%, while wheat prices rose by 85% between 1815 and 1817.

Women can testify in notarial civil deeds. Trouble caused by famine.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1818 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

That year, B.-F. Balzac was invited to retire. Honoré, who had left the Guillonnet-Merville law firm in March, became a notary clerk with Victor Passez, 40 rue du Temple, in April 1818. After another stay at Isle-Adam, he began his third year of law studies in November. But, more tempted by philosophy, he collected notes for a *Discourse on the Immortality of the Soul* and began writing (these texts are collected under this title in a file, dated, probably later, 1818; several fragments are, in fact, from 1819). This first literary work reveals a way of thinking strongly influenced by eighteenth-century unitary materialism, in particular by La Mettrie.



July 22, 1818:  
creation of the  
first Caisse  
d'Epargne

### Main historical events

- March 12: Loi Gouvion-Saint-Cyr reorganizes the French army. Recruitment was by voluntary enlistment, with reduced conscription in the event of insufficient numbers. Service was for six, then seven years, tempered by the practice of drawing lots for an annual contingent of 60,000 men and replacing them at a cost. Officers were required to have served two years as non-commissioned officers, or to have graduated from a competitive military academy.
- April 15: Abolition of the slave trade by France.
- July 29: Creation of the Caisse d'Epargne et de Prévoyance in Paris by Jacques Laffitte and Benjamin Delessert.
- September 29-November 21: Richelieu obtains the withdrawal of Allied forces from French territory and takes part in the Aix-la-Chapelle congress.
- October: France partially breaks its isolation by joining the Holy Alliance. Unbeknownst to her, Prussia, Austria, Russia and the United Kingdom renew the Treaty of Chaumont (March 1814), by which they unite against her in the event of her again posing a threat to the European order;  
Legislative elections, another Liberal success.
- November 30: Early withdrawal of occupying troops from France, following early payment of war indemnities demanded by the Allies.
- December 29: Decazes's left-leaning constitutional government (ends in 1820). Dessolles is appointed Minister of Affairs

and President of the Council (ending in 1819).

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1819 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On January 4, Honoré passes his first baccalaureate exam in law (no. 156). He enrolls for his <sup>9th year at</sup> the University of Paris Faculty of Law (no.219) with Professors Boulage (Civil Code) and Cotellet (Code civil approfondi).

At the Arsenal library, in preparation for *Essais philosophiques*, Honoré took notes on the works of Descartes, Malebranche and d'Holbach, began translating Spinoza's *Ethics* from Latin, wrote an *Essay on poetic genius* and the script for a play entitled *Le Corsaire*; at the beginning of September, he decided on another tragic subject: *Cromwell*, and worked on it until the end of the year. He tries his hand at poetry, sketching out a few satirical poems.

His father, having retired, stops working in the spring. His income dropped from 7800 francs/year to 1695 francs. He could no longer afford to live in Paris. At the end of July or beginning of August, the Balzac family leaves rue du Temple and moves into a house belonging to a cousin in Villeparisis.

On April 7, Honoré enrolls for the tenth and final time in the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris (no. 1147). Professors: Boulage (Civil Code); Cotellet (Advanced Civil Code).

On April 14, Louis Antoine Labois buys the law firm of Me Guillonnet-Merville for 120,000 francs. He would later act as Balzac's solicitor until he sold his position in 1840 for 250,000 francs.

### Main historical events

- February: Benjamin Constant delivers his famous speech entitled "De la liberté des Anciens comparée à celle des Modernes" at the Athénée royal de Paris.
- March 5: Decazes seeks support from the left. He overturned the majority in the Upper House by appointing sixty new peers. He dismisses ultra-rightist prefects and tries to win over public opinion with liberal measures, particularly concerning the press.
- March: Press laws abolishing censorship and prior authorization to publish.
- September 11: Parliamentary elections: <sup>3rd</sup> success for the Liberals. After the partial renewal of the Chamber of Deputies, which favored the independents, Decazes tried to backtrack, but failed to win over the ultras. Joining forces with the "The ultra-conservative voters of Isère had a notorious conventionalist, the former constitutional bishop Grégoire, chosen as deputy, despite his absence on the day of the vote. The ultra press cried scandal, and the majority voted to exclude the new member from the Chamber. elected.
- October: Madame Récamier moves to the Abbaye-aux-Bois in Paris.
- November 19: Decazes becomes President of the Council after the resignation of Dessolles and Joseph-Dominique Louis, known as Baron Louis.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1819 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré returns to Isle-Adam after leaving the Passez studio (early summer).

In *Physiology of Marriage*: "In 1819, I lived in a thatched cottage in the heart of the delightful L'Isle-Adam valley. My hermitage was next to Cassan Park, the most suave of retreats, the most voluptuous to behold, the most coquettish for the walker; the most humid in summer of all those that luxury and art have created."

Balzac, who has refused to become a notary, settles on August 4 in a garret at 9, rue Lesdiguières, near the Arsenal (see *Facino Cane* and *La Peau de chagrin*). For friends and family, he has officially left for Albi, to stay with notary J.F. Balzac. His family allowed him to try his hand at literature for two years, allocating him 1500 Frs/year.

On August 16, Louis Balssa, younger brother of B.-F. Balzac, was sentenced to death by the Albi Assize Court for strangling his mistress, Cécile Soulié, who was pregnant with his work. He was guillotined in the same commune, after King Louis XVIII refused to pardon him. It is a fact that Louis Balssa was probably innocent of this crime.

### Main historical events

That year :

- Pope Pius VII declared the Concordat signed with Napoleon <sup>1st</sup> in 1801 provisionally maintained.
- Pauline-Marie founds the Propagation de la Foi (Propagation of the Faith) Jaricot.
- Le Drapeau blanc, a daily newspaper launched by Martainville.
- Protectionist laws. Descazes passed the first law taxing cereals entering France.
- Riots in Vienna during the introduction of new trades in weave. The troupe arrives.
- First Peugeot factory.

### Births in 1819

March <sup>1</sup>: François-Marie-Benjamin Richard, French cardinal, archbishop of Paris (died January 28, 1908).



May 24, 1819 birth of  
Victoria Queen of the  
United Kingdom



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1820 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the beginning of the year, Balzac completes his *Cromwell*, rue Lesdiguières. It has 2000 verses.

In April and May, he stays at Villers-La Faye. On May 18, Laure married the engineer Surville (1790-1866) in Paris. On September <sup>1</sup>, having drawn a good number, Balzac is discharged from military service. He leaves rue Lesdiguières for Villeparisis before the end of the year.

From April to July, he drafts a medieval novel: *Agathise*, where the influence of Walter Scott is noticeable. The reading of *Cromwell*, a tragedy in five acts and verse, is coldly received by the family; the judgments of the academician Andrieux (1759-1833) and the actor Lafon, whose real name is Pierre Rapenouille (1733-1846) are no more favorable. During the summer, Balzac resumes his medieval novel, which becomes *Falthurne*, but does not complete it. Towards the end of the year, he wrote a novel in letters, *Sténie ou Les erreurs philosophiques*, which remained unfinished (a later draft or revision, after September 1821, is not impossible).

### Main historical events

- February 13: Assassination of the Duc de Berry (son of the future Charles X), the only Bourbon of child-bearing age, by Bonapartist saddler Louis-Pierre Louvel, prompting the resignation of the Decazes cabinet at the request of the royal family. The Duchesse de Berry was found to be pregnant with the "miracle child".
- February 21: Richelieu government (ends 1821). Faced with liberal opposition, he tried to adopt moderate reactionary measures.

Chateaubriand becomes Minister of Foreign Affairs (ends 1824)

Second White Terror (ends 1823).

Censorship was re-established and individual freedom suspended. Many newspapers were silenced or ruined by repeated lawsuits. Liberal plot hatched in the Paris garrison, with the aim of using the army to overthrow the Ministry. Discovered before execution could begin, it could not be severely prosecuted.

- February 26: Vidocq, head of the Sûreté, dismantles an organized gang of "chauffeurs" in Berny-en-Santerre.
- March: Laws restricting individual freedoms and freedom of the press (reinstatement of censorship and prior authorization).
- June 12: Double voting law.
- October 17: Execution at Rosières-en-Santerre (Somme) of the three leaders of the Berny-en-Santerre "chauffeurs", including Prudence Pezé alias "La Louve de Rainecourt".

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1821 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré, who lived in Villeparisis, made frequent trips to Paris, where his family had a pied-à-terre at 17, rue Porte-Foin, in the Marais district. His last stay was with Louis-Philippe de Villers-La Faye in l'Isle-Adam, in April-May. This old friend of his father's made available to him his rich library, which Honoré organized at his request. Among other works, he discovered the works of a fashionable writer, Walter Scott.

At the end of May, he reached an agreement with Auguste Lepoitevin de l'Egreville (1793-1854) for the publication of several novels. He begins *L'Héritière de Birague*, then *Clotilde de Lusignan*.

On Sunday August 12, 1821, the marriage contract was signed in Paris between Armand Désiré Michaud de Saint-Pierre de Montzaigle and Laurence Balzac. Laurence's dowry is 30,000F, as for Laure (on her marriage to Surville the previous year). The trousseau is valued at 6000F, and Mme de Montzaigle gives 3000F to her son. A The "evening" is given, Honoré is present.

On September <sup>1</sup>, Laurence Balzac married Armand-Désiré Michaut de Saint-Pierre de Montzaigle (1787-1869), owner of Château de Montzaigle in Villeparisis. Nothing remains of the Montzaigle château today.

### Main historical events

#### **Ordinance of February 27, placing the University under the supervision of the clergy.**

- March 23: Bauxite is discovered by chemist Pierre Berthier near the village of Les Baux-de-Provence.
- April 9: Birth of Charles Baudelaire.
- April: Antoine Scrive-Labbe re-imports Philippe de Girard's carding machine process, developed in England and essential to the mechanization of the textile industry, to France.
- May 5: France's first railroad company is founded;  
Death of Napoleon Bonaparte on St. Helena. Announced on July 5, it facilitated understanding between supporters of the Empire, Republicans and liberal royalists, by removing the possibility of the Emperor's return.
- September <sup>1</sup>: Laurence Balzac, Honoré's youngest sister, marries Armand-Désiré Michaut de Saint-Pierre de Montzaigle.
- September 9: Arrival of the Denderah Zodiac in Marseille; it is transported to Paris, where it arrives in early January. Sébastien Louis Saulnier had commissioned Claude Lelorrain to bring back this Egyptian zodiac at all costs, in order to put an end to the controversial debate raised by scholars questioning the Bible's dating of the creation of the world.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1821 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The civil wedding took place at the 7th arrondissement town hall, and the religious ceremony at Saint Jean-Saint François church, rue du Perche, at the corner of rue Charlot (Balzac parish). The Balzacs are officially domiciled in rue Portefoin, and Montzaigle in Charonne.

Laurence's witnesses are Dr. Nacquart and François Champ, "owner in Villeparisis". The Balzac family had two types of "faire-" printed.

part: the first, for intimates, is called The first, for the Montzaigle family, bears the particle "Laurence de Balzac", while the second, for the Montzaigle family, bears the particle "Laurence de Balzac" for the first time.

Shortly afterwards, Balzac went to Touraine, to visit Henri-Joseph de Savary (1753-1832), owner of La Caillerie in Vouvray and father-in-law of M. de Margonne.



Saint Jean - Saint François church in the Marais district of Paris

### Main historical events

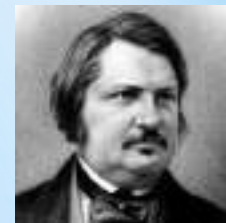
- October: A new electoral law (double voting law, 1820) allowed the return of the ultras, who formed a government led by Villèle, appointed finance minister in December. Freedom of the press was restricted, and the Church's stranglehold on education was encouraged. Gradually eliminated from the Assembly, the opposition regrouped in secret associations, the Charbonnerie, comprising officers, former revolutionaries (La Fayette) and students.
- December 12: Birth of Gustave Flaubert.
- December 14: Jean-Baptiste de Villèle government (J.-B. de Villèle, Minister of Finance; Pierre-Denis de Peyronnet, Keeper of the Seals (ends 1828).
- December 24-28: Failure of a Charbonnerie plot in Saumur.

Census: 30,461,875 inhabitants. Paris has 713,000 inhabitants, Marseille 116,000, Lyon 115,000, Bordeaux 90,000, Rouen 87,000, Nantes 74,000, Lille 55,000, Strasbourg and Toulouse 50,000. In twenty départements, there is not a single town with more than 10,000 inhabitants.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1822 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré works on various melodramas, vaudevilles, operas, comedies, tragedies, novels and brochures.

Balzac's first novels appeared under various pseudonyms: *L'Héritière de Birague* (January), "par A. de Viellerglé and Lord R'Hoone"; *Jean-Louis* (March) and *Clotilde de Lasignan* (July), by Lord R'Hoone"; *Le Centenaire* (November) and *Le Vicaire des Ardennes* (November), "by Horace de Saint-Aubin"; the latter novel was seized on December 9. He leaves a short story unfinished: *Une heure de ma vie* (March), sketches a fairy tale, *Corsino*, and a melodrama, *Le Lazaroni*; begins a novel, *Wann-Chlore* and, in November-December, writes a 3-act melodrama adapted from Shakespeare's *Othello*, *Le Nègre*.

Between the beginning and end of 1822, Balzac published thirty of these little books, according to the standards imposed on publishers by the owners of reading rooms. Given the exorbitant price of books at the time, these bookshops and libraries were the main customers of the publishing house, and set their own conditions.

M. de Villiers died on May<sup>1st</sup>.

### Main historical events

- January: Benjamin Franklin publishes the first part of his Commentary on Filangieri's work.
- January<sup>1</sup>: La Fayette arrives in Belfort. He wants to lead an Alsatian insurrection. He discovers the plot.
- January 9: Ordinance appointing 9 prefects. Charles de Rémusat's father, prefect of Nord, is dismissed.
- Order appointing Chateaubriand ambassador to London. Appointment of Hercule de Serre to the Naples embassy.
- January 14: Chifflet report on the law on the repression and prosecution of press offences.
- January 19: Martignac's report on the law relating to the policing of newspapers and periodicals. Discussion of Serre's press laws in the Chamber of Deputies.
- Failure of Charbonnerie plots from January to February.
- February 27: Trouble at the Petits-Pères church in Paris. Priests preaching a mission are hissed at by the crowd, which includes two liberal deputies, de Corcelles and Demarçay.
- March 5: Inauguration of the Synagogue de la rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth .
- March 7-8: Unrest at the Law School: 200 arrests.
- March 17-25: Law on the policing of newspapers and periodicals + law on the repression and prosecution of press offenses.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1822 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

After her apparently handsome marriage to Armand-Désiré Michaut de Saint-Pierre de Montzaigle, a ruined nobleman riddled with debt, the household's financial situation declined and Laurence, pregnant, was prone to fits of nerves.

That year saw the start of Balzac's affair with Mme Gabriel de Berny, née Louise-Antoinette-Laure Hinner (1777-1836), who was to become his "dilecta" and exert a considerable influence on him. From May to August, the young author stayed in Bayeux with his sister Laure, and made an excursion to Cherbourg (July 5 or 6). At the end of October, the Balzac family left Villeparisis for the Marais, this time moving into an apartment at 7, rue du Roi-Doré. They also leave their Paris pied-à-terre on rue Portefoin.



The Balzacs' youth and family environment (1799-1806) House in rue Cassini

## Main historical events

- April 2: Honoré de Balzac calls his youthful works literary rubbish in a letter to his sister Laure Surville - A Charbonnerie plot is foiled in Strasbourg.
- May 3: Work begins on the Canal Saint-Martin.
- May 17: Death of the Duc de Richelieu, Armand-Emmanuel du Plessis, aged 55. Publication of the second volume on the Hundred Days. Honoré de Balzac becomes the lover of Laure de Berny, more than twenty years his senior. A few years later, she inspires the character of Madame de Mortsauf in *Le Lys dans la vallée*.
- July 1: Inauguration of Daguerre and Bouton's Diorama in Paris.
- July 15: Opening of the Café de Paris, on the corner of Boulevard des Italiens and Rue Taitbout - Failure of a Charbonnerie plot in Colmar.
- August 12: Chateaubriand is appointed plenipotentiary to the Congress of Verona.
- August 17: Villèle is made a count by the King.
- September 7: The ultras take advantage of the abandonment of Richelieu by the Comte d'Artois to push one of their most skilful leaders, the Comte de Villèle, into the Ministry.
- September 8: End of Chateaubriand's embassy in London.
- September 18: Rémusat leaves Lyon for Coppet, where he joins his friend Auguste de Staël. There he meets Etienne Dimont, Rossi and Sismondi.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1822 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Death, on October 25, of Edouard Parfait Malus, tubercular, son of Sébastien and Sophie Sallambier. He leaves Mme Balzac, who had devotedly cared for him, an inheritance of 86,000 Frs.

Birth of Laurence and Armand de Montzaigle's first child: Armand Désiré François Alfred Michaut de Saint Pierre de Montzaigle (1822-1852). The rumors surrounding Armand Désiré de Montzaigle turned out to be true: a gambler, a womanizer, brutal, contrary to what Mme de Balzac wrote to her daughter Laure on August 14, (Honoré mistrusted this brother-in-law.) The couple soon plunged into debt and foreclosure.



Adèle Foucher  
circa 1839



Portrait of Victor, by Adèle  
Foucher, future Madame  
Victor Hugo

### Main historical events

- September 21: Condemnation and execution in the Place de Grève of the four sergeants from La Rochelle suspected of being linked to the Charbonnerie to conspire against the monarchy. They refuse to denounce their leaders, despite pressure and promises of pardon. Guizot was impressed by the depth of their convictions.
- September 27: Jean-François Champollion presents his work on deciphering hieroglyphic writing to the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. He is able to decipher hieroglyphs using the Rosetta Stone.
- October: Benjamin Constant fails in the partial renewal of the Chamber of Deputies.
- October 6: Pope Pius VII re-establishes 30 dioceses in France (suppressed during the Revolution) - Berton is executed.
- October 12: Victor Hugo marries Adèle Foucher in the church of St-Sulpice.
- October 20 - December 14: Meeting of the Verona Congress.
- October 24 - Beginning of the Congress of Verona. The Holy Alliance decides to intervene in Spain to re-establish absolutism. France is asked to re-establish monarchical order, to the protest of the United Kingdom. Chateaubriand sees an intervention in Spain as an opportunity to put an end to the conspiracies.
- October 25: the 9 powers, with the exception of Great Britain, sign the minutes of agreement concerning Spain in Verona.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1822 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on page 112



Benjamin Constant (1767-1830) was an opponent of Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 19th century and a critic of Rousseau.



### Main historical events

- November 14: Benjamin Constant, considered a moral accomplice in the Berton plot against the Bourbons, is sentenced by the Assize Court to a fine and 6 weeks in prison.
- December 4: Louis de Gobineau, appointed chef de bataillon to the 37th regiment of line infantry, is appointed to the garrison of La Coruña.
- December 12: After talks with Tsar Alexander and Metternich, Chateaubriand decides to return to France.
- December 17: Mathieu de Montmorency is granted the title of Duke, he was already Peer of France.
- December 22: Villèle and Montmorency clash over a possible intervention in Spain.
- December 25: Chateaubriand succeeds Mathieu de Montmorency as Foreign Minister.
- Economy

The postmasters obtain a monopoly on the supply of horses to the Messageries royales, the concessionaries of mail transport for the postal administration.

Mathieu de Dombasle founds an "exemplary farm" in Roville, Meurthe.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1823 page 1 - Gregorian calendar

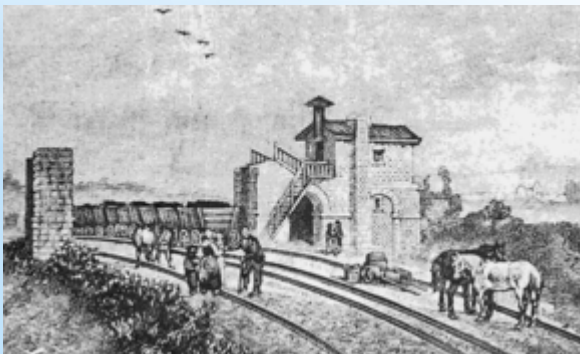


## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The Théâtre de la Gaîté refuses to stage *Le Nègre*, a melodrama in three acts (January 24).

Grandmother Sallambier dies on January 31; Sophie Surville is born on April 22. From July to September, Balzac stays in Touraine, in Vouvray, Saché and Tours. He maintains friendly relations with Jean Thomassy (1795-1874), who tries to convert him to Catholicism and Legitimism; but above all, he frequents a milieu of young liberal journalists and writers.

The novel *La Dernière Fée*, "by Horace de Saint-Aubin", appears in May; Balzac writes and has printed a second edition in three volumes, which does not go on sale. He completes *Wann-Chlore*; during his stay in Touraine, he writes a poem, *Foedora*; under Thomassy's influence, he sketches a *Traité de la prière* and considers a new tragedy, *Alceste*.



## Main historical events

- January 13: Antoine de Morlhon appointed archbishop of Auch.
- February 26: Louis XVIII signs the first concession for a 23-km French railway line between Saint-Etienne and Andrézieux to transport coal.
- April 7: Spanish Expedition.
- June 20: Anne-Louis-Henri de La Fare is appointed Cardinal by Pope Pius VII.

## Economy and society

- Completion of the Bordeaux stone bridge, planned since 1772 and begun in 1810 (Portal).
- Construction of the Libourne bridge over the Dordogne (Decazes).
- Digging of the Canal Latéral à l'Oise begins.
- Work begins on rebuilding the Bastille military fort above Grenoble, which will last until 1848 (25 years).
- The Spanish war cost more than expected, the services of the intendance provided by Ouvrard, the subsidies, bonuses and credits granted to the Spaniards, forced us to resort to expedients, up to and including the reduction of French debts by 80 million francs; interest and amortization were only paid from 1828 to 1835, when 70 million were still owed.

## Births

- May 25: Hector Hanoteau, in Decize, painter and mayor of Cercy-la-Tour, died on April 7, 1890 in Cercy-la-Tour.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1823 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Les Montzaigle leaves the Saint-Mandé house for an outbuilding of the Octroi buildings, where he works as an itinerant controller at the Barrière de la Santé.

January 5, death of General de Pommereul.

January 31, death of Marie-Barbe Sophie Sallambier, Honoré's grandmother, 7, rue du Bois doré. Burial the following day, at the former église Saint-Denis du Saint-Sacrement, rue de Turenne (the present church was rebuilt between 1826 and 1835). His children gave him a beautiful and costly funeral.

February 5, inventory after death, by Me Passez. Assets exceeded liabilities by just over 6,000 francs (B.F. had made a bad investment).

April 22, birth in Paris of Sophie Eugénie Midy de La Greneraye, eldest daughter of Eugène and Laure Surville (Balzac dedicated *Ursule Mirouët* to her in 1841).

Between July and September, Honoré was in Touraine. He stayed at La Cailleterie, owned by Henry Joseph de Savary in Vouvray; in Tours, he was the guest of the Doutremont de Minière family; and in Saché, at the home of Jean de Margonne.



Avenue Victor Hugo, Saint-Mandé



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1823 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On July 30, Me Passez proceeds with the liquidation and division of Edouard Malus's estate; the assets amount to over 136,000 F: around 90,000 F in shares, annuities and cash go to Mme Balzac. The family regained a certain ease of living and, it seems, Honoré was exempted from regular pension payments.



Stewardship plan for the Montzaigle estate

### History of the Montzaigle estate

The de Bondy family occupied the estate continuously until 1735, when it was bought by the Michaut de Bondy family. Saint-Pierre. The château fell into ruin and de Saint Pierre left it in 1763 to settle in the village. Only the farm remained in operation. The property was even sold to the Comte d'Orvilliers, owner of Château Caillard, in 1808.

In 1815, the Michaut de Saint-Pierre family sold their house in the village of Villeparisis to the de Berny family and moved to Paris. The Comte d'Orvilliers had little time to make the most of the farm, as it was completely destroyed in the fighting of 1814.

Montzaigle was the scene of the Battle of Claye during the French campaign that led to Napoleon 1st's abdication on March 28, 1814. The Tsar and King of Prussia attacked the French troops occupying the Gros-Bois farm, the woods of Claye, Morfondé and Montzaigle, along with the Prussian guard.

They even spent the night in Villeparisis, as the French troops had withdrawn. They entered Paris on March 31, and Napoleon abdicated at Fontainebleau on April 5.

In 1821, the last of the Michaut de Saint-Pierre family, Armand de Montzaigle, octroi controller in Paris, whose good looks appealed to the older Balzac, married Balzac's younger sister Laurence. Balzac's brother-in-law Armand de Montzaigle may have served as a model for the Marquis d'Aiglemont, featured in *La Duchesse de Langeais*, *Maison Nucingen* and *La Femme de trente ans*. Shortly before 1840, gypsum quarries began operating in the commune, particularly in the Montzaigle and Maulny areas.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1824 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Little is known about Balzac's activities in that year. From January to May, he contributed to small newspapers: *Le Feuilleton littéraire* and probably *La Lorgnette*. The Balzac family moved back to Villeparisis in August. Honoré rents a small apartment at 2, rue de Tournon. Publication of two anonymous works: *Du droit d'aînesse* (February), *Histoire impartiale des jésuites* (April). *Annette et le criminel*, *Argow le pirate* (May) and the second edition of *La Dernière fée* (November), "by Horace de Saint-Aubin", are offered for sale. Probably after April, unfinished writing of a new *Falthurne*. He works on *L'Excommunié*. On November <sup>1</sup>, "H. de St. Aubin" signs a disenchanted afterword to *Wann-Chlore* (not published until 1963). By the end of the year, Balzac seems deeply discouraged.



The  
execution  
of the four  
sergeants  
of La  
Rochelle

### Main historical events

- March 6: Election of the Chambre retrouvée. Chambre retrouvée (ultras) from 1824 to 1827. Assured that the new elections, in the euphoria of victory in Spain, would ensure him a large majority, the king dissolved the Chamber of Deputies in December 1823. Tax relief for opponents, who thus lost the necessary cens, and instructions given to civil servants, who were invited by the Minister of War to give a written undertaking to vote for the official candidate, ensured a resounding success: only 15 opponents in a Chamber of 430 deputies, including 264 civil servants appointed by the King to the electorate. To consolidate this victory, the government abolished annual renewal by fifths. Villèle set the duration of the assembly at seven years.
- The new-found Chamber proposed to repeal the "impious laws of the Revolution" and "punish sacrilege" as the first points of a program to reduce the number of civil servants and recruit them from backgrounds that were not "devoid of wealth". The Ministry proposed a law punishing with death the breaking and entering of objects dedicated to the worship of the State religion. Frayssinous, Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Public Instruction (1824-1828), pushed through several reactionary measures: closure of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and medical school courses, and transfer of university control over elementary school to the bishops.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1824 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

September 27 marked the start of a truly friendly relationship between Balzac and Zulma Carraud. Her husband is the director of studies at the Saint-Cyr school. At the Carraud home, Balzac meets the painter Auguste Borget and Captain Periolas.

Surville was appointed to Versailles and the family left Champrosay.

Honoré was a regular visitor to the Café Voltaire and the Café Minerve near the Théâtre Français. Close to the rue de Tournon dwelling, the Café Voltaire at 1 place de l'Odéon disappeared in 1956. Here, Balzac met with writers and journalists.



At the end of his life, Louis XVIII became impotent and could only move around on crutches.

### Main historical events

- June: Frédéric Kuhlmann gives his first classes in "chemistry applied to arts and crafts", in an early attempt to apply science to industry, on rue du Lombard (Lille).
- September 16: Death of King Louis XVIII; beginning of the reign of Charles X of France (ending in 1830).
- December 2: On the anniversary of Austerlitz, general officers with the highest seniority in their ranks, almost all former soldiers of the Empire, are retired. This awkward move causes a stir in military circles.

### Economy and society

- Nancy Forest School.
- Duke Decazes founds the "Compagnie des Forges et Houillères de l'Aveyron".
- Marc Seguin's first suspension bridge over the Rhône between Tain and Tournon.
- Le Catéchisme des industriels, by Saint-Simon (1823-1824).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1825 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac goes into business for himself. Introduced by polygraphist Horace Raison (1798-1854), he joined forces with publisher Urbain Canel (1789-1867) to publish compact, illustrated editions of the *complete works* of Molière and La Fontaine, in April. He makes a quick trip to Alençon (April 17-18) to make arrangements with an engraver, Godard fils (see *La Vieille Fille* and *Le Cabinet des Antiques*).

Through his sister Laure, who lived in Versailles, he met the Duchesse d'Abrantès (1784-1838). Their affair began during the summer. Abandoned and consumed by grief and misery, Laurence de Montzaigle died on August 11, exhausted by the birth of her second son Alphonse Ernest Louis Michaut de Saint Pierre de Montzaigle (1825-1868).

### Main historical events

- January 16: King's decree on stud farms. Organization of horse shows in 8 districts with the aim of improving the horse breed.
- Early April: Canel agrees to share with Balzac the profits, expenses and perils of an edition of Molière. The unsigned preface is attributable to Balzac.
- April 17: Decree "conceding" Haiti's independence in return for payment of an indemnity.
- April 20, Law on sacrilege: sentencing to death those who desecrate sacred objects.
- April 28: Bill to compensate emigrants to the tune of one billion euros.
- Coronation of Charles X, painting from 1827



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1825 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In September-October, Balzac made another trip to Touraine, from where he returned to to "console" the Duchesse d'Abrantès.

During this year, he made friends with Philarète Chasles (1798-1873) and Hyacinthe, dit Henri de Latouche (1785-1851). He publishes *Code des gens honnêtes* (anonymous, March, fictitious<sup>2nd</sup> edition in July), *Notice sur la vie de La Fontaine* (May), *Wann -Chlore* (September, <sup>1st</sup> edition, anonymous, copies later sold under the name Horace de Saint- Aubin). He also planned a series of novels to make up a *Histoire de France pittoresque*, and borrowed works from the Royal Library for his documentation.



Laure Junot,  
Duchesse  
d'Abrantes

### Main historical events

- May 29: Coronation of Charles X, in Reims cathedral, at which Cardinal de La Fare gave a highly acclaimed speech.
- June: Établissements Kuhlmann founded, becoming France's leading chemical group.
- July 11: Charles X threatens to reconquer Haiti and sends a fleet of 14 vessels. President Jean Pierre Boyer is forced to sign a treaty under which France would only recognize the country's independence in exchange for 150 million gold francs in compensation (the sum will be reduced to 90 million francs in 1838).
- Recognition of Saint-Domingue's independence led to the issue of a 150 million franc loan to compensate the colonists, which was not honored by the Republic of Haiti. Compensation for landowners who fell victim to the revolutionary measures was much more costly (the billion franc law).
- November 30: 100,000 people attend the funeral of Empire general Maximilien Sébastien Foy in Paris.
- France recognizes the independence of the South American states.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1826 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

With the help of loans, Balzac buys the printing works of Jean-Joseph Laurens, in partnership with the protector André Barbier; he obtains his printer's license on June 1<sup>st</sup> and sets up shop at 17, rue des Marais-Saint-Germain (rue Visconti). At the end of September, he travels to Reims to collect a debt, and his business does not go well. One of his first jobs as a printer is the typesetting of a first version of *Physiologie du mariage*, which will not be published.



Imprimerie  
Balzac

### Main historical events

- January 15: Le Figaro, a satirical weekly newspaper, is founded in Paris by songwriter Maurice Alhoy and writer and politician Étienne Arago.
- February 1: Publication of *Mémoire à consulter sur un système religieux tendant à renverser la religion, la société et le trône* by Comte de Montlosier, denouncing the ultramontane actions of some of the clergy.
- March 17 - May 3: Jubilee events, culminating in the solemn laying of the foundation stone for a monument to Louis XVI, which was never built.
- April 22: Dumont d'Urville sets sail from Toulon as commander of the "L'Astrolabe" (the former "La Coquille", now renamed) for a second circumnavigation, including the search for La Pérouse. He discovered the Fiji Islands, mapped the Loyalty Islands, surveyed the coast of New Zealand, and explored Tonga and the Moluccas. His reports led to the classification of the islands into Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia.
- April: Villèle's attempt to partially restore the birthright fails.
- June 4: Honoré de Balzac goes into partnership with André Barbier and sets up his printing works on rue des Marais-Saint-Germain (now rue Visconti).
- August 17: Louis Hachette founds a publishing house in Paris.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1826 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac contributes to Lepoitevin's new journal, *Le Figaro*, a non-political newspaper.



Les Messageries Générales de  
France - Omnibus

Drawing of an Omnibus: Stanislas Baudry founds in Nantes "La dame blanche", a company with two suspended carriages each accommodating 16 people, <sup>1st</sup> public transport network or omnibus.

### Main historical events

- November 4: Inauguration of the Palais Brongniart. Dates unknown
- Demonstrations by mine and surface workers in Rive-de-Gier in the Loire and Commentry in the Allier. Troop intervention.

#### Economy & Society

- 67% of the French population is under 40.
- Railway from Saint-Etienne to Lyon, built by Marc Seguin.
- Creation of the first National Agricultural School at Grignon (Thiverval).
- The Dukes of Savoy authorized the bottling of Evian spring water. It was then stored in earthen jugs.
- Detailed article: History of public transport in Nantes. Guimet process for the chemical synthesis of ultramarine blue, previously extracted only from lapis lazuli.
- The "Messageries Générales de France" appeared, sharing road traffic with the "Laffitte & Caillard" company and the Messageries Royales. Average speed rises from around 5 km per hour to 9.5 km in 1848.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1826 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Armand Désiré de Montzaigle remarries on April 18 to Adélaïde Bordot, 17 years his junior.

On June 4, Honoré moved from rue de Tournon to 17, rue des Marais-Saint-Germain (now rue Visconti). On the first floor, the vast printing works opening onto the street; an iron spiral staircase leads to Honoré's apartment, which Latouche helped decorate.

At the end of July, the Balzac family left Villeparisis for good (B.F.'s (72) gallant affair prompted her to move to 2, rue Maurepas in Versailles).



Printing works  
commemorative  
plaque

### Main historical events

#### Economy and society suite

The Dukes of Savoy authorized the bottling of Evian spring water. It was then stored in earthen jugs.



Evian waters: Buvette Cachat



Advertising for Evian

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1827 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On July 15, Balzac sets up a company to operate a type foundry under the name Laurent, Balzac et Barbier, partly sponsored by Mme de Berny.

On September 19, he buys material from the Gillé Fils foundry. In the course of the year, he helps Urbain Canel, editor of the *Annales romantiques*, to assemble the texts for the 1827-1828 collection. In the process, he came into contact with Cénacle writers such as Victor Hugo, Gaspard de Pons, Adolphe de Saint-Valry and Jules de Rességuier.

*Le Corrupteur* appears, "by A. de Viellerglé" (3 volumes; only the first is by Balzac; February). He contributes to various booksellers' works: *Album historique et anecdotique* (January), *Mémoires anecdotiques* by L.-F.-J. de Bausset, and several *Codes* published by H. Raisson from 1827 to 1829.

### Construction of the Grenelle bridge

A first wooden toll bridge built in 1827 collapsed in 1873. It was replaced by a cast-iron bridge in 1875 (shown opposite).

### Main historical events

- April 29: Villèle is booed by the National Guard and the Pont de Grenelle is built.
- May 27: Promulgation of the Forestry Code.
- June 24: Villèle is forced to abandon a bill to tighten press censorship (Peyronnet Law of "Justice and Love").
- Chateaubriand, who had joined the right-wing opposition, founded a "Société des Amis de la Liberté de la presse". Opponents who had received a rebate for being ousted from the ballot box formed associations ("Aide toi, le ciel t'aidera") and committees to legally regain their civic rights: the number of registered voters rose from 67,417 to 82,953 (up 23%).
- June: Villèle re-establishes censorship during the parliamentary recess and appoints 76 new peers.





## BALZAC and his times

Year 1827 page 2- Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Sale of the Villeparisis house to Michel-Charles Victor Caron for 10,000 francs paid in cash.

August 21, death of Armand Désiré de Montzaigle's mother.

September 12, birth of Armand, son of Armand Désiré de Montzaigle and Adélaïde Bordot.

Balzac's business situation is not flourishing: he owes almost 10,000 frs to M. Dassonvillez, plus 15,000 frs to Mme de Berny, not counting unpaid bills at the printing works. He continues to work on his Histoire de France pittoresque, as evidenced by his borrowings from the library in June, July and August.



### Main historical events

- June 30: Opening of the 23 km Saint Étienne-Andrézieux railroad line, granted in perpetuity to M Louis Antoine Beaunier for the transport of coal; this line was the first in continental Europe; the wagons were pulled by horses.
- July 9: A giraffe is presented to Charles X, King of France. Never before had the French been able to see such an animal up close. Zarafa comes from Africa. She was a gift from the pasha of Egypt. She arrived in France by boat. A hole had to be cut in the deck to allow her head and long neck to pass through.
- August: Founding of the Jacobin society Help yourself, and heaven help you.
- August 24: Funeral of Jacques-Antoine Manuel, first public demonstration against the policies of Charles X.
- October 20: Battle of Navarin.
- November 5: Villèle, attacked by the Liberals, has the Chamber of Deputies dissolved.
- Elections on November 17: Right and Left united to defeat the ultras: 180 ministerial deputies against 170 liberals and 75 right-wing opponents (the Chambre des Députés still contained 53% nobles). The Liberals' advance forced Villèle to resign.
- The Paris National Guard, in revolt against the government, is disbanded.

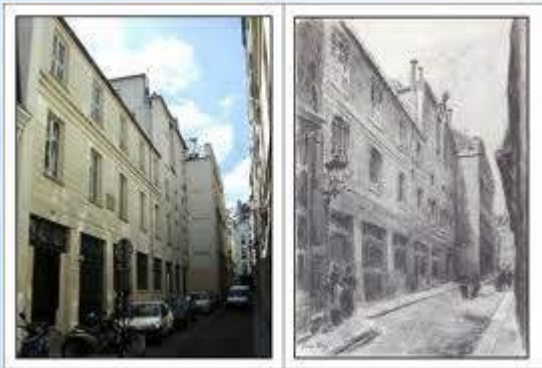
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1828 page1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

It was a year of commercial disaster and a return to literature. In February, Barbier withdrew from the printing and foundry companies. In April, under the name of his brother-in-law Surville, Balzac set up business at 1, rue Cassini, near the Observatoire. On April 16, he gave up the foundry, which passed into the hands of Alexandre de Berny (1809-1881). Mme de Berny discharges him of 15,000 francs in debts. Liquidation of the printing works is more costly. Cousin Charles Sédillot (1780-1856) takes charge of the liquidation.



Balzac's printing works today and a painting by Frédéric Léon, who had his workshop at the same address...

### Main historical events

- January 4: Martignac's compromise government begins. He failed in his attempt to win over the Left. However, it remained in power for more than eighteen months, dispelling the illusions of the liberals and entrenching those of Charles X.
- April 20: René Caillé stays in Timbuktu.
- June 16: Law limiting the ability of minor seminaries to compete with the royal colleges. Its implementation was evaded everywhere.
- July 31: Scientific mission to Egypt, with Jean-François Champollion (ends in 1830). Founding of the "Republican Society", supported by journalists from the Tribune des départements and Jeune France.

Jean-François



Champollion

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1828 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On August 16, the business was sold to André Barbier for 67,000 francs, representing all the company's assets, while liabilities amounted to 113,000 francs (by 1829, Balzac's business would be 60,000 francs in debt, most of it owed to his mother).

Balzac leaves Paris around September 18 for Fougères, where he stays until the end of October with General Gilbert de Pommereul (1774-1860), son of B.-F. Balzac's patron; there he works on a historical novel, *Le Gars (Les Chouans)*. In November, he stays with the Survilles at 2, rue Maurepas, Versailles. During the year, he drafts other historical novels: *La Fille de la reine*, *Le Roi des merciers*, *Le Capitaine des boute-feux*; a play inspired by Fenimore Cooper's *Le Corsaire rouge* and, in May, another entitled *Tableau d'une vie privée*. He writes *l'Avertissement du Gars* (August), in which he develops his ideas on the historical novel.

### Main historical events

#### Economy and society

Poor harvests. Population growth increases the number of workers at a time when harvests are poor, and the gradual replacement of the sickle by the scythe reduces the number of arms needed.

Duke Decazes sets up forges at Lassalle in Aveyron. A town grew up and took the name of Decazeville.

Report from the House of Peers estimating that out of 8384 leagues of theoretical royal roads, 4572 are in disrepair, 860 unfinished and 365 yet to be opened.

Introduction of the Forestry Code, legislating on reforestation and the use of forests for industrial purposes.



Duke Decazes and Decazeville



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1829 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In this year, Balzac wrote or published, under his own name, the first works that would later take their place in the novelistic universe of *La Comédie humaine*. A friend of Latouche, and in contact with Hugo and his Cénacle friends, he was introduced by the Duchesse d'Abrantès to the fashionable salons of Sophie Gay, Mme Récamier, Baron Gérard and Princess Bagration. His ties with Zulma Carraud (1796-1889), whom he had known since 1809, became closer.

When Bernard-François Balzac died on June 19 at 47, rue Sainte-Avoye, Honoré was not in Paris. In July, according to the location and date of *La Paix du ménage*, he was staying at La Bouleaunière (commune of Grez-sur-Loing, near Nemours), a property rented by Mme de Berny (he may already have been there in June).



La Bouleaunière

### Main historical events

- February: Publication of "Le dernier jour d'un condamné" by Victor Hugo (1802-1885).
- April: Martignac, who did not understand the King's intentions, proposed administrative reforms, which gave the left only theoretical guarantees for municipal, arrondissement or general councils, which would have become elective. The Ministry found itself in difficulty over the question of whether to discuss departments or communes first.
- April 5: Publication of Honoré de Balzac's novel *Les Chouans* under the title : *Le dernier Chouan ou La Bretagne en 1800*.
- June 19: Death of Bernard-François, father of H.de Balzac.



Sophie Gay

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On July 10, he attends Hugo's reading of *Un duel sous Richelieu* (Marion Delorme) on rue Notre-Dame- des-Champs. In October, he is in Maffliers (near Chantilly), writing *Gloire et malheur* (*La Maison du chat qui pelote*). A third edition of the *Code pénal des honnêtes gens* goes on sale under the name Horace Raison in February. *Le Dernier Chouan ou la Bretagne en 1800* (*Les Chouans*), "by M. Honoré Balzac" appears in April; *Physiologie du mariage* "by a young bachelor, in December (introduction dated December 5).

Balzac is working on a series of short stories to be included in *Scènes de la vie privée*: apart from the two titles already mentioned, these are *El Verdugo*, *Le Rendez-vous* (<sup>1st</sup> episode of *La Femme de trente ans*) and *Le Bal de Sceaux*; he signs a contract for the publication of this collection (October 22).

### Main historical events

- July 18: Honoré de Balzac writes *La Maison du chat-qui-pelote* in Maffliers, not far from the Talleyrand-Périgord residence where the Duchesse de Castries is staying.
- August <sup>1</sup>: Founding of the *Revue des deux Mondes*.
- August 8: Charles X appoints Polignac, a notorious ultra, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- November 17: After passing the budget, the King imposes the Prince de Polignac as President of the Council (ending in July 1830). Faced with Polignac's unpopular ministry, the opposition goes wild.



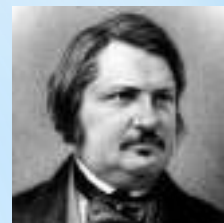
Duchesse de Castries qui inspira Balzac pour son personnage la Duchesse de Langeais.



Princesse Mavrocordato, sœur de la duchesse de Castries

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 1- Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

It was a year of intense journalistic and literary activity. However, many details of Balzac's life escape us. Estranged from Latouche, he made friends with Emile de Girardin (1806-1881) and a merry literary bohemia: Charles Lautour-Mézeray (1801-1861), Victor Ratier (1807-1898), Eugène Sue (1804-1857). Zulma Carraud introduced him to the painter Auguste Borget (1808-1877).

On January 26, he joined forces with Girardin and Victor Varaigne to publish a journal: *Le Feuilleton des journaux politiques*. On February 25, he takes part in the Battle of *Hernani*, although this does not prevent him from publishing a harsh review of the play. Shortly afterwards, on May 22, Balzac leaves Paris for Touraine with Mme de Berny, for an extended stay at La Grenadière (see *La Grenadière*), an estate in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire, near Tours.

On June 5, he and Mme de Berny set off down the Loire by boat. They made an excursion to Le Croisic and visited Guérande (see *Un drame au bord de la mer and Béatrix*); on June 23, they returned to La Grenadière, where Balzac spent July and August; he did not return to Paris until around September 10.

## Main historical events

- January 2: Honoré de Balzac publishes *El Verdugo* for the first time under his pen name.
- January 5: Victor Hugo writes to Montbel, Minister of the Interior, to protest against the censor Brifaut, who leaks extracts from *Hernani*.
- January 31: The government decides to intervene in Algiers, and announces this on March 3 in the Speech from the Throne. Mme Récamier invites Quinet to visit her. Founding of the La Fayette Conspiracy or Association de Janvier.
- February<sup>1</sup>: Victor Hugo gives alms to unemployed and poor workers in Normandy, Bapaume and Decauville.
- February 7: Preparations for the expedition against Algiers.
- February 19: Adolphe Thiers' phrase "the King of France reigns and does not govern" sums up the thinking of those who support a parliamentary monarchy.
- March 2: Opening of the parliamentary session. Speech from the throne. Charles X threatens the opposition. He announces intervention in Algiers.
- March 9: First edition of *Hernani* published by Mame.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

While Balzac's contributions to *Feuilleton des journaux politiques*, *La Silhouette*, *Le Voleur* (nineteen *Lettres sur Paris* from September 30, 1830 to March 31, 1831) and *La Caricature* are essentially linked to his career as a journalist, short stories and fragments intended for the novel appeared in several magazines. *La Mode* publishes *El Verdugo* (January 30, first publication under the signature "H. Balzac"), *L'Usurier* (fragment reprinted in *Les Dangers de l'inconduite*, future *Gobseck* (March 6), *Etude de Femme* (March 20), *Les Deux rêves*, which becomes the third part of *Sur Catherine de Médicis* (May 8), *Adieu* (May 15 and June 5), *La Comédie du Diable*, not reprinted in *La Comédie humaine* (Part <sup>1</sup>, November 13). Balzac makes his debut at the *Revue de Paris* with *L'Elixir de longue vie* (October 24), followed by *Sarrazine* (November 21-28) and *Une passion dans le désert* (December 26).

### Main historical events

- March 16: 221 opposition deputies vote no confidence in the Polignac ministry. Beginning of intense political agitation. The majority of deputies, in response to the King's speech, demand the resignation of the ministers. Presentation of the Address of the 221 deputies to the King.
- March 21: Dissolution of the Chambre.
- March 24: *Etude de femme* by Honoré de Balzac.
- April <sup>1</sup>: Lamartine is admitted to the Académie française.
- April 7: In the *Feuilleton des journaux politiques*, Balzac attacks Hernani.
- April 15: Six short stories from *Scènes de la vie privée* go on sale at Louis Mame.
- May 8: The sovereigns of the Two Sicilies arrive at St-Cloud.
- May 10: Honoré de Balzac flees his creditors and takes up residence at no. 1 rue Cassini. He publishes part of *Sur Catherine de Médicis*.
- May 16: The Chamber is dissolved by Charles X (in response to the 221 deputies).

## BALZAC and his times

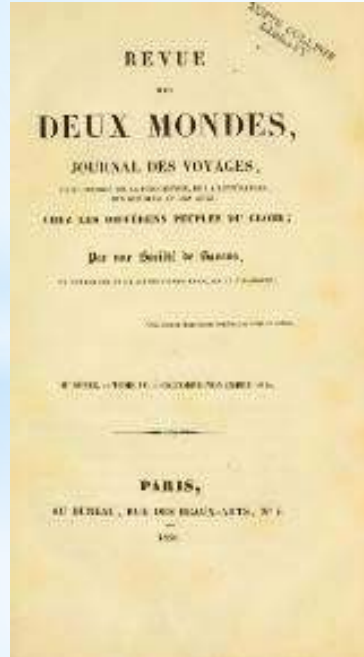
Year 1830 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*The Revue des Deux Mondes*, in an issue dated December 1830 but actually March 1831, published *Le Petit Souper* in December, which had already appeared in *La Mode* on May 8 under the title *Les Deux Rêves*.

*Scenes from private life*  
"par M. Balzac, auteur du *Dernier Chouan*",  
comprising six short stories,  
went on sale at Louis  
Mame in April. A final  
anonymous bookshop  
work, written in  
collaboration with L'Héritier  
de l'Ain, *Mémoires de  
Sanson*, appears in  
February (the Introduction  
will reappear under the title  
*Un Episode sous la  
Terreur*).



### Main historical events

Several story projects are not completed: *La Modiste* (spring), *Le Mendiant* (late summer), *Les deux amis* (autumn).

- May 19: Comte de Peyronnet is appointed Minister of the Interior.
- May 25: In Toulon, an expeditionary force embarks for Algiers.
- May 31: The Duc d'Orléans gives a reception in honor of the King of Naples (Napoleon's brother-in-law). Charles X is present. M. de Salvandy (future ambassador to Spain), aware of Charles X's unpopularity, tells the future Louis-Philippe "This is a Neapolitan party; we're dancing on a volcano."
- June 7: Publication of *Adieu*, a short story by Honoré de Balzac.
- June 14: Start of the Algiers expedition. 38,000 men, led by General de Bourmont, Minister of War, land at Sidi-Ferruch, west of Algiers.
- June 23: The opposition wins the elections.
- July 3: Election of a new Chamber. The opposition (Republicans and Orléanists) wins 274 seats out of 430.
- July 5: Capture of Algiers. Algeria becomes a French colony.
- July 12: Elections postponed in 20 départements.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

A series of play projects went unrealized, including *La Vieillesse de don Juan* (*The Old Age of Don Juan*), in collaboration with Eugène Sue, with Balzac instead writing a tale on the same theme, *L'Elixir de longue vie* (*The Elixir of Long Life*).



Liberty guiding the people - Painting  
by Eugène Delacroix (1830)

### Main historical events

- July 17: Invention of the sewing machine.
- July 27-28-29: July Revolution or the Three Glorious Days (in reference to the days of rioting on July 27, 28 and 29).
- July 27: Following the seizure of the presses of 4 newspapers (Le National, Le Temps, Le Globe, Le Journal du Commerce) which had been published without government authorization, the resistance of typographers triggered the Paris insurrection against the ordinances. The revolution was led by the common people (shopkeepers, laborers and servants). First barricades.
- July 28: Charles X signs an order placing Paris under siege. The insurgents succeed in seizing the Hôtel de Ville. The defense of the regime fails due to a lack of troops (who have left for Algeria).  
Fighting at the Porte Saint-Denis and the Hôtel de Ville.
- July 29: Following the defection of two regiments to the insurgents, Marmont's troops are forced to evacuate Paris and settle in the Bois de Boulogne. La Fayette is appointed commander of the National Guard (disbanded in 1827). A provisional municipal commission was set up to administer the capital. Charles X is isolated in St-Cloud. Attack on Louvres and battle on rue de Rohan.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 130 to 133



August 16, 1830, departure of Charles X and his family from Cherbourg

### Main historical events

- July 30-31: Paris cries "Vive la République" - the Orléanistes go on the offensive. A delegation of deputies proposes the lieutenancy of the kingdom to Louis-Philippe d'Orléans. Charles X leaves St-Cloud for Trianon and then Rambouillet.
- August 1: Charles X signs an ordinance conferring the lieutenancy general of the kingdom on the Duc d'Orléans (he is unaware that Louis-Philippe has already received it from the deputies). The tricolor cockade was officially restored.
- August 2: Charles X abdicates.
- August 3: Charles X abdicates in favor of his grandson, the Duc de Bordeaux, under the regency of his cousin, the Duc d'Orléans, son of Louis-Philippe d'Orléans, known as Philippe Egalité. Orléans took advantage of the situation to oust the Duc de Bordeaux and establish himself as "King of the French" in just ten days.
- August 3: Louis-Philippe grants the author of La Marseillaise, Rouget-de-L'Isle, a pension of 1,500 francs from his personal coffers.
- August 4 to 7: Revision of the Charter by the Republicans for a republican constitution in the form of a monarchy, declaration of rights, ratification of the Constitution by the people, dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. La Fayette promises to dissolve the peerage. An ordinance decides that the Gallic cockerel will replace the fleur-de-lis on flagpoles.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 6 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 130 to 133



On August 7, 1830, elected by the Chamber of Deputies, Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup>, King of the French by the grace of God and the national will (1773-1850)

### Main historical events

- August 4 to 7 (continued): Citing the departure of Charles X and his family and the violation of the Charter, the deputies declare the throne de facto and de jure vacant and call Louis-Philippe d'Orléans to the throne as "King of the French". Louis-Philippe accepts and appears on the balcony with his family to the cheers of the crowd.
- Chateaubriand renounced the peerage, to enter into determined opposition to "Philippe" (Louis-Philippe, Duke of Orléans, now "King of the French"), whom he felt had "stolen" the crown of France. He refused to swear allegiance to King Louis-Philippe.
- It was decided that the official seal of the State would bear the arms of the House of Orléans (de France au lambel d'argent).
- August 9: Official proclamation of the July Monarchy at the Palais Bourbon. The Duc d'Orléans accepts the crown and becomes Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup>. He takes the oath before the Chambers.
- August 10: Chateaubriand renounces his pension as Peer de France. August 14: The new Charter is promulgated.
- August 15: The church of Ste-Geneviève in Paris is withdrawn from worship and returned to its original function as a temple to great men, under the name of Panthéon.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 p.7 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 130 to 133



In 1830, after the July Revolution, the crown was transferred to a younger branch of the Bourbons, Les Bourbons-Orléans.

### Main historical events

- August 19: Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup> writes to the monarchs of Europe to notify them of the start of his reign.
- August 26: Ordinance re-establishing the Pantheon and its secularization.
- August 27: Death of the Prince de Condé, found hanged from the espagnolette of his room in the Château de Saint-Leu. His sole heir is the Duc d'Aumale,<sup>5th</sup> son of the King.
- August 31: Law of August 31, 1830 on swearing in to the new regime.
- September 3: Talleyrand is appointed ambassador to London.
- September 5: Emperor Francis<sup>I</sup> of Austria recognizes the July monarchy.
- September 12: Law requiring re-election of deputies promoted to public office.
- September 17: Ordinance appointing the members of the Municipal Council.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 8 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 130 to 133



Portrait of  
Adèle Hugo by  
Louis  
Boulanger 1839



Adèle Hugo photographed in 1854

### Main historical events

- September 19: Baptism of Adèle Hugo, born on July 28. She is the 5<sup>th</sup> child. Sainte-Beuve is godfather.
- September 27: The Chamber of Deputies adopted by a large majority a bill to impeach Charles X's ministers responsible for the July 26 ordinances: Polignac, Peyronnet, Chantelauze and Guernon-Ranville.
- September 30: Abolition of the 8,000 half-subsidies of 150 francs that had been granted to Catholic schools.
- October 7: Victor Hugo is elected second lieutenant of the National Guard. La Fayette annuls his election.
- October 11: An ordinance decides that pensions and rewards will be granted to the wounded and families of victims of the July Revolution,

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 9 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 130 to 133



Portraits by Stendhal

### Main historical events

- October 17, 18, 19: Republican riots in Paris. Demonstrators invaded the Palais Royal, then marched on Vincennes to lynch Charles X's ministers, who were being held there but whom General Daumesnil refused to hand over. The riot was the trigger for the ministerial crisis.
- October 18: *L'Elixir de longue vie* (The *Elixir of Long Life*), a short story in the series of philosophical studies by Honoré de Balzac.
- November 2: Creation of a government of businessmen under the presidency of Jacques Laffitte. Adolphe Thiers is appointed Secretary of State for Finance. Marshal Maison replaces Molé as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Comte de Montalivet replaced Guizot as Minister of the Interior, and Joseph Mérilhou became Minister of Public Instruction and Religious Affairs.
- November 4: Charles Philipon begins publication of the satirical weekly *La Caricature*, with contributions from Daumier.
- November 13: Stendhal's *Le Rouge et le Noir*.
- November 17: General Count Sébastiani de la Porta becomes Minister of Foreign Affairs, replacing Marshal Maison.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1830 page 10 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 130 to 133



Jules prince de Polignac

His sentence was commuted to 20 years' banishment from France, which he spent in England, before finally being allowed to return to France on condition that he did not remain in Paris, which effectively prevented him from participating in national politics. It was while in England that he renewed his vows with Charlotte, before the French consul.

### Main historical events

- November 18: Benjamin Constant fails again at the Académie française. Victor Cousin and Viennet elected to the Académie.
- November 19: Constant makes his last speech to the Chamber.
- November 25: Honoré de Balzac publishes *Sarrasine*.
- December 5: Premiere of Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*.
- December 7: Oral explanations from Sainte-Beuve to Victor Hugo. He confesses his love for Adèle.
- December 8: Benjamin Constant, politician and Romantic writer, dies, assisted by Charlotte and his friend Coulmann.
- December 12: A state funeral is organized. Benjamin Constant's body is buried in Père-Lachaise.
- December 15-21: the trial of Charles X's ministers begins before the Chamber of Peers at the Palais du Luxembourg. They are sentenced to life imprisonment, with civil death for the Prince de Polignac.
- December 25: La Fayette resigns as Commander General of the National Guard.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré's political opinions varied greatly: while he displayed Legitimist convictions at the height of the July Monarchy, he had previously declared himself a liberal, and would defend the workers in 1840 and 1848, even if he gave no place to them in his novels. While professing conservative ideas, he produced a body of work admired by Marx and Engels, and which in fact glorifies "anarchism and revolt".



A 1000 franc bill in 1831

## Main historical events

French pastor Eugène Casalis is sent by the Paris Evangelical Mission Society to the Basuto of Lesotho, where he plays a considerable political and diplomatic role with King Moshoeshoe (Moschech), training catechists among the natives and organizing primary education.

- January 7: The bey of Tunis takes Oran. In accordance with the convention signed with France in 1830, Husayn bey offers his services to France. He hoped to obtain Constantine and place his brother Mustapha in the government of Oran. But the violence perpetrated by his troops in Algeria caused a scandal, and Paris did not ratify the agreement. This about-turn damaged relations Franco-Tunisian, while by offering his services to the occupying forces, the bey compromised himself in the eyes of the Muslims.
- January 15: Sainte Pélagie in Paris becomes a political prison; a decree sends students before the Academic Council for attempting to form associations, gatherings and demonstrations of young people around the Sorbonne.
- January 17: Victor Hugo gives Gosselin a manuscript of Notre Dame de Paris. The additions are missing.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*La Peau de chagrin* and *Contes philosophiques* established his reputation as a fashionable writer. He was seen at Baron Gérard's Wednesdays, at Madame Ancelot's and at Madame Récamier's. Olympe Pélissier (1799-1878), with whom he had had a brief affair the previous year, welcomed him to the Château de Ville- d'Avray, where he met Rossini, Dr Véron, director of the Opéra, and the Duc de Fitz-James (1776- 1838), leader of the neo-legitimist party. Witness to the marriage (June<sup>1</sup>) of Emile de Girardin to Delphine Gay (1804-1855), he visits them at Sophie Gay's home in Villiers-sur-Orge.



Emile de  
Girardin  
(1825-1907)

### Main historical events

- January 20: British Foreign Secretary Palmerston thwarts France's plan to annex Belgium. The London Conference recognizes Belgium's independence.
- January 30: Submission of the government's draft electoral law, setting a lower census limit of 200 francs.
- February<sup>1</sup>: François Buloz takes over the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. Honoré de Balzac publishes *Le Réquisitionnaire*.
- February 2: Victor Hugo completes "Paris à vol d'oiseau".
- February 3: The Belgian National Congress elects, by a slim majority, the Duc de Nemours, son of Louis Philippe, as King of the Belgians. The latter is forced to refuse under British pressure.
- February 4: The Duke of Nemours refuses the crown of the Kingdom of Belgium.
- February 8: Law admitting the Israelite religion to the list of religions recognized by the State and making the salaries of its ministers the responsibility of the public treasury.
- February 14-15: Riots in Paris following a funeral service organized by the Legitimists at Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois for the anniversary of the assassination of the Duc de Berry.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He met Jules Sandeau (1811- 1883), Georges Sand, and came into contact with the Marquise de Castries (1796-1861), who had written to him under an assumed name before making a name for herself.

In March-April, May and September, Balzac stayed with Mme de Berny at La Bouleaunière. In September, he makes a brief stay in Saché, where he returns at the end of October until December.



The riots of February 1831

### Main historical events

- February 14-15 (continued): The church is invaded and sacked by the Republicans. The following day, the riot ransacks the archbishop's palace and numerous churches in Paris and the provinces.
- February 15: Sacking of the Paris archdiocese, destruction of the archdiocese and the archbishop's country house in Conflans, attempts on the churches of Assomption and Saint-Roch.
- February 16: An ordinance removes the lily from the State seal, which now bears an open book with the words "Charte de 1830" ("Charter of 1830").
- February 17: A Belgian delegation comes to offer the throne of Belgium to the Duc de Nemours. The king refuses. Stormy debates in the Chamber on February 17, 18 and 19.
- February 26: the French government refuses to support the Italian revolutionaries. Italy: Carbonari fight against the Pope, with the participation of Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte.
- March 2: Republican riots in Paris. On the occasion of the acquittal of accused press offenders, workers march on the Palais-Royal, the Louvres and the Place de Grève, chanting "Work or bread".



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Around December 13, near Châtellerault, he visited a fellow student at the Collège de Vendôme, Raoul Cassin (1797-1836), who may have given *Louis Lambert* some of his traits. Before December 19, he is in Angoulême at the Carraud family home; Commandant Carraud (1781-1864) has been director of the Angoulême powderworks since July 30, 1831. Balzac returns to Paris at the end of December, after a stopover in Tours.



Major Carraud, his wife Zulma and their children

### Main historical events

- March 4: Law on the composition of assize courts and on the majority required for jury decisions against the accused; law for the repression of the slave trade.
- March 8: The Minister of Justice, Joseph Mérilhou, resigns because he considers the government insufficiently supportive of the movement.
- March 9: Law creating the Foreign Legion.
- March 10: Republican riot in Paris.
- March 11: Students gather at the Pantheon.
- March 12: The crowd gathered at the Panthéon went to the houses of Comte, the dismissed King's Attorney, and Mérilhou, the resigning Minister, to congratulate them.
- March 13: Departure of Jacques Laffitte and the Casimir Perier government (Resistance party). C. Perier, President of the Council, decides on non-intervention in Europe; revolutionary movements (Belgium, Italy...) will be crushed.
- March 16: Publication of *Notre-Dame de Paris*, by V. Hugo, in 2 vols.
- March 21: Law on the formation and organization of municipal councils by election.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He continues his journalistic activity at *Le Voleur*, but his collaboration with *La Caricature* becomes very irregular. Tempted by a political career during the legislative elections, "M. de Balzac, électeur éligible" publishes a brochure entitled *Enquête sur la politique des deux ministères* (April 23). He is an active contributor to magazines that publish stories and short stories: *L'Enfant maudit* (Part <sup>1</sup>) in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, no. dated January-February, actually April.



Failure of the Restoration in 1830 and the setting up of barricades in 1831

### Main historical events

- March 22: Restoration of the National Guard.
- March 24: Chateaubriand publishes "De la Restauration et de la Monarchie électorale".
- March 27: 1st performance in Paris of Beethoven's <sup>9th</sup> Symphony.
- April <sup>1</sup>: Tumultuous gatherings at the Châtelet, Pont au Change and Quai aux Fleurs, which continued into the next day, spreading throughout the district.
- April 5 - June 15: 5 trials for riots, conspiracies and insurrections. Defendants who do not contest the facts are acquitted by the juries.
- April 10: Anti-attack law.
- April 19: Promulgation of the law on legislative elections, lowering the electoral census from 300 to 200 francs of direct contributions and the eligibility census from 1,000 to 500 francs. Queen Hortense is in Paris.
- May 3: <sup>1st</sup> performance of Alexandre Dumas's drama *Antony*, a spectacular success.
- May 4: Le Cabinet de lecture publishes La Cafetière, Théophile Gautier's <sup>1st</sup> fantastic tale.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1831 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Les Deux Rencontres* (chap.V, <sup>1st</sup> part of *La Femme de trente ans*) in the *Revue de Paris* (January 23-30); *Le Réquisitionnaire* (*ibid.* February 27), *Le Doigt de Dieu* (chap. IV, <sup>1st</sup> part of *La Femme de trente ans*) (*ibid.* March 27); *Les Proscrits* (*ibid.* May <sup>1</sup>); *La Belle Impéria* (conte drolatique, *ibid.* June 19); *Le Chef-d'œuvre inconnu* in the revue *L'Artiste* (July 31-August 7);



It symbolizes the evolution of the French ruling classes, in search of a new, stable institutional order after the collapse of the absolute monarchy in 1789, through its major role in setting up the political regimes that followed the failure of the Restoration in 1830.

Adolphe Thiers

### Main historical events

- May 5: Bonapartist demonstrations in Paris. Riot in Place Vendôme, in favor of Queen Hortense, with cries of "Long live the Emperor". The statue of Napoleon is then put back in place.
- May 9: Following their departure for the United States on April 2, Tocqueville and Baumont arrive in Newport (Rhode Island), then travel to New York. They visit Sing Sing prison.
- May 9 and 10: Rallies and demonstrations at Place Vendôme after a Bonapartist banquet at the Temple.
- <sup>2nd</sup> fortnight of May: Louis-Philippe travels to Normandy and Picardy. The King returns to Saint-Cloud on the 28th.
- May 23-October 13: Chateaubriand's stay in Geneva.
- May 31: Ordinance dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, setting elections for July 5 and the meeting of the Chambers for August 9 - Agreement between France and the United States of America concerning compensation for damage caused by French privateers during the Napoleonic Wars.
- June 6: Ordinance placing Paris under siege.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*L'Auberge Rouge* in the *Revue de Paris* (August 21-28); *Le Rendez-vous* (chap.I of *La Femme de trente ans*) in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (Sept.15-Oct.1); *Maître Cornélius* in the *Revue de Paris* (December 18-25). *La Peau de chagrin*, "roman philosophique", sold to publishers Urbain Canel and Charles Gosselin on January 17, and launched by a skilful advertising campaign, appeared on August <sup>1</sup> (2 volumes); a second edition preceded by an Introduction written by Philarète Chasles and followed by twelve tales (1) went on sale at the end of September under the title *Romans*



*et contes philosophiques* (3 volumes).

### Main historical events

- June 6 - July <sup>1</sup>: Louis-Philippe's official trip to Eastern France.
- June 14-16: Riots in Paris, put down by the National Guard and line units. Violent scuffles in the Faubourg Saint-Denis and Boulevard de Bonne-Nouvelle.
- July 4: Tocqueville and Baumont leave N.Y. for the West, following in the footsteps of the Indians encountered by Chateaubriand and Fenimore Cooper.
- July 5: The legislative elections fail to live up to the hopes of Louis-Philippe and Casimir Perier. Nearly half the deputies were newly elected.
- July 8-14: Admiral Roussin's victorious expedition to Portugal: Faced with Michel <sup>1</sup> of Portugal's refusal to recognize the July monarchy, the Holy Alliance authorized France to intervene militarily.
- July 11: The French fleet bombs Lisbon.
- July 14: New uproars erupt in Paris.
- July 18: Victor Hugo completes *the hymn to the dead of July*, commissioned by the government and to be set to music by Herold.
- July 27: The Hymn by V. Hugo and Herold is performed at the Panthéon (anniversary of the Trois Glorieuses).

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*L'Emeraude*, a royalist keepsake, publishes *Le Départ*, an evocation of Charles X's exile, which marks the Balzac's "conversion" to Carlism (late December).

Several treaties were signed with publishers, for works that never saw the light of day: *Monographie de la vertu*, *les Trois Cardinaux*, *Histoire de la succession du marquis de Carabas*.

Balzac writes another *Scène de village* for a keepsake, which remains unpublished but is incorporated into *Médecin de campagne*. Plans for collaborative plays were soon abandoned.

(1) *Sarrasine*, *La Comédie du diable*, *El Verdugo*, *L'Enfant maudit* (Part <sup>1</sup>), *L'Elixir de longue vie*, *Les Proscrits*, *Le Chef-d'œuvre inconnu*, *Le Réquisitionnaire*, *Etude de femme*, *Les deux rêves*, *Jésus-Christ en Flandres*, *L'Eglise*.

### Main historical events

- July 27: Laying of the foundation stone of the July Column on the Place de la Bastille in Paris, in memory of the victims of the Trois Glorieuses.
- August 2-12: The Dutch army invades Belgium, but encounters a French counter-offensive.
- August 6: The French army commanded by Marshal Gérard enters Belgium to drive out the Dutch.



Marechal Gérard,  
Count Gérard

Carlism is a Spanish legitimist political movement that emerged in the 1830s to claim the throne for the eldest branch of the Spanish Bourbons. Conservative and anti-liberal.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 140 to 147

### The July Monarchy

Proclaimed on August 9, 1830 after the "Three Glorious" riots, the July Monarchy (1830-1848) succeeded the Restoration in France. The youngest branch of the Bourbons, the House of Orléans, came to power. Louis-Philippe I was not crowned King of France, but enthroned King of the French. His reign, which began with the barricades of the 1830 revolution, ended in 1848 with further barricades, which drove him out and established the Second Republic. The July monarchy, which was the monarchy of one man, marked the end of royalty in France.



### Main historical events

- August 11: Victor Hugo's drama *Marion Delorme* premieres at the Porte-Saint-Martin theater, starring Marie Dorval and Bocage.
- August 27: Casimir Perier presents a bill to the Chamber of Deputies abolishing the heredity of the peerage; *Marion Delorme* is published by Renduel.
- September 2: Chateaubriand publishes his *Etudes historiques*.
- September 3: Victor Hugo poses for his bust by Jehan Duseigneur.
- September 8: Russian troops enter Warsaw.
- September 13: The Chamber of Deputies petitioned Casimir Perier to return the Emperor's ashes to France.
- September 16-19: Capture of Warsaw: Louis-Philippe refuses to support the Polish insurgents against Russia (1830-1831); demonstrations in Paris in favor of Poland.
- September 21: Louis-Philippe gives up living at the Palais-Royal. He decides to move to the Tuileries.



# BALZAC and his times

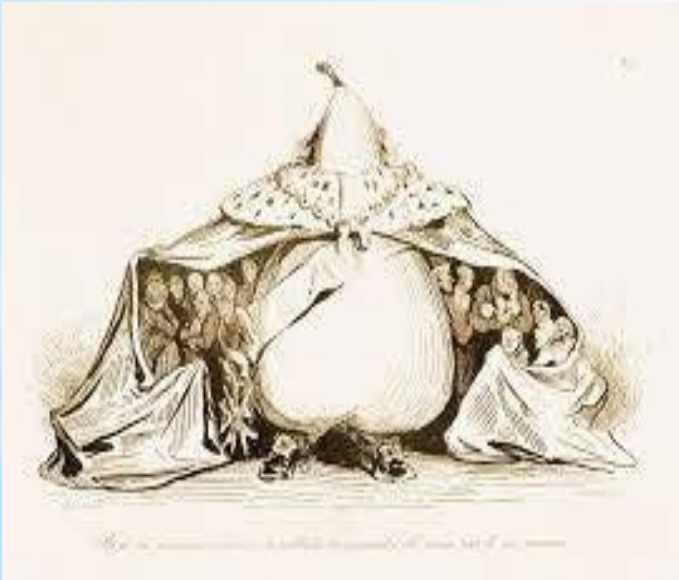
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## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 140 to 147

The sketch, drawn by Charles Philipon on November 14, 1831, during a hearing at the Cour d'assises, was later reproduced by Honoré Daumier, at his creator's request. Philipon published Daumier's work in his newspaper, *La Caricature*.



Louis-Philippe, the daumier pear

## Main historical events

- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Louis-Philippe 1<sup>st</sup> leaves the Palais-Royal for the Tuileries.
- October 10-18: Adoption of the bill abolishing the heredity of the peerage.
- October 11: Chateaubriand publishes *De la nouvelle proposition relative au bannissement de Charles X et de sa famille*.
- October 12: Fierce attack by Jules Janin in *Le journal des débats* against Honoré de Balzac's *L'Auberge rouge*, which has also been warmly received by critics.
- October 24: After a series of disagreements with Gosselin, leading to the breakup, Victor Hugo signs a contract for *Les Feuilles d'automne* with the publisher Renduel.
- October 25-November 10: The Rhône prefect, Louis Bouvier-dumolart, sets the prefectoral tariff, which is refused by Lyon's manufacturers and is the cause of the Canuts revolt.
- November 14: Louis-Philippe metamorphosed into a pear (drawing by Ch. Philipon).
- Night of November 5 to 6: The treasure of Childeric 1<sup>st</sup> (80 kg of gold jewels) is stolen from the Royal Library.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 140 to 147



### Main historical events

- November 7: Imprisoned in the Clairvaux prison, Claude Gueux kills the head guard, Delacelle, with an axe.
- November 19: Philipon is sentenced to six months in prison and fined 2,000 francs for making Louis-Philippe look like a pear in *La Caricature*.
- November 21 - December 9: Canuts revolt in Lyon. General Roguet, commander of the Lyon garrison, has the rioters evacuated by troops.
- November 25: Communication from Casimir Perier to the Chamber of Deputies announcing the measures taken to restore order in Lyon. Marshal Soult and the Duc d'Orléans lead an army of 20,000 men to reconquer the city.
- November 30: First convention on reciprocal visiting rights for French and British ships signed between the two countries, completed in 1833.
- November-December: Trial of the Saint-Simonians.
- December<sup>1</sup>: Victor Hugo's collection of poems "*Les Feuilles d'automne*" is published by Renduel.

Saint-Simonism, religious doctrine

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 140 to 147

### Main historical events



Louis-Philippe as Gargantua



Honoré Daumier, cartoonist  
"Gargantua"

- December 9: Lyon is retaken without bloodshed by royal troops commanded by Marshal Soult and the Duc d'Orléans.
- December 15: Publication of Honoré Daumier's cartoon "Gargantua" against King Louis-Philippe.
- December 24: Tocqueville and Baumont reach New Orleans on a steamer that is deporting Indians. Tocqueville, indignant, evokes this transfer in the final chapter of *De la démocratie en Amérique*.
- December 29: Heredity of the peerage is abolished. The king's freedom of choice of new peers is maintained and restricted.

### Economy and society

- French census: 33,569,223 inhabitants.
- Opening of the first French railroad line, Saint Etienne-Lyon.
- Inauguration of the Canal Latéral à l'Oise.
- Opening of a suspension bridge over the Garonne (M.Seguin)
- French shipowners establish a regular steam service between Marseille and Naples, twelve years after the Neapolitan line.



# BALZAC and his times

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## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Marie-Caroline de Bourbon-Sicile, Duchess of Berry in 1825 and 1826



SAR  
Mme de  
Berry

Daughters of  
Mme de  
Berry  
and  
Hector



## Main historical events



- January 4: The police uncovered a plot known as the "Notre-Dame Towers", an attempt to trigger an insurrection by sounding the tocsin at Notre-Dame.
- January 10-12: Trial of the "Société des Amis du Peuple". Auguste Blanqui is sentenced to 1 year in prison.
- January 17: Victor Hugo writes a fragment of a play: *Le Repaire de la guérilla*. After New Orleans (January 1-3), Tocqueville and Beaumont travel to Washington. They are received by President Andrew Jackson on January 19. *Le National*, Armand Carrel's newspaper, rallies to the Republic.
- February 1: The police uncovered the plot known as "de la rue des Prouvaires": at a ball in the Tuileries, the Legitimist conspirators wanted to capture the king and the royal family and proclaim Henri V.
- February 7: In response to the Austrians' occupation of Bologna at the request of the Papal Legate, France sends the ship Suffren and two frigates carrying 1,100 men of the 66<sup>th</sup> Line to Ancona, in the Papal States. French troops occupied the city until the Austrians left Bologna in 1839. Chateaubriand was appointed, along with Berryer, Marshal Victor, Pastoret, Fitz-James and Hyde de Neuville, a member of the "secret government", a kind of regency council set up by the Duchess of Berry.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1832 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On February 28 (probably Julian, i.e. March 11), a "Etrangère" mailed a letter to Odessa that was to have a decisive influence on Balzac's life. This was the year of the first exchanges of letters with the one who was still only

"l'Etrangère", Eve Hanska, née Rzewuska (Pohrebyszcze, Ukraine, 1804 - Paris 1882), wife of Wenceslas Hanski (1782-1841), a wealthy Ukrainian landowner. To please the Marquise de Castries, whom he courted assiduously, Balzac openly rallied to the Legitimist party.



Family Arms: House of Maillé -  
Claire de Maillé de la Tour-  
Landry, Duchess of Castries,  
beloved of Balzac



### Main historical events

- February 9-10: Ernest de Saxe-Cobourg dies during the night. His mother came to wake Victor Hugo and begged him to save her son. Later, she madly accused Victor Hugo of killing her son.
- February 19: First victim of the cholera epidemic that would kill more than 18,500 Parisians until October <sup>1</sup>.
- February 20: Tocqueville and Beaumont embark in N.Y. for France on the Henri IV.
- February 21-22: Vivien appointed Prefect of Police. His mandate ends in September. Invasion of Ancona to counter Austrian intervention.
- February 26: Frédéric Chopin's first concert in Paris.
- March 2: Law concerning the civil list, set at 12 million a year plus one million for the royal prince, to which are added the Crown's properties (the Louvre, the Tuileries, the Elysée-Bourbon, the estates of Versailles, Marly, St-Cloud, Meudon, St-Germain-en-Laye, Compiègne, Fontainebleau and Pau, the manufactures of Sèvres, Gobelins and Beauvais, the woods of Boulogne, Vincennes and Sénart and all the property making up the Orléans apanage) and the movable endowment comprising the gems, statues, paintings and furniture of the royal palaces and the Crown furniture depository; anti-Russian riot linked to events in Poland.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1832 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré was absent from the capital for much of the year. After a stay at St-Firmin, near the Chantilly estate, with Mme de Berny (late April/early May), on June 6, during the riot provoked by General Lamarque's funeral, he left Paris for the château de Saché. He stayed there until July 16, writing *Louis Lambert* and probably awaiting the arrival in Touraine of a wealthy widow, Caroline Deurbroucq (née Caroline Landrière des Bordes), whom he was planning to marry.



Wenceslas Henski is 20 years older than his wife, the young Ewelina.

### Main historical events

- March 9: False rumors spread in Paris that Warsaw had fallen. The crowd sings the Marseillaise under the windows of the Russian ambassador, Pozzo di Borgo. The government must apologize.
- March 11 to 13: Unrest in Grenoble. Casimir Perier dissolves the Grenoble National Guard and brings back the <sup>35th</sup> Line, which had been driven out to the booing of the crowd.
- March 15: New preface by Victor Hugo for the novel *Le Dernier jour d'un condamné* (*The Last Day of a Condemned Man*).
- March 16: Claude Gueux is sentenced to death.
- March 21: Law on military recruitment and army training. The Soult law imposes 7 years' military service. The army is made up of draftees and conscripts forming the reserve.
- March 24: New preface by Victor Hugo for Renduel's republication of *Bug-Jargal*.
- March 27: French occupation of Bône (Algeria). Unrest in several towns in Languedoc.
- April: After Paris, the cholera epidemic strikes Bordeaux and Marseille.
- April <sup>1</sup>: Casimir Perier and the Duc d'Orléans visit the cholera patients at the Hôtel Dieu.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1832 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He then travels to Angoulême, where for the second time he plays host to his friends Carraud. On August 21 or 22, he left Angoulême for Limoges and took the Lyon stagecoach, arriving there on August 26 or 27. From the end of August to October 13, he resided in Aix-les-Bains, where he was reunited with Mme de Castries. He stayed with her in Geneva from October 14 to 18. When she refused to accept him, he left her and hid his disappointment with Mme de Berny at La Bouleauinière, where he stayed until early December. He returns to Paris and shows up at Nodier's house on December 9.



Coat of arms of  
the House of  
Bonaparte



Louis Bonaparte, King of  
Holland, father of Napoleon III

### Main historical events



- April 1-3: Riot by ragpickers against the removal of rubbish ordered by the authorities to clean up the city ravaged by cholera.
- April 8: Reform of the Penal Code and creation of detention (art.7 and 20). Deportation is temporarily replaced by perpetual detention (article 17).
- April 10: Law condemning members of Charles X's family to perpetual banishment. The law is later extended to the Bonapartes.
- April 17: Law providing various reliefs from physical restraint.
- April 20: *Le Globe* ceases publication.
- April 21: Closure of the parliamentary session; law abolishing the Royal Lottery as of January <sup>1</sup>, 1836.
- April 23: Louis-Napoléon stays in hiding with his mother at the Hôtel de Hollande, 16 rue de la Paix. He is nursing measles. Casimir Perier visits them. They stay until May 6.
- April 28: Law reforming the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Instruction, one of the major legislative texts of the July Monarchy: abolition of corporal punishment, abolition of the death penalty in 9 cases, significant extension of the scope of extenuating circumstances.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Main historical events

#### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Collaboration with magazines remains very active: *Le Message* in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (February 15); *Madame Firmiani* in the *Revue de Paris* (February 19); *La Transaction* (*Le Colonel Chabert*) in *L'Artiste* (February 19 to March 11); *Sur la destruction du monument élevé au duc de Berry* in *Le Rénovateur*, a Carlist organ (March 31); *La Femme de trente ans* (chapitre III) in the *Revue de Paris* (April 29); *La Vie d'une femme* in *Le Rénovateur* (May 19); *Essai sur la situation du parti royaliste* (*ibid.*, May 26 and June 2); *La Femme abandonnée* in *La Revue de Paris* (September 9-16); *Lettre à Charles Nodier* (*ibid.*, October 21); *La Grenadière* (*ibid.*, October 28); *Voyage de Paris à Java* (*ibid.*, November 25); *Les Marana* (Part <sup>1</sup>) (*ibid.*, December 23).

*Contes bruns* (in collaboration with Philarète Chasles and Charles Rabou, published by Canel, end January); *Contes drolatiques* (<sup>1st</sup> dain, published by Gosselin, April);

- April 28: The Duchesse de Berry disembarks in Provence, near Marseille, where she attempts to foment a royalist insurrection. This first coup de main will be followed by an attempted uprising in the Vendée region - in the south of France.

Honoré de Balzac makes his Legitimist views known in *Le Rénovateur*, under the influence of the Duchesse de Castries.

- May 3: Zulma Carraud, a Republican friend of Honoré de Balzac, criticizes him for his Legitimist positions, even though he had until then been a liberal.

Legitimism is a French political movement favoring the re-establishment of royalty and the House of Bourbon. Opposing Bonapartism and Orleanism, this essentially dynastic movement emerged in the early 19th century and influenced French politics for much of the 19th century.



The Duchesse de Berry kept in touch with the European monarchies, but was arrested and imprisoned on the 6th. November 1832.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Scènes de la vie privée* (<sup>2nd</sup> edition in 4 volumes, published by Mame-Delaunay, May (1); *Le Saphir* (royalist keepsake containing a story by Balzac, *Le Refus*, published by Canel, May), *Nouveaux contes philosophiques* (2) (published by Gosselin, October). Balzac is also thinking about a number of historical novels and a set of *Etudes de femmes*; he keeps an article, "Du gouvernement moderne", rejected by *Le Rénovateur*, and begins *Le Médecin de campagne*.

- 1) In Volume III, *Le Conseil (Le Message)* followed by *La Grande Bretèche*, *La Bourse*, *Le Devoir d'une femme (Adieu)*, *Les Célibataires (Le Curé de Tours)*. In Volume VI, *Le Rendez-vous*, *La Femme de trente ans*, *Le Doigt de Dieu*, *Les Deux rencontres*. *L'Expiation* (five stories to be merged into *La Femme de trente ans*).
- 2) *Maître Cornélius*, *Madame Firmiani*, *L'Auberge rouge*, *Louis Lambert*.

### Main historical events

- May 6: Bloody brawl in Place Vendôme.
- May 16: Casimir Perier dies of cholera; the Duchesse de Berry arrives in Vendée. Her attempt at rebellion fails.
- May 21: Tocqueville resigns from his position as deputy judge in solidarity with Beaumont, who is dismissed from his position as deputy judge at the Court of <sup>1st</sup> instance for refusing to represent the public prosecutor in the trial between the Baroness de Feuchères, a protégé of Louis-Philippe, and the legitimist Rohan family, with whom he is in political solidarity.
- May 29 - June 1: Louis-Philippe receives the King of the Belgians at the Château de Compiègne. The purpose of the meeting was to agree the terms of King Leopold's marriage to Princess Louise d'Orléans, Louis-Philippe's eldest daughter.



March 26, 1832 - First cholera victim in Paris



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1832 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 153 to 158



Evariste Galois is killed in a duel for the love of Stéphanie-Félicie Poterin du Motel, whom he calls "an infamous coquette".

The funeral of the Republican mathematician Evariste Galois, killed in a duel, gives rise to a large Republican rally.

### Main historical events

- May 30: Victory of the Orléanistes over the Vendéens at the battle of Touchenault. The 21-year-old mathematician Evariste Galois is killed in a duel.
- Second volume of Balzac's *Scènes de la vie privée* (with *Le Colonel Chabert* and *Le Curé de Tours*).
- June 1<sup>st</sup>: General Lamarque, a key figure in the Napoleonic epic, then in the liberal opposition under the Restoration and the republican opposition under the July Monarchy, dies of cholera. Claude Gueux is guillotined in Tours. Republican uprising in Paris in June 1832.
- June 5 - 6: Victory of the Orléanists over the Vandéens in battle de la Hautière, du Chêne and de la Penissière. Chouans victory at the Riallé battle.
- June 6 or 7: Rémusat leaves the French embassy in London (Hannover saure), where he had come to sound out Talleyrand, who had declined, to succeed Casimir Perier.
- June 7: A state of siege is declared. Writers protest.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1832 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Marriage of Leopold I, King of the Belgians, and Louise d'Orléans, August 9, 1832



Princess Louise was the eldest daughter and second child of Louis-Philippe d'Orléans (1773-1850), Duke of Orléans (his reign lasted from 1830 to 1848, with the title of King of the French).

### Main historical events

- June 16: Chateaubriand arrested: charged with "conspiracy against State security", he was remanded for two weeks in the apartments of the Prefect of Police, Gisquet. The case is dismissed on June 30.
- June 23: Victor Hugo completes *Le Roi s'amuse*.
- July 9: Victor Hugo begins *Lucrèce Borgia*, to be completed on July 20.
- July 22: The Duke of Reichstadt, Napoleon's son, dies of tuberculosis in Vienna (Austria).
- August 8: Chateaubriand leaves for Switzerland.
- August 9: Marriage, at the Château de Compiègne, of Belgian King Leopold I and Princess Louise d'Orléans.
- August 16: Chateaubriand visits Queen Hortense, in exile in Arenenberg. He travels to Constance on August 27.
- August 28: Trial of the Saint-Simonians, which sentenced Enfantin, Michel Chevalier and Duverger to 1 year in prison for forming an association prohibited by law and publishing writings outraging public morality.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Juliette<sup>1</sup> or Julie Récamier née Jeanne Françoise Julie Adélaïde Bernard, known as Madame Récamier, was born on December 3, 1777 in Lyon and died on May 11, 1849 in Paris. She was a woman of spirit whose Parisian salon, from the Directoire period until the July monarchy, brought together the greatest celebrities of the political, literary and artistic worlds.

### Main historical events

- August 30: Mme Récamier arrives in Constance.
- September 16: Paris is informed of the fall of Warsaw. First version of Victor Hugo's *Claude Gueux*.
- September 20: Honoré de Balzac joins the Duchesse de Castries at Aix-les-Bains.
- October 8: Victor Hugo moves from rue Jean-Goujon to no. 6 place Royale (now place des Vosges).
- October 11: The first Soult ministry, the fourth government of the July Monarchy, is formed under the presidency of Marshal Soult to succeed the Casimir Perier ministry.
- October 24: Treaty between the Regency of Tunis and France, which obtains exclusive rights to coral fishing on the Tunisian coast.
- October 26: Creation of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques.
- November 7: The Duchesse de Berry is arrested in Nantes and interned in the citadel of Blaye under the guard of General Bugeaud.
- November 13: Chateaubriand leaves Switzerland for Paris.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 153 to 158

### Main historical events



Alfred de Vigny, writer,  
novelist, playwright and  
poet (27.3.1797 -  
17.9.1863)

Marie Dorval: In 1832, she became the mistress of Alfred de Vigny, who, along with Victor Hugo, brought her to the Théâtre-Français in February 1834.



- November 15: The siege of the Antwerp citadel pits the Dutch troops occupying Antwerp against the Armée du Nord, an expeditionary force sent by France during the Belgian revolution and commanded by Marshal Gérard.
- November 19: Failed attempt on the life of Louis-Philippe 1st by a law student, Louis Bergeron, an exalted republican who was acquitted on March 18, 1833.
- November 21: After several unsuccessful French attempts to seize Oran (Algeria), Abdel Kader is proclaimed Sultan. He replaces this title with that of Emir.
- André Dupin becomes President of the Chamber of Deputies (1832- 1837)
- November 22: Performance of Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* at the Théâtre-Français.
- November 23: Performances of *Le Roi s'amuse* are suspended.
- November 25: Rolle violently attacks *Le Roi s'amuse* in the newspaper *Le National*. Hugo's break with Vigny is complete.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 153 to 158

#### Births in 1832

January 23: Edouard Manet, French painter

April 5: Jules Ferry, French politician

December 15: Gustave Eiffel, French engineer

#### Death in 1832

March 4: J.-F. Champollion, Egyptologist

May 16: Casimir Perier, regent of the Bank of

France May 31: Evariste Galois, mathematician

July 18: Claude François, Marquis de Jouffroy  
d'Abbans, engineer (steamboats)



Claude-François, Marquis  
de Jouffroy d'Abbans



Gustave Eiffel

### Main historical events

- December 3: Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* is published by Renduel.
- December 10: Minister d'Argout issues a decree transforming the suspension of *Le Roi s'amuse* into a ban.
- December 15: Dissolution of the "Société des Amis du Peuple".
- December 17: New edition, expanded by 3 chapters "of Notre-Dame de Paris.
- December 19: Victor Hugo takes the Théâtre-Français to court.
- December 23: Capitulation of the citadel of Antwerp, which France hands over to the Belgians - Victor Hugo writes to Count d'Argout renouncing the 2,000-franc pension he was awarded in 1823 and paid from the funds of the Ministry of the Interior.
- December 29: Chateaubriand launches his memoir on the captivity of Madame la duchesse de Berry: "Madame, your son is my king" - Victor Hugo and Harel sign a treaty for the performance of *Lucrece Borgia* at the Théâtre de la Porte-Saint-Martin.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1833 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In this decisive year for his work and his life, Balzac published his first full-length novels since *La Peau de chagrin*, and conceived a vast body of work that would form the first foundation of *La Comédie humaine*: *Les Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle*. An easy means of communication with Madame Hanska having been found, correspondence became very active. While dreaming of the great Polish lady, he had an affair with Maria du Fresnay (1809-1892).



Marie-Caroline du Fresnay, daughter of  
Maria du Fresnay and Honoré de  
Balzac

### Main historical events

- January<sup>1</sup>: Honoré de Balzac begins his correspondence with his future wife Ewelina Hanska.
- January 2: Victor Hugo sees Juliette Drouet for the first time.
- January 7: Lamartine is elected deputy for Bergues.
- January 9: Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup> makes an official visit to Northern France, visiting Compiègne, Saint-Quentin, Maubeuge, Valenciennes, Lille, Douai, Arras and Péronne.

As a result of their American investigation, Tocqueville and Beaumont published "Du système pénitentiaire aux Etats-

Unis et de son application en France" by the Parisian publisher H. Fournier jeune. In 1841, Tocqueville stated in a letter that "the first work we published together, M. de Beaumont and I, on the prisons of America, was written by M. de Beaumont alone. I contributed only my observations and a few notes" (Letter to R-A. Mignet). Nevertheless, he appears to have written the notes and statistical studies for the book himself, which was awarded the Prix Montyon by the Académie Française for the most useful works on morality.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1833 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Ever the socialite, Balzac widened his circle of acquaintances. He was received by the Marquis and Marquise de Fitz-James, the Marquise de La Bourdonnaye- Blossac, and the Baron and Baroness de James de Rothschild, whom he had met the previous year in Aix- les-Bains. He made friends with Marceline Desbordes-Valmore (1786-1859) and her cousin, the sculptor Théophile Bra (1797-1863).

Responding to a new invitation from Zulma Carraud, he went

for the <sup>3rd time</sup> in Angoulême, where he stays for almost a month, from mid-April to mid-May (see *Illusions perdues*). On September 22, he leaves Paris for Neuchâtel, via Besançon (see *Albert Savarus*), where he sees the novelist Charles de Bernard (1804-1850).



Luxor Obelisk, Place de la Concorde, Paris

### Main historical events

- February: Following Chateaubriand's Mémoire addressed to the Duchesse de Berry, legal proceedings are initiated against the writer.

Juliette Drouet as Princess Negroni, painted by Charles-Emile Callende de Champmartin.

- February 2: Premiere of Hugo's *Lucrèce Borgia* at the Théâtre de la Porte-Saint Martin.
- February 16: Victor-Hugo confesses his love for Juliette Drouet.
- February 23: Baron Taylor brings the Luxor obelisk to Paris.



- February 24: Hugo's *Lucrèce Borgia* is published by Renduel.
- February 27: Trial and closing arguments; Chateaubriand is acquitted.
- March 7: Pierre-François Tissot is elected to the Académie française.
- March 9: Tocqueville pleads at the Montbrison assizes to defend his Legitimist friend Louis de Kergolay, implicated in the Duchess de Berry's plot to restore to the throne the grandson of Charles X, Henri Duc de Bordeaux, the last pretender of the eldest branch of the Bourbons under the name of Comte de Chambord. Louis de Kergolay was acquitted.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In Neuchâtel, on September 25, he met Madame Hanska for the first time. He left her on October <sup>1st</sup>, returning to rue Cassini on the 5th, but met her again in Geneva on December 24th, bringing her the manuscript of *Eugénie Grandet* as a Christmas present. He ceases his journalistic activity, giving newspapers and magazines practically only the prepublications of his works: *Histoire de Madame Diard* (<sup>2nd</sup> part of *Les Marana*) in *La Revue de Paris* (January 13); *Ferragus* (*ibid.*, March 10-24 and additional delivery in April); *Ne touchez pas la hache* (chapters I,II of *La Duchesse de Langeais*).

Actress Juliette Drouet was Victor Hugo's companion for almost 50 years



### Main historical events

- March 11: Death of Madame Guizot, Eliza Dillon, two months after the birth of her son Guillaume.
- March 23: General Sébastiani joins the government as minister without portfolio to oversee Eastern affairs.
- April 20: The Biel School Board appoints Sottin de la Coindière as a teacher.
- April 24: Laws concerning the status of the former colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Bourbon Island and French Guiana (Law on the legislative system and law on the exercise of civil and political rights in the colonies).
- April 25: Closure of the 1832 parliamentary session.
- April 26: Loi relative à la concession d'un embranchement sur la ligne de chemin de fer d'Andrézieux à Roanne: for the <sup>1st time</sup>, the State increases the duration of the concession to 99 years and caps the concessionaire's fares. Opening of the 1833 parliamentary session.
- May 2: Lacordaire and Lamennais officially part company.
- May 5: Ordinance designating Mont-Saint-Michel as the site for deportation.
- May 10: At the Blaye fortress, where she is incarcerated, the Duchesse de Berry gives birth to a daughter, whom she declares to have been born to her second husband, Count Hector Lucchesi-Palli.
- May 14-June 5: Chateaubriand's first trip to Prague to plead the cause of the Duchesse de Berry.
- May 20: Strikes in the Anzin coal mines.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In *L'Echo de la Jeune France* (April-May); *Le Prosne du Joyeux Curé de Meudon*, a droll tale, in *Bagatelle* (June 13); *La Veillée (Histoire de l'Empereur racontée dans une grange*, excerpt from *Le Médecin de campagne*) in *L'Europe littéraire* (June 19); *Théorie de la démarche (ibid., Aug. 15-Sept. 5)*; review of the *Biographie universelle*, "Partie mythologique par M. Parisot", in *La Quotidienne* (Aug. 22); *Persévérance d'amour*, another drolatic tale, in *L'Europe littéraire* (Sept. 8); *Eugénie Grandet (le début) (ibid., Sept. 19)*; *Fragment d'un roman publié sous l'Empire* (text inserted in 1843 in *La Muse du département*) in *Les Causeries du monde* (Sept. 26).

La France traîne son boulet,  
engraving by Benjamin  
Roubaud published in

*La Caricature*,

December 27,

1833.



### Main historical events

- June 8: The Duchesse de Berry is taken aboard the Agathe for transport from Blaye to Palermo.
- June 20: Death of Nicolas-Noël Boutet, harquebusier, director and artist at the Manufacture de Versailles.

Thiers is elected to the Académie française.

- June 21: The statue of Napoleon is replaced on the column in Place Vendôme.
- June 22: Law on the organization of departmental general councils and arrondissement councils, by election, with the addition of capacities on the second jury list to those possessing political electoral cens, and the setting of a minimum number of electors.

Rambuteau is appointed Prefect of the Seine.

- June 26: Closure of the 1833 parliamentary session.
- June 27: Law opening a 93 mio credit for the completion of certain Paris monuments (17 mio: Palais Bourbon, Arc de triomphe de l'Etoile, Eglise de la Madeleine, Panthéon, Muséum, Ecole royale des Beaux-Arts). For canal construction (44 mio), completion of royal roads (17 mio), construction of strategic roads in the West (12 mio). In Paris, Rambuteau, Prefect of the Seine (1833-1848), carried out numerous beautification and sanitation projects in the capital, including the piercing of the street that bears his name, completion of the Arc de Triomphe, and gas lighting.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*L'Histoire intellectuelle de Louis Lambert* (I volume in-18, published by Gosselin) in March; *Romans et contes philosophiques* ("4<sup>e</sup>" edition in 4 volumes, published by Gosselin) in March; *Contes drolatiques* (2<sup>e</sup> dixain, published by Gosselin) in July; *Le Médecin de campagne* (2 volumes, published by Mame Delaunay) at the beginning of September, appear in bookshops. In October, Balzac signs a contract with a new bookseller, Mme Charles Béchet (1800-1880), for the publication of *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle* (12 volumes divided into three series, *Scènes de la vie privée*, *Scènes de la vie de province*, *Scènes de la vie parisienne*). The first issue, comprising volumes V-VI, volumes 1 and 2 of *Scènes de la vie de province*, with the previously unpublished *Eugénie Grandet* and *L'illustre Gaudissart*, went on sale in December.



Communes are obliged to  
create an elementary school

### Main historical events

- June 27: The Railways Studies Act of June 27, 1833 authorized the issue of 5 million annuities at 5%, with the cancellation of the same number of annuities from those redeemed by amortization. This issue produced 93,852,000 fr.
- June 28: Guizot Law on primary education: creation of public primary education (each département must have a teacher training college, each commune must have an elementary school, either by creating one or subsidizing it), freedom of primary education.  
"Primary education necessarily includes moral and religious instruction, reading, writing, the elements of the French language and arithmetic, and the legal system of weights and measures."  
North of the Le Havre-Geneva line, school facilities are good. Needs are covered at 90%, at 10 to 30% from Normandy to the Landes, at 30 to 40% in Provence, Languedoc and the Rhône Valley, and only 10% in the Massif Central. A quarter of the population speaks no French, half is bilingual, and a quarter is French-speaking (north-east).
- July 2: Circular implementing the Guizot law on primary education.
- July 5: Death of Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, French engraver and inventor of photography.
- July 7: Loi sur l'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique (law on expropriation for public use): an important law that simplifies the procedure while reassuring owners by assigning the determination of compensation to a jury of owners. It will facilitate the development of the railroads and the major urban planning projects of the 19th century.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The novelist, who had broken with the *Revue de Paris* and *L'Echo de la Jeune France*, had a long-running court battle with Louis Mame over *Le Médecin de campagne* and difficulties with Gosselin. He considered writing *La Bataille* and *Le Privilège*, *La Succession*, *Les Souffrances d'un inventeur*, *Le Prêtre catholique* (dedicated to Madame Hanska), works that he did not publish to completion.



Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve (1804- 1869 )

Sainte-Beuve's critical method is based on the idea that a writer's work is above all a reflection of his or her life, and can be explained by it. It is based on a search for the author's poetic intention (intentionism) and personal qualities (biographism). This method was later criticized. Marcel Proust, in his essay contre Sainte-Beuve, was the first to challenge it, criticizing Sainte-Beuve for neglecting and even condemning great authors such as Baudelaire, Stendhal or Balzac.

### Main historical events

- August 3: Tocqueville travels to England (ends Sept. 7). From Cherbourg via Guernsey, he disembarked at Southampton, from where he reached London (August 10-24). He visits Oxford, Warwick Castle and the ruins of Kenilworth. On his return from London, Tocqueville settles in Paris, rue de Verneuil, to write *De la démocratie en Amérique*.
- August 8: Victor Hugo begins *Marie d'Angleterre*, which will become *Marie Tudor*.
- August 21: Hugo breaks with Sainte-Beuve.
- August 24: Ordonnance portant règlement sur le service de télégraphie, relative au télégraphe optique, dont le service est attribué au Ministère de l'Intérieur.
- Aug. 26-Sept. 12: Official visit of Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup> to Normandy: Evreux, Lisieux, Falaise, Grandville, Saint-Lô, Cherbourg, Bayeux, Caen, Rouen, Louviers, Le Havre.  
Following a quarrel, Juliette Drouet burns the letters she has received from Victor Hugo.
- September 3: Chateaubriand leaves Paris for Venice, then Prague, on a mission for the Duchess of Berry. He acts as a mediator between Charles X and his daughter-in-law, the Duchesse de Berry.  
Publication of Balzac's *Le Médecin de campagne*.
- September 19: In *L'Europe littéraire*, Victor Hugo publishes fragments of the *Journal des idées et des opinions d'un révolutionnaire de 1830*.
- September 29: In Prague, celebration of the Bordeaux Duke's who has just turned 14.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Urban misery in the 19th century

### **Jacques Imbert-Galloix (1808 - 1828),**

Swiss poet, was a poor young man.

Miserable, but with the thought, which has lured so many others, that Paris is a city of luck and lottery, where whoever plays the game of his destiny well ends up winning; a blessed metropolis where there are ready-made futures to choose from, that everyone can adjust to his existence; a land of promise that opens magnificent horizons to all intelligences in all directions; a vast workshop of civilization where every capacity finds work and makes a fortune; an ocean where miraculous fishing is done every day; a prodigious city, in a word, a city of rapid success and excellent activity, from which in less than a year the talented man who entered without shoes leaves in a coach.

He arrived there in October 1827, and died of poverty in October 1828.

His poetic works include *La nuit de Noël* and *Les rêves du passé*.

### Main historical events

- October 5: Honoré de Balzac officially meets Countess Ewelina Hanska near Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland. Madame Hanska is accompanied by her husband Count Hanski and their children.
- October 17: Charles Nodier is elected to the Académie française. An expeditionary force sent from France lands at Bougie (Algeria).
- November 1: Article by Granier de Cassagnac against Dumas, who asks Victor Hugo for an explanation.
- November 3: Hugo quarrels with Dumas. They would not see each other again for many years.
- November 6: Premiere of *Marie Tudor* at the Porte-Saint-Martin. A stormy reception, Juliette is whistled at by the audience.
- November 9: Le Courrier des Théâtres violently attacks Juliette's acting.
- November 11: Foundation of the Jockey Club in Paris. Creation of the Société d'encouragement pour l'amélioration des races de chevaux en France.
- November 17: Hugo's *Marie Tudor* is published by Renduel.
- December 1: In *L'Europe littéraire*, Victor Hugo publishes an article on the Genevan poet Jacques Imbert Galloix. Galloix had come to Paris from Geneva in 1827. He had sought support from well-known literary figures, but died of tuberculosis, misery and disgust, in October 1828.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 163 to 168

#### Some of Honoré de Balzac's friends and family



Zulma Carraud



Countess Hanska



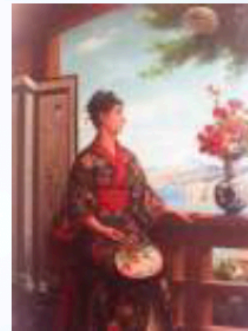
Lionel-Richard  
(presumed son of  
Balzac and Countess  
Guidoboni-Visconti)



Countess  
Guidoboni-Visconti

### Main historical events

- December 5: Working on the libretto for *La Esmeralda*, Victor Hugo sends Louise Bertin the Chanson de Quasimodo.
- December 10: Ordinance on stud farms.
- December 11: Trial of the 27 members (including Raspail) of the "Société des Droits de l'Homme".
- December 21: Acquittal of the 27.
- December 23: Opening of the 1834 parliamentary session.



Marie-Caroline du  
Fresnay, fille de Maria  
du Fresnay et Honoré de  
Balzac-



George Sand



Emile de Girardin



Mme  
de  
Berny



Laure Surville,  
sœur d'Honoré



Théophile Gautier

# BALZAC and his times

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## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac, aware of the unity of his work, grouped it into 3 main series: *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle*, where he planned to describe "social effects"; *Etudes philosophiques*, where "causes will come"; *Etudes analytiques*, where he planned to seek "principles". He is also thinking of "doing the science" of his system in an *Essay on human forces*... The only thing missing is the general title, which will be found six years later. To mark this organic unity, Balzac began to systematically apply the process of returning the same characters from one novel to the next.



We're all honest people, let's kiss and make up (see Daumier's cartoon published in 1834).

## Main historical events

- January 1<sup>1</sup>: Louis-Georges Mulot and his son begin drilling the Grenelle well in Paris, in the courtyard of the Grenelle abattoir.
  - January 4: Lamartine makes his first speech to the Chamber, having already been elected for almost a year.
  - January 9: Michelet's course begins at the Sorbonne.
  - January 15: Publication by Urbain Canel of Victor Hugo's *Etude sur Mirabeau*, a preface to the *Mémoires de Mirabeau*.
  - January 16: During debates in the Chamber of Deputies, Marie-Denis Larabit complains about the military dictatorship. The watchword is: "Obedience is the soldier's first duty", which gives way to Dulong's retort: "Even if he is asked to become a jailer". "We're all honest people, let's kiss and make up (see Daumier's cartoon published in 1834).
- The young Dulong's remark personally offended General Bugeaud, who asked Dulong to make amends during a duel.
- January 29: Bugeaud kills Dulong in a duel.
  - February 5: Dupont de l'Eure resigns from the deputation in retaliation for the death of his colleague, Dulong.
  - February 13: Lyon: attempted general strike by workers from the society of mutuellists, who at the time of their trial provoked the Canuts revolt (April).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He begins the year in Geneva with Madame Hanska; for him, January 26 is the "unforgettable day". There he met the naturalist Pyrame de Candolle and one of Madame Hanska's cousins, Countess Marie Potocka. On the morning of February 8, after 45 days in Geneva, he walked "all over the Jura in the snow", and was back in Paris on the evening of the 11th.

Recommended to Countess Apponyi by Marie Potocka, by the end of February he had become a regular at the Austrian Embassy parties. In an entirely different milieu, he dined at the home of the Benjamin Appert, "philanthropist", in the company of Vidocq and the executioners Sanson père and fils. He rents a box at the Opéra, another at the Italian theater, and attends concerts at the Conservatoire, hearing Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* on April 20 (see *César Birotteau*).



Countess Maria Potocka and Countess Apponyi

### Main historical events

- February 13: Juliette Drouet is hired as a boarder at the Comédie Française. She will never play.
- February 16: Law prohibiting public criers of pamphlets and newspapers from exercising their profession without prior authorization from the municipality. The promulgation of the law leads to brawls with the police in the streets of Paris.
- February 24: Treaty recognizing Emir Abdel Kader as sovereign of the province of Oran.
- February 28: The Assize Court sentences MP Etienne Cabet to 2 years' imprisonment for press offences. He flees to the UK.  
First readings of Chateaubriand's *Mémoires d'outre-tombe*, at Madame Récamier's home in Abbaye-aux-Bois.
- March<sup>1</sup>: Anti-Victor Hugo text by Gustave Planche in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.
- March 15-April 15: Publication in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of the preface and conclusion to *Mémoires d'outre-tombe*.
- March 31: The Chamber of Deputies rejects ratification of the agreement with the United States concerning compensation for damage caused by French privateers. Resignation of the Duc de Broglie and General Sébastiani and ministerial reshuffle with the departure of Barthe and Count d'Argout and the arrival of Duchâtel and Persil.
- April 4: Following the resignation of the Duc de Broglie, Thiers obtains the Interior.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

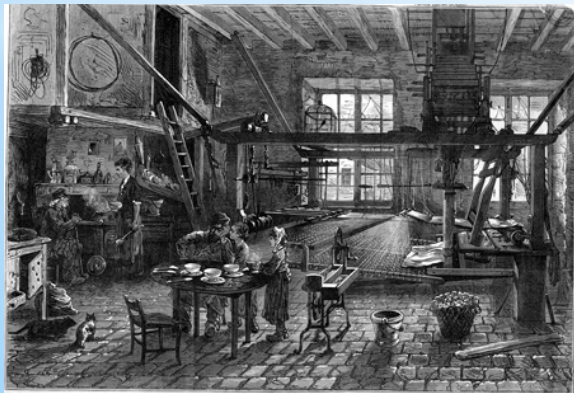
In early April, he spent a fortnight with the Carrauds, who had recently retired to Frapesle, near Issoudun. On June 4, Marie du Fresnay (d. 1930), the novelist's presumed daughter, was born in Sartrouville. Around July 24, he spends six days at La Bouleauinière, where he returns in November. Around September 25, he leaves Paris for Saché, where he begins *Le Père Goriot*, returning on October 10.

Towards the end of that month, Jules Sandeau moved into the Balzac house, rue Cassini.

Balzac publishes a philosophical fantasy entitled *Aventures administratives d'une idée heureuse*, in *Les Causeries du monde*, a review edited by Sophie Gay (March 10). Having made his peace with the new director of the *Revue de Paris*, Achille Brindeau (May 26), he made his comeback with chapters I-III of *Séraphita* in the June <sup>1</sup> issue. Chapter IV appeared on July 19.

### Main historical events

- April 9-13: Canuts revolt and insurrection in Lyon. To curb the overheating of production, wage cuts are decided in the textile industry, leading to strikes and revolts by the workers, which the Republicans (Société des droits de l'homme) stir up and try to recuperate for their own benefit. Thiers abandoned the city to the insurgents, then recaptured it on April 13. The insurrection spreads to various provincial towns (Arbois, Epinal, Lunéville, Châlon, Grenoble, Vienne, Clermont-Ferrand, Marseille, Toulon...), notably to St-Etienne (April 11), then to Paris, where the authorities make preventive arrests to stifle any similar movement.
- April 10: Law limiting the right of association and threatening to ban workers' mutual aid societies.
- April 12: Victor Hugo is attacked from the side by Désiré Nisard.
- April 13: Riots in Paris.
- April 14: Rue Transnonain massacre: Bugeaud's troops massacred all the inhabitants of a house at no. 12, rue Transnonain, from which a shot had been fired at the troops. This episode was widely exploited by the Republicans. It marked the end of the insurrection.
- April 20: Law on the organization of the general council and arrondissement councils of the Seine department, and of the Paris city council, by election. Of the 44 members of the Seine General Council elected by restricted suffrage, the 36 elected from Paris form the Paris City Council.



2<sup>nd</sup> Canuts  
revolt after the  
crisis of 1831  
and view inside  
a workshop

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

While waiting to complete *Séraphita*, the novelist gives the same magazine *Lettre aux écrivains français du XIXe siècle* (November 2) and the first two parts of *Père Goriot* (December 14 and 28). A second edition of *Physiologie du mariage* was also published by Ollivier, in June. On April 28, Balzac signed an agreement with a new publisher, Edmond Werdet (1793-1870), who launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Le Médecin de campagne* in 4 in-12 volumes at the end of June. After a final falling-out with Charles Gosselin in June, he signed a treaty with Werdet on July 16 for the publication of a collective edition of *Etudes philosophiques*. The publication of *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle* continues: the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, volumes X-XI, volumes 2 and 3 of *Scènes de la vie parisienne*, containing the original edition of *Histoire des Treize* (except for the end of *La Fille aux yeux d'or*) appears at the end of March.

### Michael 1st of Portugal

In 1828, Michel dethroned his niece and fiancée and proclaimed himself King of Portugal under the name of Michel 1<sup>st</sup>. He ruled Portugal from 1828 to 1834, pursuing a conservative policy. Driven from power by his brother, who restored Maria II to the throne, he was exiled to Austria.



### Main historical events

- April 22-May 2: Debate on the financing of the French conquest of Algeria.
- April 24: Quadruple Alliance Agreement. For the sake of internal peace, the Regent of Portugal, the Regent of Spain, the King of England and the King of the French agree to expel from Portuguese territory the two pretenders to the throne, the Portuguese Infant Miguel (Michel 1<sup>st</sup> of Portugal)I, and the Spanish Infant Carlos (Charles of Bourbons) (for further reference see *Rémusat Mémoires* T3, p. 143-144).
- May 2: Lamartine's speech to the Chamber of Deputies on the colonization of Algeria.
- May 13: The Chamber of Deputies votes 14 million additional credits to maintain an army of 360,000 men.
- May 15: The Chamber of Deputies passed a bill severely punishing the possession and use of weapons of war.

Charles de Bourbon (1788-1855) Still considered the direct legitimate heir. He protested against the decree abolishing the Salic law, claiming that the repeal should not apply in his case because he had been born before it. He is exiled.





## BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

September sees the publication of the 3rd issue, volumes 3 and 4

*Scènes de la vie privée*, containing *Même histoire (La Femme de trente ans)* and *La Recherche de l'Absolu*.

In December, Werdet publishes the <sup>1st</sup> issue of *Etudes philosophiques* (5 volumes in-12), preceded by an Introduction by Félix Davin (1807-1836) dated

December 6, and containing the <sup>4th</sup> edition of *La Peau de chagrin* and five short stories, including *Un drame au bord de la mer*. Balzac begins work on *César Birotteau* and writes two "false starts" of novels, *La Fleur des pois* and *Les Jeunes Gens* (see *La Vieille fille* and *La Recherche de l'Absolu*). Still dreaming of the theater, he undertook *Philippe-le-Réservé* and considered several plays in collaboration with Jules Sandeau and Emmanuel Arago.



Antoine Louis Prosper Lemaître, known as Frédéric Lemaître, born in Le Havre on 29.7.1800 and died in Paris on 26.1.1876, was a French actor. He was one of the most famous actors of the Boulevard du Crime.

### Main historical events

- May 19: Officers' Status Act.
- May 20: Death of La Fayette.
- May 24: Law to suppress insurrections.
- May 5: Ordinance dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, convening the electoral colleges for June 21 and setting August 20 as the opening date for the 1835 parliamentary session.
- May 27: Prosper Mérimée is appointed Inspector General of France's historic monuments.
- June 8: Honoré de Balzac sends Baron Gérard the first four volumes of the *Etudes de mœurs de la Comédie humaine*.
- June 14: Huge success for *Robert Macaire*, played by Frédéric Lemaître.
- June 21: Legislative elections: the opposition has 150 seats, but the Republicans have all but disappeared and there are around thirty legitimists. Emergence of the "Third Party" within the majority.
- June 25: The *Words of a Believer* work is condemned by Pope Gregory XVI in the encyclical *Singulari*, dated July 15, 1834 (*An encyclical is a letter addressed by the pope to all bishops, and sometimes also to all the faithful. It is a "circular" letter. An encyclical is part of the Pope's teaching mission*).
- July 6: Hugo's *Claude Gueux* is published in the *Revue de Paris*.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

See summary on pages 171 to 175

### Marechal Etienne Maurice Gérard



On July 18, 1834, Guizot and Thiers having obtained the departure of Marshal Soult, Marshal Gérard was called to head the Ministry with the portfolio of War.

## Main historical events

- July 18: Soult resigns. Ministry of Marshal Gérard replaces the first Soult government.
- July 20: Paris: Juliette Drouet moves from 35 bis rue de l'Echiquier to 4 bis rue de Paradis.
- July 22: Creation by royal decree of the "General Government of French possessions in North Africa", following an inquiry carried out in Algeria by a commission of peers, deputies and officers. General Drouet d'Erlon is appointed Governor General of the French possessions.
- July 28: The Holy Office places *Notre-Dame de Paris* on the index (papal censorship).
- August 2: Following a new scene with V. Hugo, Juliette Drouet leaves Paris for Brest, with her daughter Claire.
- August 5: Victor Hugo leaves Paris to join Juliette on the 8th.
- August 11: Juliette and Victor leave Brest.
- September 1: Victor Hugo settles Juliette Drouet near Jouy, in the Bièvre valley near Metz. He returns to Paris alone.
- September 3: Victor Hugo moves to Les Roches (not far from Jouy) with his wife and children.
- September 6: Hugo's *Claude Gueux* is published in book form.
- October 8: Publication begins of *Le Réformateur*, François-Vincent Raspail's republican opposition newspaper.
- October 11: *La Tribune* reappears.

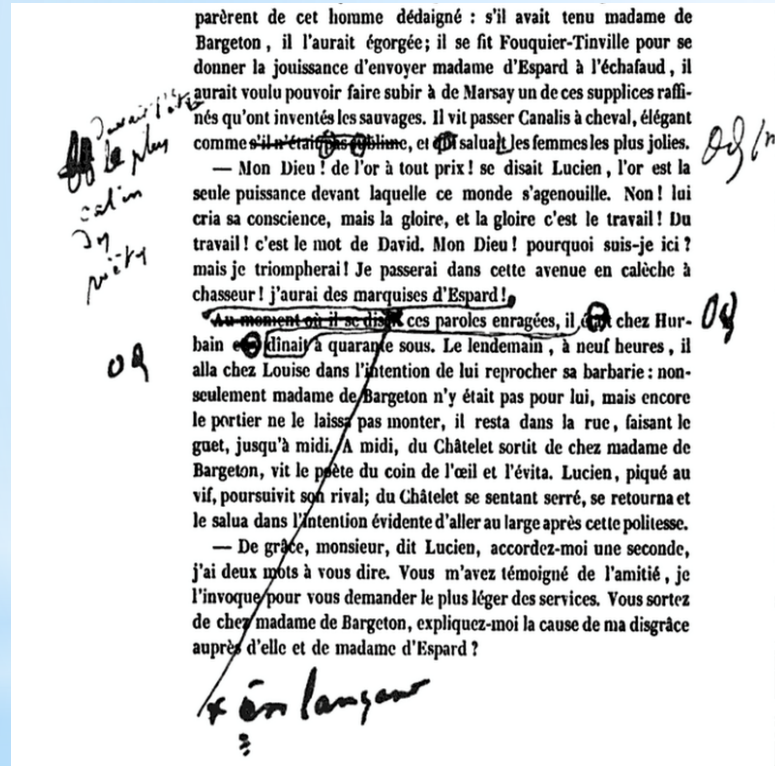
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1834 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary page 171 to 175



Corrected page in Balzac's handwriting. Even when a novel was published, he was still making corrections for the next edition.

### Main historical events

- October 29: Resignation of Marshal Gérard, in favor of amnesty for the April insurgents, called for by the Tiers Parti but opposed by Guizot, Thiers and the King.
- October 30: Inauguration of the Carrousel bridge in Paris.  
Chateaubriand's play "Moïse" fails at the Théâtre de Versailles.
- November 2: Honoré de Balzac publishes in *the Revue de Paris* his "Lettre aux écrivains du XIXe siècle" (Letter to 19th-century writers), which contributed to the creation of the Société des gens de lettres in 1838.
- November 10: Maret Ministry, under the presidency of Maret, Duke of Bassano, nicknamed "the 3-day ministry".
- November 13: The ministers resigned in response to the jeers that greeted the formation of the ministry.
- November 18: The Mortier ministry is set up.
- November 27: Eugène Scribe elected to the Académie française.
- December 10: Joseph Arthur de Gobineau is expelled from Lorient college for indiscipline. M. du Couédic, a family friend, intervenes in vain with the principal to have the measure suspended.
- Dec. 20 J.-A. de Gobineau, who has refused to compromise with the management of Lorient college, is judged "insolent" by the principal. He prepares half-heartedly for the Saint-Cyr competitive entrance exam.
- December 24: H. de Balzac meets E. Hanska in Geneva. He offers her the manuscript of *Eugénie Grandet*. The Countess gives him a seal-ring, which Balzac considers a talisman.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The year begins with the completion of *Le Père Goriot* and ends with the start of publication of *Le Lys dans la vallée*. Balzac establishes a closer relationship with the Marquis de Custine (1790-1857). In the spring, he meets Etienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire and his son Isidore, who express their admiration for *Louis Lambert* and, later, *Séraphita*. From late January to early February, Balzac spent ten days at La Bouleauinière, close to the ailing Mme de Berny. He returned to Paris on February 9, the day he was introduced to Countess Emilio Guidoboni Visconti, née Frances Sarah Lovell (1804-1883), at a party at the Austrian Embassy.



Astolphe de Custine (1790-1857) French writer, little son of General de Justine Etienne



Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, (1772-1844) French naturalist

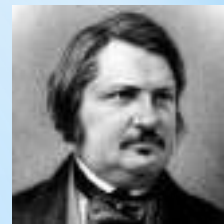
### Main historical events

- January 10: François Guizot sets up a "Comité des monuments inédits de la littérature, de la philosophie, des sciences et des arts considérés dans leurs rapports avec l'histoire générale de la France".
- January 15: Death of the Princesse de Chimay (Thérèse Cabarrus, Tallien's wife for a time, nicknamed "Notre Dame de Thermidor").
- January 21: 500 copies of *De la démocratie en Amérique* are published by the Charles Gosselin bookshop in Paris. On August 11, 1836, Alexis de Tocqueville is awarded the Prix Montyon, with an exceptional sum of 8,000 frs, for this work, Part<sup>2</sup> of which is published in April 1840. In the same year, Gustave de Beaumont published a novel depicting American civil society: *Marie ou l'esclavage aux Etats-Unis*, tableau de mœurs américaines.
- January 22: Ordinance designating Doullens as the deportation center. Alexis de Tocqueville begins writing his only study of economics, a *Mémoire sur le paupérisme* published in the *Mémoires de la société académique de Cherbourg*, which he completes in April. An unfinished sequel was written in 1837.
- February 2: Victor Hugo begins *Angelo, tyrant of Padua*.
- February 12: Performance of the play « *Chatterton* ». For Louis-Philippe 1er ans his court.



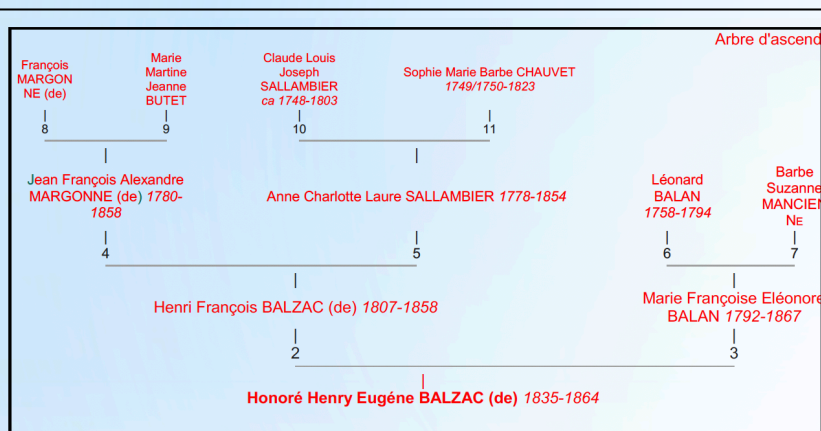
# BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré-Henri-Eugène de Balzac (1835-1864), Honoré's nephew and godson, was born in Les Andelys on February 19 (see family tree below):



At the beginning of March, Balzac took up a <sup>2nd</sup> pied-à-terre at 13 rue des Batailles, in Chaillot, without abandoning his home in rue Cassini. In April-May, falling under the domination of a very invasive person, probably the Countess Guidoboni-Visconti, he made a mysterious stay in Meudon, attested to by the dates "Meudon, April 6, 1835" appearing at the end of *La Fille aux yeux d'or* and "Meudon, May <sup>1</sup>, 1835" (preface to the <sup>3rd</sup> edition of *Père Goriot*).

He leaves Paris on May 9 to meet Madame Hanska in Vienna. En route, he visits Lady Ellenborough (1807-1872) at Wenheim Castle, northwest of Heidelberg.

## Main historical events

- February 19: Salvandy is elected to the Académie française. Victor Hugo finishes *Angelo*.
- February 20: Marshal Mortier resigns as President of the Council.
- February 26: Guizot's ordinance instituting elementary school inspectors.
- March 2: *Père Goriot* by Honoré de Balzac goes on sale. The novel is the centerpiece of the Comédie humaine.
- March 12: Broglie Ministry: new government presided over by the Duc de Broglie. François Guizot retains responsibility for public education.
- March 16: Tocqueville meets publicist Henry Reeve, who will translate *De la démocratie en Amérique* into English.
- April 28: Premiere of Hugo's *Angelo, tyran de Padoue* at the Théâtre français.
- April-August: Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont travel to the United Kingdom. In mid-August, Beaumont leaves for Scotland and Tocqueville returns to France.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 3 - Gregorian calendar

## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In the garden of Wenheim Castle, he writes *Pensées* for a new edition by *Louis Lambert*. Via Stuttgart, Munich, Linz and Schoenbrunn, he reached Vienna, arriving on May 16. On May 20, he was received by Metternich, and on May 31, he visited the Wagram battlefield. During his stay, the orientalist Hammer-Purgstall composes an Arabic inscription for him for *La Peau de chagrin*. On June 4, he left Vienna and Madame Hanska, whom he did not see again until 1843.

He is in Munich on June 6 and in Paris on June 11. From June 16 to 21 and August 31 to September 8, he made two round trips from Paris to Boulogne (probably in the company of Countess Guidoboni-Visconti).



Baron Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall, born (von) Hammer in Graz (Styria) on June 9, 1774 and died in Vienna on November 23, 1856, was an Austrian diplomat and Orientalist. He is known as a translator of oriental literature and considered one of the founders of the scientific study of the Ottoman Empire.



## Main historical events

- May 1<sup>st</sup>: Volume XII of *Etudes de mœurs au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*, 4<sup>th</sup> volume of *Scènes de la vie parisienne* from Honoré de Balzac's *Comédie humaine*, goes on sale. The volume contains the end of *La Fille aux yeux d'or*. Article by Gustave Planche against *Angelo* de Hugo in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.
- May 5: The trial of the Lyon and Paris insurgents of April 1834, known as the "April Trial", opens in the Chamber of Peers.
- May 8: Publication of *Angelo* by Renduel.
- May 16: Honoré de Balzac arrives in Vienna (Austria), where he meets Ewelina Hanska and is warmly welcomed by Viennese society. During his stay, he is received by Chancellor Klemens Wenzel von Metternich.
- May 18: The Théâtre du Vaudeville plays a parody (of Hugo's *Angelo*) by Dupeuty and Duvert: *Cornaro, tyran pas doux*.
- May 25: Law on the administration of rural property belonging to communes, hospices and other public establishments.
- June 5: Law granting the Caisses d'Epargne the status of civil entities authorized to receive gifts and bequests.
- June 15: Francisque de Corcelle, aide-de-camp to La Fayette in 1830, whose granddaughter he married in 1831 and whose Mémoires he edited in 1837, publishes a review of *De la démocratie en Amérique* in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In July, he spent a few days at La Bouleauinière and, in early August, made a second visit to Frapesle. A final trip to La Bouleauinière takes place in October; Balzac never sees Mme de Berny again.

La *Revue de Paris* publishes *Le Père Goriot*, Ille et Ive parties (January 18 and February <sup>1)</sup>, the "Preface" to *Le Père Goriot* (March 8), an *unpublished letter from Louis Lambert* (August 23) and the beginning of *Le Lys dans la vallée* (November 22-29, December 27). The director of the *Revue de Paris*, François Buloz (1803-1877), having sent uncorrected proofs of his novel to the *Revue étrangère* in St-Petersbourg without Balzac's authorization, the novelist refused to follow up.



### Main historical events

- June 24: First edition of the Prix du Jockey Club French horse race, at Chantilly.
- June 28: Algeria: at the Macta pass, General Trézel's army is ambushed and defeated by Abd El-Kader's troops. Arthur de Gobineau fails the Saint-Cyr entrance exam.
- July 8: Marshal Clauzel is appointed Governor General of the French possessions in North Africa.
- July 9: Railway Act.
- July 12: Escapes from the Sainte-Pélagie prison.
- July 18: La Bibliographie de la France records *Une vie de femme liée aux événements de l'époque*, a two-volume novel by Anne-Louise-Madeleine de Gobineau, née de Gercy, mother of Arthur.
- 25.7-22.8: V. Hugo travels with J. Drouet (French regions).
- July 28: Fieschi attack: at no. 50 bd du Temple, an "infernal machine" kills several people, including Marshal Mortier. The King and his 3 sons are unharmed.
- August 4: The government introduces 3 emergency bills concerning the press, juries and the conduct of rebellion trials; these laws are adopted and promulgated in September.

The Jockey Club is one of France's most exclusive clubs



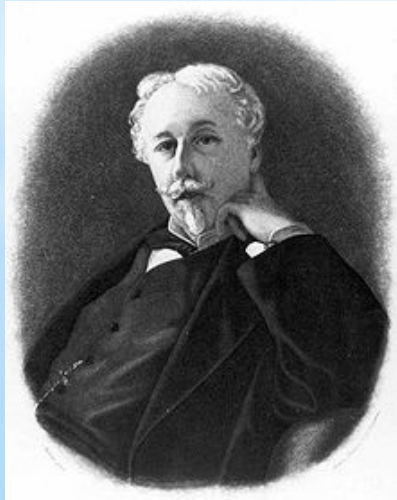
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Published in bookshops: in March, *Le Père Goriot* (Werdet, 2 volumes, the preface, dated March 6, 1835, was delivered late); in June, the 4<sup>th</sup> issue, volumes I and XII, of *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle*, the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of *Scènes de la vie privée* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition of volume I, 1830) with an Introduction by Félix Davin, dated April 27, 1835, and the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of *Scènes de la vie parisienne*, containing the unpublished end of *La Fille aux yeux d'or* and the republication of four short stories; also in May, *Le Père Goriot*, "3<sup>rd</sup> edition" (actually the second, with a second preface dated May 1, 1835, published by Werdet, 2 volumes).



After failing the entrance exam to Saint-Cyr, he dreamed of moving to Paris, aiming for a literary career. He came out on top by studying Persian language and literature, which enabled him to bounce back into the world of writing.

Joseph Arthur de Gobineau, known as the Count of Gobineau

### Main historical events

- August 13: Ruling by the Court of Peers concerning the Lyon convicts (72 convictions).
- September 9: Promulgation of 3 laws relating to state security, known as the September Laws.
- October 17: Death of academician Lainé.
- October 24: Victor Hugo applies for Lainé's seat at the Académie française.
- October 26: Alexis de Tocqueville marries Marie Mottley, whom he met in 1828, in the church of Saint-Thomas d'Aquin. Louis de Kergolay, Beaumont and the de Tocqueville family disapprove of the marriage.
- October 27: Renduel publishes Hugo's *Chants du crépuscule*.

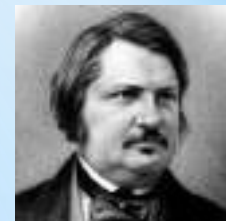
The philosopher John Stuart Mill publishes a long review of Tocqueville's *De la démocratie en Amérique* in the *London Review*. It was the start of a lasting friendship.

Arthur de Gobineau moves to Paris with 50 francs in his pocket. He dreams of a career in literature, which would enable him to marry young Amélie Laigneau, a friend of Lorient's, a marriage the Laigneau family opposes.

- November 1: Sainte-Beuve's article on Hugo's *Chants du crépuscule*. This time, a definitive break between the two writers.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 6 - Gregorian calendar

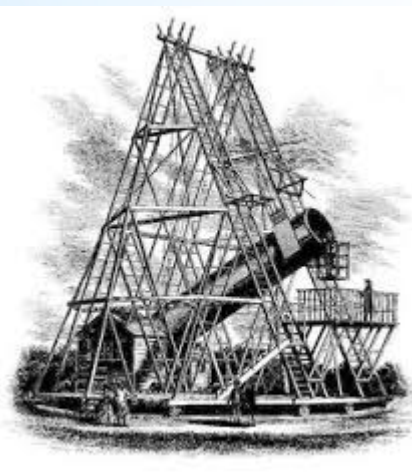


### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In June, the 6<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Livre des conteurs*, containing *Melmoth réconcilié* (Lequien) and, in August, the *Biographie universelle* (Michaud), volume XXXIX (supplement), containing Balzac's biography of Brillat-Savarin; in November, *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle*, 5<sup>th</sup> issue, volumes II and IX, volume 2 of *Scènes de la vie privée*, containing the unpublished *La Fleur des Pois* (Le Contrat de mariage) and volume I of *Scènes de la vie parisienne* (three short stories previously included in *Scènes de la vie privée*); in early December, *Le Livre mystique* (new edition of *Les Proscrits* and *Louis Lambert*, original edition of *Séraphita*) (Werdet, 2 volumes).



Advertising for the comet  
de Halley



Herschel telescope (1776)

### Main historical events

- November 12-14: Trial of Pierre-François Lacenaire, the romantic assassin whose *memoirs* are a huge success.
- November 14: Lacenaire is sentenced to death.
- November 16: Halley's comet passes by. It reaches the perihelion, its closest position to the sun.
- November 21: Renduel launches a fascicule publication of *Notre-Dame de Paris*. Théophile Gautier wrote the prospectus.
- November 28: *Mademoiselle de Maupin* by Théophile Gautier is published by Renduel.
- December 15: Victor Hugo publishes an unsigned article in *Le Vert-Vert* in support of *Mademoiselle de Maupin*.
- December 29: Opening of the 1836 parliamentary session.
- December 31: Arthur de Gobineau gets in touch with the orientalist Joseph Toussaint Reinaud, member of the Institut. Mme Laigneau lives in Lille and Gobineau corresponds with her. She remained reticent about the idea of a marriage between Amélie and Arthur. Arthur lives in the Faubourg St-Germain and works at the Cie française d'éclairage par le gaz for Sté Larrieu, Brunton Pilté, Pauwels et Cie). He is an unpaid employee of this company. He gives lessons in his spare time and earns most of his living from the 100-fr pension provided by his uncle. He takes lessons paid by his uncle Thibaut-Joseph.



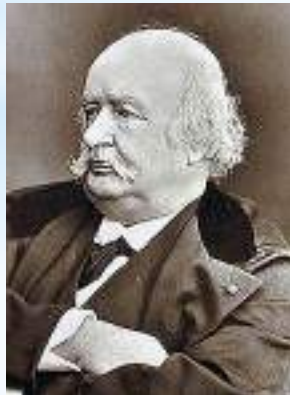
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1835 page 7 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On December 9, publisher Hyppolyte Souverain (1803-1880) buys the right to republish Balzac's "youthful novels", under the title *Œuvres complètes d'Horace de Saint-Aubin*. On December 24, Balzac acquires six-eighths of the *Chronique de Paris*, a political and literary journal, which he runs for six months, with the help of two young "secretaries", Auguste de Belloy (1812-1871) and Ferdinand de Grammont (1811-1897). Balzac sketches *Le Grand Propriétaire* (first draft of *Les Paysans*) in July; he dreams of *Mémoires d'une jeune femme* and *Sœur Marie des Anges*, both novel projects that come to nothing. He plans to write a play, *Marie Touchet*, with the help of Ferdinand de Grammont.

A poet in his spare time and a friend of Balzac, Ferdinand was also an enthusiast of heraldry, and described for the brilliant novelist the hundreds of coats of arms of the characters in the "Comédie humaine", which were later painted by Ida du Chasteler.



For a time, Jules Sandeau served as secretary to H. de Balzac. *Mademoiselle de la Seiglière*, his most popular work, is in part an exploration of his relationship with Balzac.



### Main historical events

- December 31: Algeria - Marshal Clauzel's army carries out a punitive operation in Mascara.

### Company

- French spelling reform of 1835, imposing "t" plurals in words such as "enfants" (children), and changing the syllable "oi" in conjugation to "ai" (j'étois becomes j'étais).



Marquis Auguste de Belloy, member of the Société des gens de lettres et des auteurs dramatiques



A French parliamentarian, the Marquis de Grammont was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1848, then to the Legislative Assembly in 1849.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 1 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The year was marked by the ill-fated undertaking of the *Chronique de Paris*, the long trial with François Buloz over *Le Lys dans la vallée*, the death of Mme de Berny and the discovery of Italy. Louis Boulanger portrays the novelist in his robe.

Balzac corresponds with a young woman named Louise, whose identity has not been established with certainty. At the beginning of January, Balzac lodged a complaint against Buloz and Fournier, the printer of the *Revue de Paris*. Buloz, for his part, claimed 10,000 francs in damages for refusing to publish the sequel to *Le Lys dans la vallée*. After a complex procedure, the case was pleaded before the <sup>1st</sup> Chamber of the Tribunal de Grande Instance on May 20. Judgment was handed down on June 3, and Balzac obtained partial satisfaction.



Co-founder in 1829 of *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, which he ran for forty years, François Buloz brought together the elite of French writers around his publication: Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve, Victor Hugo, Alfred de Vigny, Alfred de Musset, George Sand, Honoré de Balzac, Alexandre Dumas father.

François Buloz 1803-1877



### Main historical events

- January <sup>1</sup>: Honoré de Balzac launches his newspaper *La Chronique de Paris*.
- January 9: Execution of the assassin Lacenaire.
- January 18: Resignation of the Finance Minister, Georges Humann, who, during a parliamentary debate, proposed, without informing his colleagues, to convert the French treasury to 5% in order to lighten the burden of public debt.
- January 30: The trial of the perpetrators of the July 28, 1835 assassination attempt, Fieschi, Morey and Pépin, opens before the Chamber of Peers.
- January 31: François Guizot introduces a bill on the freedom of secondary education, which is not adopted.

On the death of de Tocqueville's mother, a family partition gave Alexis the château de Tocqueville and the title of count, which he did not use.

- February 5: Resignation from the government of the Duc de Broglie, outvoted on the issue of annuity conversion.
- February 10: Death of Mme de Rimford, a salon-keeper and friend of Guizot.
- February 15: Fieschi is sentenced to parricide.
- February 18: Election to the Académie française to fill Lainé's seat. Dupaty is elected. Victor Hugo received 9, 6, 3, 3 and 2 votes.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 2 - Gregorian calendar

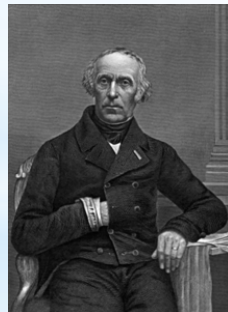


### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

During this period, Honoré devoted himself to running his newspaper, whose financial equilibrium was very precarious. Jules Sandeau, unable to keep up with the pace of life at Chaillot, deserts in March. From April 27 to May 4, Balzac is detained at the Garde Nationale prison for failing to fulfill his civic duties. Between April 16 and 26, he stays "in the country" to complete *Le Lys dans la vallée*. On May 29, Lionel-Richard Guidoboni-Visconti (1846-1875) is born in Versailles. The Versailles memorialist Victor Lambinet (1813-1894) wrongly attributes his paternity to Balzac. On June 19, Balzac leaves Paris for Saché, where he begins *Illusions perdues* to escape the legal proceedings threatened against him by Madame Béchet.



François Lacenaire guilty of murdering Chardon, a former fellow prisoner, and his mother at their home on December 14, 1834.



François Guizot  
(1787-1874)

### Main historical events

- February 19: Execution of Fieschi, Morey and Pépin.
- February 22: First Thiers ministry. The aim is to stimulate economic activity through a policy of public works.
- March 4: Arthur de Gobineau, thanks to the protection of the geographer Eyriès, considers contributing to the journal *asiatique*.
- March 8: "Conspiration des poudres" Barbès and Blanqui arrested.
- March 26: Hugo's *Angelo, tyran de Padoue* is revived at the Théâtre Français.
- April 1: Alexis de Tocqueville publishes a long article in the *London and Westminster Review*, "L'Etat social et politique de la France avant et après 1789", his first study of the Ancien Régime and the French Revolution.
- April 25: Abd el-Kader organizes a counter-offensive and defeats General d'Arlanges' troops on the Tafna. An expeditionary force commanded by General Bugeaud is sent from France to clear the French camp established at the mouth of the Tafna.
- April 28: François Guizot is elected to the Académie française.
- May 1: Victor Hugo moves his family to Fourqueux for the summer.
- May 8: Flooding of the Seine. Flooding of the quays.
- May 11: Gobineau meets the poet Edouard Turquety, who compliments him on his verse.
- May 12: H. de Balzac attacks Thiers in his newspaper *La Chronique de Paris*

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac returns to Paris on July 3 or 4 and finds the situation at *La Chronique de Paris* alarming. The accounts are closed on July 15-16; Balzac's loss on this venture can be estimated at 46,000 francs. On the evening of July 26, Balzac left Paris for Turin. He learns of Mme de Berny's death on July 27 at La Bouleauinière only on his return from his Piedmontese escapade. Charged with settling an estate concerning the Count Guidoboni-Visconti, he was accompanied by a "provincial muse", Caroline Marbouty (1803-1890), dressed as a young boy. Arriving on the morning of July 31, de Balzac, assisted by his "page", was well received by Turin society. He stayed until August 12, returning to Paris via Lake Maggiore, the Simplon and Geneva, where Pyrame de Candolle mistook Madame Marbouty for George Sand.



Augustin-Pyrame de  
Candolle, Swiss botanist  
(1778-1841)



Alexandre  
Dumas  
(1802-1870)

### Main historical events

- May 21: Act prohibiting private lotteries and gaming houses, with the exception of charitable raffles and insurance contracts.  
  
Loi organique sur la construction et l'administration des chemins vicinaux (Organic law on the construction and administration of byways): the law makes communes responsible for maintaining byways, and grants them tax revenues in return; départements can subsidize byways linking several communes (forerunners of departmental roads).
- May 23: Victor Hugo's definitive reconciliation with Alexandre Dumas (who will write *Notes dictées par Victor Hugo, written by me*).
- June 2: Arrest of the Republican plotters of the Société des Familles. Among them, Barbès, Blanqui, Lisbon.
- June 15 - July 21: In the company of Célestin Nanteuil, a tour of Victor Hugo's France with Juliette Drouet.
- June 16: Emile de Girardin founds the newspaper "*La Presse*". Théophile Gautier publishes his first article in *La Presse*, where he works until 1855. Honoré de Balzac's *La Vieille fille* causes a scandal when published in *La Presse*.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

### A word about Caroline Marbouty

Born Pétiniaud, she married Marbouty, chief clerk at the Limoges court, in 1822. Disappointed by this marriage, which she considered mediocre, she took up literature under the pseudonym **Claire Brunne**, seeking to imitate George Sand.

In 1833, she tried to meet Balzac, but was initially unsuccessful. In 1836, Balzac invited her to accompany him to Italy. To avoid gossip that would trigger Madame Hanska's jealousy, he asked her to disguise herself as a young man and pretend to be his page, whom he called Marcel.

The deception did not fool the monks of Grande Chartreuse, however, who refused him entry. On their arrival in Turin in July, Balzac stayed at the city's most exclusive hotel, where he booked her a room adjacent to his own and asked her to accompany him to the salons to which he had been invited.

She is falsely mistaken for George Sand and invited to discuss his works. Faced with the risk of scandal, the couple soon set off again for Geneva.

## Main historical events

- June 25: Louis Alibaud attacks Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup>.
- June 27: Countess Guidoboni-Visconti, who had an intimate relationship with Honoré de Balzac, sent him to settle some business on behalf of her family.  
  
Gustave de Beaumont marries Clémentine de La Fayette, one of the general's granddaughters.
- July<sup>1</sup>: Launch of the first low-cost daily, *La Presse*, founded by Emile de Girardin. Its competitor, *Le Siècle*, founded by Armand Dutacq, begins publication on the same day.
- July 2: Lowering of customs tariffs.
- July 3: Honoré de Balzac discovers Italy. He arrives in Turin, where he conducts business on behalf of the Guidoboni-Visconti family.
- July 6: General Bugeaud inflicts heavy losses on Abd El-Kader's troops at Sikka, near Tlemcen.
- July 7 - Sept. 15: Alexis de Tocqueville leaves with his wife for a pleasure trip to Switzerland via Metz, Strasbourg and Basel. They arrive in Berne just as the Federal Diet is meeting (July 24). After a stay in the spa town of Baden, they returned to France via Lucerne, Interlaken and Geneva (September 8-12). They returned to Paris on Sept. 15.
- July 8: Alibaud's trial before the peers begins.
- July 9: Law authorizing the establishment of two railway lines from Paris to Versailles, via the right bank and left bank of the Seine - law establishing the Montpellier to Sète railway.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Pursued by his creditors and those of Werdet, Balzac abandons rue Cassini for good, hiding out in Sandeau's former garret in Chaillot (September 30). On November 15, he was saved by an advantageous treaty with the publishers Delloye and Lecou; the 50,000 francs received in advance enabled him to pay off the most glaring debts. Between November 20 and December 1, he stayed at Saché; on November 26, he dined with Talleyrand at Château de Rochecotte. Director of the *Chronique de Paris*, Balzac's main contributors are Gustave Planche, Charles de Bernard, Théophile Gautier, Jean-Baptiste Capefigue, etc.; he himself publishes *La Messe de l'Athée* (January 3); *L'Interdiction* (January 31, February 4-7-11 and 18); the beginning of *Cabinet des Antiques* (March 6).

Emile de Girardin



Armand Carrel



### Main historical events

- July 9: Alibaud is sentenced to death and executed on the 11th.
- July 18: Affaire Conseil: France gives Switzerland formal notice to expel opponents taking refuge on its territory under threat of military intervention. Prince Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte is a particular target.
- July 22: Emile de Girardin kills Armand Carrel, director of the newspaper *Le National*, in a duel. His funeral, on July 25, is the occasion for a large gathering of the republican and legitimist opposition.
- July 23: Pelet Law encouraging communes to have at least one elementary school for girls.
- July 29: Official inauguration of the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile. Construction had begun in 1806 (see Rémusat, Mémoires T3, p.165).
- August 2-August 10: Powder Trial. Barbès and Blanqui are sentenced to prison terms.
- August 11: Alexis de Tocqueville is awarded the Prix Montyon, with an exceptional sum of 8,000 francs, for *De la démocratie en Amérique*.
- August 12: In Spain, the Pronunciamiento de La Granja forces Queen Regent Marie-Christine to restore the liberal Constitution of 1812 and appoint a radical ministry. Thiers would like to use this pretext to intervene militarily in Spain.
- August 16: Thiers resigns following his disagreement with Louis-Philippe, hostile to any military intervention in Spain.

Emile de Girardin kills Armand Carrel during  
of a duel

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

L'Histoire du procès auquel a donné lieu "*Le Lys dans la vallée*" (June 2); *Ecce homo* (fragment des *Martyrs ignorés*) (June 9); as well as book reviews and a series of foreign policy articles entitled *Extérieur*. After relinquishing his editorship, Balzac continued to publish *La Perle brisée* (Part II of *L'Enfant maudit*) (October 9-16); *Sur les questions de la propriété littéraire et de la contrefaçon* (October 30); *Le Secret des Ruggieri* (*La Confiance des Ruggieri*) (December 4, 11, 18 and January 22, 1837). Reconciled with Emile de Girardin, who launched his low-cost daily *La Presse*, the novelist published a novel in a French daily for the first time: *La Vieille fille* appeared in *La Presse* in twelve installments from October 23 to November 4. This was the start of the "soap opera novel".



Léopoldine Hugo  
by Auguste de  
Châtillon

## Main historical events

- August 22: Honoré de Balzac, in a letter to Ewelina Hanska, gives the keys to understanding his novel *The Lily of the Valley*. The heroine, Madame de Mortsauf, is a pale version of Laure de Berny.
- August 25: Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup> requests the dissolution of the legion of volunteers stationed in Pau.
- August 29: Thiers' ministry resigns. The King asks the ministers to remain in office until a new ministry has been formed.
- September 2: Trial begins between François Buloz, director of *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, and Honoré de Balzac. Buloz sold uncorrected proofs of *Le Lys dans la vallée* to Saint Petersburg.
- September 6: Molé's first ministry
- September 8: Fourqueux:<sup>1st</sup> communion of Léopoldine Hugo, the subject of a painting by Auguste de Châtillon.
- September 10: Gabriel Delessert is appointed Prefect of Police. His predecessor Henri Gisquet had denounced the poisoning of public fountains during the cholera epidemic of 1832.
- September 14: Buried since September 2 in gravel while digging a well in a field in Champvert, near Lyon, 30-year-old worker Jean-Louis Dufavel is brought to the surface by engineers.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

His bookstore output was substantial: *Le Livre mystique* (<sup>2nd</sup> edition, published by Werdet) in February; *Le Médecin de campagne* (<sup>3rd</sup> edition, in 2 volumes, published by Werdet) in February; *Le Lys dans la vallée* (2 volumes, published by Werder) in July; <sup>2nd</sup> issue of *Etudes philosophiques* (containing the original edition of *L'Interdiction* and 4 reprints, 5 volumes in-12, published by Werdet) in September; in addition, Souverain published four early novels in the *Œuvres complètes d'Horace de Saint-Aubin*.

Projects and sketches include *Les Héritiers Boirouge*, *La Haute Banque* (later *La Maison Nucingen*) and *Les Artistes*.



Charles X (Charles Philippe) was a French king, born in Versailles on October 9, 1757, and died in Göriz (Illyria) on November 6, 1836. He was the fourth child of the Dauphin, son of Louis XV, and Marie-Josèphe de Saxe.

### Main historical events

- October 17: Release of two of Charles X's former ministers, Peyronnet and Chantelauze. The measure is extended to Guernon-Ranville on November 23, while Polignac's sentence is commuted to 20 years' banishment.
- October 18: A commission to combat counterfeit books abroad is set up.
- October 25: The Luxor obelisk is erected with great pomp by engineer Apollinaire Lebas.
- October 30: Attempted uprising in Strasbourg by Prince Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte. He fails and is exiled to the United States.

At the end of the month, the Hugo family left Fourqueux to return to Paris.

- November 6: Charles X dies of cholera in Goritz or Gorizia (Styria, Austria). The deposed king retired first to Holyrood Palace in Scotland, then to Hradshin Palace near Prague, and finally to Gorizia. In exile, Charles X bore the courtesy title of "Comte de Ponthieu". His eldest son, the Dauphin Louis Antoine, succeeded him as eldest Capetian and "Head of the House of France", under the name "Louis XIX" and with the courtesy title of "Comte de Marnes".
- November 7: Admiral de Rigny dies after a short illness.
- November 9: Louis Bonaparte is expelled from France.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1836 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary page 185 to 191



The Constantine expedition of 1836



Republican conspirator Giuseppe Fieschi, along with two accomplices, Théodore Pépin and Pierre Morey, attempt to assassinate King Louis-Philippe I.

### Main historical events

- November 14: Barante is sent on embassy to Tsar Nicholas <sup>1st</sup> of Russia. He remained at the embassy until the fall of Louis-Philippe in 1848, although he was not to be physically present in St. Petersburg after 1841.  
  
At the Paris Opera, premiere of *La Esmeralda*, lyrics by Victor Hugo, music by Louise Bouillet. A failure.
- November 21: The government discreetly embarks Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte on the *Andromède*, bound for the Americas, to avoid having him tried for his coup attempt.
- November 24-29: Constantine Expedition of 1836: A French expedition led by Marshal Clauzel and including the Duc de Nemours fails to capture Constantine and suffers heavy losses.
- November 26: former Saint-Simonian Michel Chevalier publishes his letters on North America.
- December 15: Consecration of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette church in Paris.
- December 16: Reduced to 3 acts and presented as a curtain-raiser, the <sup>6th</sup> performance of *La Esmeralda* fails miserably.
- December 22: François Guizot admitted to the Académie française - Republican Meunier attacks Louis-Philippe at the entrance to the Pont-Royal. It fails - Opening of the 1837 parliamentary session.
- December 29: Mignet is elected to the Académie française.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

This was a year of somewhat less production, marked by the completion of *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle* and a second, long trip to Italy. A project for a collective illustrated edition of the entire work, under the title *Etudes sociales*, did not come to fruition.

Pursued by his former partner at *La Chronique*, William Duckett, who had his Tilbury seized on February 8, Balzac, armed with a power of attorney from Count Guidoboni-Visconti (1799-1852) and numerous recommendations, left Paris for Milan, arriving on the 19th. Puttinati makes his statue. Balzac is a regular companion of Countess Clara Maffei (see *Une Fille d'Eve*) and makes friends with Prince Porcia and his friend Countess Bolognini-Vimercati. He stays in Venice from March 14 to 20 (see *Massimilla Doni*). After passing through Milan again, he reached Genoa at the end of March, and Livorno by sea.



Countess Clara  
Maffei (1814-1886)



### Main historical events

- January 6-18: The participants in Prince Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte's attempted Strasbourg uprising are tried and acquitted by the jury of the Haut-Rhin assizes.
- January 24: Bill to create a prison for deportees on Bourbon Island.

At the beginning of the month, Arthur de Gobineau was invited by Mme de Serre to dine "with the famous Ballanche". The Comtesse de Serre (1794-1875), widow of Louis XVIII's former minister Pierre de Serre (1776-1824), was to be the young Gobineau's most useful protector.

- February <sup>1</sup> - 15: Influenza epidemic; 158 deaths on the 12th, at the height of the epidemic.
- February 6: Honoré de Balzac travels to Milan, where he becomes the lover of Clara Maffei.
- February 12: General Damrémont is appointed Governor General in Algeria. He is instructed by Molé to limit himself to limited occupation.
- February 17: Victor Hugo promises Juliette Drouet to write a love text every year in a notebook entitled: Livre de l'anniversaire.
- February 20: The unfortunate Eugène Hugo dies in Charenton. The title of viscount falls to Victor Hugo.
- February 24: Auguste Vacquerie writes Victor Hugo verses on the death of his uncle Eugène.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He spent a week in Florence in April, visited Rossini in Bologna, had his passport stamped in Milan (April 24) and returned to France via Como, Chiasso (April 25), the St. Gotthard, Lake Lucerne and Basel.

By May 3, he was back in Paris, back in trouble and, above all, back in debt; Werdet filed for bankruptcy on May 17. Pursued by a trade guard set up by Duckett, he had to go into hiding and narrowly avoided imprisonment for debt (late June - early July). By August 15, he was in Tours, then on to Saché, where he stayed for two weeks before taking the Tours stagecoach back to Paris on August 28.

From September onwards, he buys a small house and some land in Sèvres, at a place called "Les Jardies".



Wedding of Ferdinand  
Philippe d'Orléans and  
Hélène de Mecklenbourg-  
Schwerin, 19th century,  
Château de Fontainebleau.

### Main historical events

- March 10: Honoré de Balzac arrives in Venice and takes up residence in the Hotel Danieli, in the suite that George Sand had occupied 3 years earlier with Alfred de Musset.
- March 15-16: Panic among small savers.
- March 29: Freedom of Secondary Education Act.
- March 30: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte lands in the United States.
- March 31: Law authorizing the Treasury to deposit funds received from savings banks at the Caisse des dépôts et consignations.
- April 1: Law determining the authority of Court of Cassation rulings after 2 appeals.
- April 15: Second Molé ministry.
- April 25: Meunier is sentenced to death by the Chamber of Peers. Louis-Philippe commutes the sentence to banishment.
- May 3: Inauguration of the Montmartre town hall.
- May 8: Amnesty for political prisoners.
- May 18: End of the Balzac-Buloz trial (Le Lys dans la vallée).
- May 27: Duke Pasquier is appointed Chancellor of France.
- May 30: Bugeaud concludes the Treaty of Tafna with Abd El-Kader. The Emir obtains 2/3 of the territory of the ex-regency (provinces of Titteri and Oran, with the exception of the towns of Oran, Arzew and Mostaganem). He established his capital in Mascara.

Wedding of the Prince Royal with Princess Hélène of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, at the Château de Fontainebleau.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On September 18, he takes up temporary residence in an apartment rented in Surville's name at 6 rue de Ville-d'Avray, in Sèvres.

Since he had fallen out with Buloz's reviews and given up the *Chronique de Paris*, his collaboration with newspapers and magazines was less extensive; *Letter to Maurice Schlesinger* to explain the delay of *Gambara* (*Revue et gazette musicale de Paris*, June 11); *La Femme supérieure* (*Les employés*) in *La Presse* (July 1-14); *Gambara* in *Revue et Gazette musicale de Paris* (July 23-August 20) In bookshops, Balzac publishes the 6th

and final issue of *Etudes de mœurs au XIXe siècle*, comprising volumes VII and VIII, volumes 3 and 4 of *Scènes de la vie de province*, containing the original edition of *La Vieille Fille* and the previously unpublished first part of *Illusions perdues* (published by Werdet, who bought the edition from Mme Béchet in February).



Inauguration of the Musée  
de Versailles



Le Palais des Glaces

### Main historical events

- June 7: The Minister of Public Instruction, Salvandy, includes Tocqueville in a promotion of knights of the Legion of Honor; Tocqueville is irritated at being seen as a supporter of the Ministry presided over by his cousin Molé.  
The press was astonished that Dumas, Balzac and Hugo were not among the recipients of the Légion d'honneur on the occasion of the royal wedding.
- June 8: Victor Hugo apologizes for being unable to attend the festivities at Versailles to celebrate the marriage of the Duc d'Orléans.
- June 9: The Duc d'Orléans writes to Victor Hugo apologizing for the oversight and assuring him that it will be rectified.
- June 10: Inauguration of the Musée de Versailles.
- June 16: Death of the Duc de Laval (Adrien de Montmorency, a close friend of Mme Récamier).
- June 23 - August 22: Tocqueville publishes his first major articles, the "Lettres sur l'Algérie" in *La Presse de Seine-et-Oise*.
- June 26: Renduel releases Hugo's *Voix intérieures*.
- July 1: *La Mode* publishes a passage from Gobineau's poem *Dilfiza*, a revealing fragment in which he fails to distinguish dream from reality.

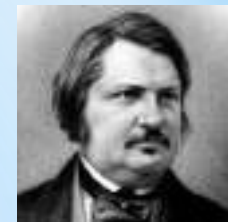
*L'Echo de la Jeune France* publishes an art criticism article by Gobineau on "La Françoise de Rimini de Mlle de

Feauveau". Mlle de Feauveau (1803-1860), a sculptor, was a fervent royalist. She took part in the Duchess's expedition de Berry in 1832 and lived in exile in Florence.-



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> issues of *Horace de Saint-Aubin's Œuvres complètes* (March and June, the 6<sup>th</sup> issue containing *L'Excommunié*, "an entirely unpublished posthumous novel"); the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of *Etudes philosophiques* (5 volumes in-12, published by Delloye et Lecou, replacing Werdet); *La Messe de l'Athée*, *Facino Cane*, *Les Martyrs ignorés*, *Le secret des Ruggieri* (part 2 of *Sur Catherine de Médicis*) and part 2 of *L'Enfant maudit* were published for the first time in bookshops, in July); *Les Cent Contes drolatiques*, 3<sup>e</sup> dixain (volume published in December under the name of Werdet, who had obtained a concordat on September 29); *César Birotteau* (2 volumes offered as a bonus to subscribers to *Le Figaro*, in December).



Palais de Justice -  
Conciergerie

### Main historical events

- July 3: Victor Hugo is made an Officer of the Legion of Honor and Alexandre Dumas a Knight.  
First transfer of convicts from Paris to Gaillon by cellular car. Initiative of Rémusat, who after the coup d'état was the beneficiary of his own invention: "I had no idea when preparing it that I would one day use this mode of locomotion".
- July 4: Weights and Measures Act, making the metric system compulsory.
- July 9: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte returns to Europe, landing in Liverpool and heading for London.
- July 18: Law on municipal administration and the powers of municipal councils.
- August 4: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte returns to his mother, Queen Hortense, in Switzerland, at the Château d'Arenenberg.
- August 10-September 14: Victor Hugo's annual trip with Juliette Drouet. The Hugo family stays at Auteuil.
- August 12: First rowing regatta in France (Dieppe).
- August 24: The Queen inaugurates the first regular rail service on the Paris-Saint Germain line.  
Collinet, cook at the "Pavillon Henri IV" in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, accidentally creates the sauce béarnaise.
- August 26: Inauguration of the railroad line linking the Tivoli landing stage (Saint-Lazare station) to the Le Pecq landing stage (18 kms).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Volumes XIX and XX, intended for the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of *Etudes philosophiques* and containing *Gambara*, *Les Proscrits* and the beginning of *Massimila Doni*, are printed, but not put on sale. Balzac works on *Le Martyr*, which will become *Le Martyr Calviniste* (1<sup>st</sup> part of *Sur Catherine de Médicis*), and considers *Le Nouvel Abeilard* ("idea", which, much transformed, will give rise to *Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées*). For the theater, he begins *La Première Demoiselle*, which will become *L'Ecole des ménages*, and presents Mme Hanska with subjects for plays on the theme of *Joseph Prudhomme*.



The  
Jardies  
house



### Main historical events

- September 19: Honoré de Balzac buys the Maison des Jardies in Sèvres.
- September 30: The Hugo family leaves Auteuil.
- October 3: Louis-Philippe 1<sup>st</sup> dissolves the Chamber and appoints new peers.
- October 13: Constantine Expedition of 1837: capture of Constantine by French troops commanded by General Damrémont, then General Valée, with the participation of the Duc de Nemours. Damrémont dies.
- October 15: Victor Hugo sets off alone on a pilgrimage to Les Roches. He returns the next day.
- October 18: Wedding at the Grand Trianon of Princess Marie d'Orléans and Duke Alexandre de Wurtemberg.
- October 28: Refusing to compromise, Victor Hugo decides to sue the Comédie française for failing to keep its promises concerning the revivals of *Angelo*, *Marion Delorme* and *Hernani* - Ste-Beuve and Adèle Hugo part company.
- November 4: The elections give Molé a parliamentary majority.
- November 6: Seine Commercial Court: Victor Hugo sues the Comédie française.
- November 9: Departure of the Constantine expedition.
- November 11: General Valée is elevated to the dignity of Marshal of France

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1837 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 193 to 197



By taking the people's child from the cradle, the asylum aims to moralize the lower classes through education, and to strengthen society on its foundations without upheaval.

### Main historical events

- November 11: Tocqueville is defeated in the second round of the legislative elections by outgoing deputy Le Marois.
- November 20: Victor Hugo delivers his own closing argument. The court rules in his favor.

In the *Revue française*, Guizot published a highly critical review of "*De la démocratie en Amérique*" entitled "*De la démocratie dans les sociétés modernes*".

Arthur de Gobineau was a frequent visitor to Madame Serre's salon. He met General Coletti, the Greek ambassador, and Baron d'Eckstein. He contributed to an encyclopedia. He had no sign of his mother: "Let her do what she wants! I tell anyone who will listen that I've fallen out with her."

- December 1: Marshal Valée is appointed Governor General of Algeria.
- December 5: <sup>1st</sup> performance, at Les Invalides, of Berlioz's Requiem for the funeral of General Damrémont.
- December 18: Opening of the 1838 parliamentary session.
- December 22: Ordinance instituting the creation of "asylum rooms" for children aged 2 to 6, the forerunners of nursery schools.

Birth on August 11 of Sadi Carnot, future President of the French Republic.

Hortense de Beauharnais dies on October 5.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1838 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In a year that saw little fruitful activity in the first half of the year, Balzac dreamt of fortune in Sardinia, strolled around Italy and developed *Les Jardies*. In the final months of the year, he signed a series of contracts with Gervais Charpentier and Hippolyte Souverain, marking a new phase in his career.

In early February, the novelist stays at Frapesle. He stays in Berry, where he will set the main action of *La Rabouilleuse*, for about 1 month, and visits George Sand in Nohant from February 24 to March 2. The two discussed the problems of marriage, and George Sand suggested the subject of *Béatrix*. Returning to Paris around March 5, Balzac stayed for a few days before leaving for Sardinia, where he planned to study the possibility of exploiting silver mines. On the 15th, he took the stagecoach to Marseille, where, on the 20th, he announced his departure for Toulon the following day.



Source: se.gutenberg.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France



Based on an idea by Louis Desnoyers (director of the newspaper *Le Siècle*), and supported by Honoré de Balzac and A committee of writers, the Société des gens de lettres was founded on December 31, 1837

### Main historical events

- January 6: Alexis de Tocqueville is elected to the Académie des sciences morales et politiques.
- January 13: The House votes on the address.
- January 21: *Hernani* is revived at the Théâtre français. Marie Dorval is Dona Sol. Until February 23: 12 performances. At his home on Place Royale, Victor Hugo gives a party in honor of the Duke and Duchess of Orleans.
- January 24: Mme de Serre introduces Arthur de Gobineau to Lady Granville, wife of the British ambassador Lord Granville.
- January 26: Salvandy reinvigorates the "Comité historique des monuments et des arts". A large number of former members remain in place.
- January 28: The "Société des gens de lettres" founded on 31.12.1837, signs the articles of association of a "Société civile" in accordance with the penal code in force, before Maître Maréchal, notary. Balzac was the most enthusiastic about this first venture.
- February 13: Jules Michelet is elected professor at the Collège de France.
- February 15: A government project to extend the rail network is submitted to the House.
- February-March: Honoré de Balzac spends a week in Nohant with George Sand, who introduces him to the pleasures of the Houka.
- March 5: Opening of a lane linking rue des Archives and rue Montorgueil, the future rue Rambuteau.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1838 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Embarked at Toulon on March 22, he was in Ajaccio on the 23rd, where he stayed until he could find a ship for Sardinia. On the 2nd (or 4th), he boarded a coral boat bound for Alghero and underwent quarantine before disembarking. He travelled part of Sardinia on horseback, but arrived too late, as a company in Marseille had already obtained the concession he wanted. By the 17th, he was in Cagliari, and on the 21st, he landed in Genoa. He spent a month in Italy, probably passing through Turin before going on to Milan, where he was the guest of Prince Porcia and worked on *La Torpille*. On June 6, he left Milan to return to France via Mont-Cenis, returning to Paris shortly after the death of the Duchesse d'Abrantès, who died in Chaillot on June 7.



The Duchesse d'Abrantès and her husband, General Junot. Balzac was one of her lovers. Ruined, her final years were marked by poverty and destitution.

### Main historical events

- March 6: Law granting the railway from Strasbourg to Basel.
- March 8: Hugo's play *Marion Delorme* is revived at the Théâtre français. Marie Dorval is Marion.
- March 15: Violent article by Gustave Planche in *La Revue des Deux Mondes*. He attacks Victor Hugo's work as a whole.
- March 18: Arthur de Gobineau is introduced to Mme Dorval, who "understands art in an astonishing way in a woman" and goes to see her in *Marion Delorme* at the Théâtre français.
- March 19: Gobineau becomes intimately acquainted with Hercule de Serre, nephew of his protector. Mme de Serre introduced him to Salvandy and Mme de Rauzan. He was received by Lamartine. Ballanche enjoyed his article on Persian poetry, to appear in *the Galette de France* on September 22.
- March 20: Gas lighting trials at Place de la Concorde.
- March 22: Honoré de Balzac embarks on a month-and-a-half-long expedition to Sardinia. During his visit to Genoa the previous year, he learns of the existence of silver-lead mines and dreams of making his fortune.
- April 5: Death of Mme d'Haussonville, mother and grandmother of the two academicians Joseph and Paul-Gabriel d'Haussonville.
- April 11: Law raising the jurisdiction of civil courts of first instance.
- April 28: Gobineau hears a Beethoven concert at the Conservatoire, which he deems "wonderfully beautiful".

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1838 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the end of June and beginning of July, he acquired new land in Sèvres to extend his Les Jardies estate, where he hoped to settle in July "for a long time to come".

For the rest of the year, he stayed in Paris and its suburbs, working hard to re-establish his financial situation.

Only one serial appeared that year, under the title *Les Rivalités en province*. From September 22 to October 8, *Le Constitutionnel* published *Le Cabinet des Antiques*, the preamble to which had been inserted in the *Chronique de Paris* of March 6, 1836. However, on December 31, 1838, *Le Siècle* began publication of *Une Fille d'Eve*.

### The major benefits are :

1. Establishment of one psychiatric facility per department.
2. Improved conditions of confinement for patients: the law allowed, for example, the introduction of paid activities for patients within the establishments.
3. Notion of "voluntary placement" and "involuntary placement".



### Main historical events

- May 10: Law on the powers of departmental general councils and arrondissement councils.
- May 17: Talleyrand dies.
- May 25: Law raising the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace.
- May 28: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, introducing serious reforms to the French Commercial Code.
- May 31: King's decree regulating public accountancy in general and intended to maintain strict order in this branch of administration.

Trial of Louis Hubert, accused of plotting against the government.

- June 2: Arthur de Gobineau meets Pierre Berryer, "patron of the review *France et Europe*", and submits an article on "the literary situation in the Orient". Berryer gives him fatherly advice. Gobineau is delighted by the success of his friend, the painter Guermann Bohn, who has been commissioned by the Queen of Württemberg to paint portraits of her two youngest daughters.
- June 20: Insane Persons and Institutions Act. Effective June 30.
- June 25: Gobineau's article "Du mouvement intellectuel de l'Orient", approved by Berryer, appears in *France et Europe*. The same magazine will publish two others, on 8.25 and 10.10.
- July 7: Establishment of the railroad line between Paris and Dieppe via Rouen and Le Havre.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1838 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In July, Delloye and Lecoul complete the illustrated edition of *La Peau de chagrin*, the only volume of the *Social Studies* project series to see the light of day. *La Femme supérieure* (*Les Employés*), *La Maison Nucingen*, *La Torpille* (beginning of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes*) were published in

two volumes by Werdet in September; a <sup>2nd</sup> edition in 3 volumes, in December, represented the last of Balzac's works to be published by the man who had dreamed of being his sole publisher.

Charpentier (1805-1871) launches "sa bibliothèque in-18", at <sup>3rd</sup>

3.50F, with Brillat-Savarin's *Physiologie du goût* and a edition of the *Physiologie du mariage* (in October). On November 12, Balzac sold him the right to reprint 36,500 copies of various volumes of his works.



Albertine de Staël, duchesse de Broglie  
(1797-1838)

### Main historical events

- July 8: V. Hugo begins work on the final version of *Ruy Blas*.
  - July 12: End of the parliamentary session.
  - July 16: Fire at the Théâtre du Vaudeville on rue de Chartres (no longer there). The Vaudeville theater had been founded in 1791 by Chevalier de Plis and Pierre-Yves Barré.
  - July 22: Hercule de Serre is officially converted to Catholicism by Lacordaire.
  - August 10: Gobineau in talks with the *Gazette de France* for two articles per month.
  - August 11: Victor Hugo finishes *Ruy Blas*.
  - August 17: Victor Hugo moves his family to Auteuil.
  - August 18: Victor Hugo and Juliette Drouet leave for a short trip to Champagne - he is due to return on August 28.
  - August 24: Ordinance organizing the Paris Municipal Guard.
  - September: the French government massed troops on the Swiss border to force Switzerland to expel Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte.
  - September 20: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, who is staying in Switzerland after spending 2 months in America, agrees to go to England.
- Death of Albertine de Broglie, daughter of Mme de Staël.
- September 22: Gobineau's article in the *Gazette de France* on Persian literature. The same journal will publish two more, October 14 and November 22.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1838 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Léon Curmer buys the novelist texts for his illustrated collection *Les Français peints par eux-mêmes* and Hippolyte Souverain, 6 novels in November and December.

By the end of the summer, Balzac was writing part of *Qui a terre a guerre* (*Les Paysans*). For the theater, he worked on *La Première Demoiselle* (*L'Ecole des ménages*), which his friend Armand Péréme (1804-1874) tried in vain to place at the end of the year, and pondered at least four other subjects.



Portrait of bookseller Léon Curmer, circa 1850

### Main historical events

- October 2: Paul Gavarni, Alphonse de Lamartine and Honoré de Balzac join forces to defend Sébastien-Benoît Peytel, accused of murdering his wife.
- October 14: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte leaves Switzerland for England via Germany. He arrives in London on October 24.
- October 25: V. Hugo transfers ownership of his published works for 10 years, i.e. 22 volumes plus 2 unpublished works, together with an option right for future books, to the Société en commandite pour l'exploitation des œuvres de Victor Hugo under the name Duriez & Cie. In exchange, V. Hugo will receive 300,000F, of which 180,000F will be paid in cash, with the balance covering 4 successive annual instalments payable from 1840.
- November 4: The debut of an actress: Ernesta Grisi.
- November 8: At the Théâtre de la Renaissance, <sup>1st performance</sup> of *Ruy Blas*. As the theater is inaugurated on the same day, V. Hugo's play is preceded by a speech in verse by Méry.
- Nov. 27: Delloye puts copies of *Ruy Blas* up for sale.  
The historian Duvergier de Hauranne called for the opposition to unite against the Molé government.
- Dec. 4: Pastry war between France and Mexico.
- Dec. 15: Jean-Baptiste Kléber's ashes are buried in a vault in the heart of Strasbourg's Place Kléber.
- December 17: Opening of the parliamentary session; reading of the Speech from the Throne. The committee in charge of the address is mostly hostile to Molé.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1839 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Carrying out the projects he had matured in the preceding months and working relentlessly, Balzac multiplied his publications and travelled little. He played an important role in the Société des gens de lettres, re-entering the world of writers without neglecting his social contacts. Correspondence with Madame Hanska is at its lowest ebb: just 4 letters.

At the beginning of the year, Charles Lassailly (1806-1843), hired by Balzac to help him with his theater projects, quickly gave up this collaboration. On February 24, after a reading of *L'Ecole des ménages*, the Théâtre de la Renaissance rejected the play. Balzac presented it to Mme Couturier de Saint-Clair in early March, then to the Marquis de Custine, in the presence of Stendhal and Théophile Gautier, on March 8.



Daguerreotype

### Main historical events

- January 6: Death of Princess Marie d'Orléans, Duchess of Würtemberg.
- January 7: In the Chamber: discussion of the address. The government will have it rejected.
- January 9: Official date of the invention of photography, with the public presentation of the first daguerreotypes at the Academy of Sciences.
- January 10: Lamartine replies to the King's address: "France is a bored nation. You have let the country lack action."
- January 31: Order dissolving the Chamber - Gobineau strengthens his relations with the Legitimists, Genoude, Lourdoueix, Ancelot.
- February 2: Molé resigns. Dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. Elections are set for March 2 and the return to Parliament for the 26th. The King fails.
- February 10: Hippolyte Passy submitted a proposal stating that "in the future, all Negro children would be born free in the French colonies, that all slaves would have the right to buy themselves back at a price set by arbitrators, and that slave spouses could not be separated in the event of a sale". He developed his proposal on the 16th.
- March 2: Legislative elections, in which opposition gains ground.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1839 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Elected a member of the Committee of the Société des gens de lettres on March 24, the novelist gathered texts for a collective collection planned by the Société, of which three volumes were published between November 1839 and March 1840: on August 16, he became president of the Société and, in this capacity, testified in Rouen in a counterfeiting trial. In January or February, he had rented a pied-à-terre at 108 rue de Richelieu in Paris, but for most of the year he lived at Les Jardies, where he had his library moved (April 18-20). On May 14, he bought a second small house, and was immobilized for three weeks in June. That month, Ferdinand de Grammont presented him with an *Armorial des études de mœurs*. On July 22, he welcomes Victor Hugo and Léon Gozlan to Les Jardies. On August 30, the notary Peytel, accused of murdering his wife, is sentenced to death by the Bourg assizes. Balzac, who hardly knew him, did everything in his power to save him.



The Pont d'Andert massacre: Sébastien-Benoît Peytel convicted of murdering his wife Félicité Peytel (above).

### Main historical events

- March 2: Alexis de Tocqueville is elected deputy in Valogne.
- March 8: The ministry headed by Louis Mathieu Molé, Tocqueville's cousin, resigns following its defeat in the legislative elections of March 2. A long ministerial crisis follows, until the appointment of the Soult Ministry on May 12.
- March 31: Appointment of a transitional government.  
Gobineau was in contact with Lacordaire and frequented Madame Swetchine's salon.
- April 4: Opening of the parliamentary session in a stormy atmosphere.
- April 6: Publication of *La Chartreuse de Parme*, by Stendhal.
- April 9: Henri de Castellane marries Pauline de Talleyrand-Périgord, daughter of the Duchess of Dino. The unfortunate affair  
"which has since come to light" is recounted in a letter from Prosper Mérimée to the Comtesse de Montijo, dated December 25, 1847. H. de Castellane had died on October 16, 1847. She then married the Prussian Count de Hatzfeld, then the Duc de Valençay. (Note by Rémusat) - Pauline de Castellane died in 1890.
- May 12: Insurrectionary operation launched by the Republican secret society *Les Saisons*. The plan to storm the Hôtel-de-Ville in Paris fails and the conspirators are arrested.  
Second Soult ministry under the presidency of Marshal Soult, after a ministerial hiatus of more than 3 months.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1839 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On September 7, in the company of Gavarni, he takes the post to Bourg-en-Bresse; on the evening of the 8th, Gavarni visits Peytel in his cell; Balzac sees him the next day; on the 10th, they both go to the scene of the crime. They returned to Paris on the 12th, and from the 15th to the 17th Balzac wrote a *Mémoire* sur le procès. But the appeal was rejected on October 10 and Peytel was guillotined on the 28th. On November 11, Delphine de Girardin gives a reading of her play *L'Ecole des journalistes*. Balzac attends. On December 2, as a candidate for the Académie française, he withdrew before Victor Hugo, who was defeated by Flourens on December 19. In this year of intense literary activity, Balzac serializes: *Une Fille d'Eve* (*Le Siècle*, December 31, 1838-January 14, 1839); the beginning of *Curé de village* (*La Presse*, January 1-7); *Béatrix ou les Amours forcés* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> parts) (*Le Siècle*, April 13-26 and May 10-19); *Véronique au tombeau* (3<sup>rd</sup> part of *Curé de village*) (*La Presse*, July 30-August 1).



1804-1855



Delphine de Girardin died young of cancer on June 29, 1855. Hugo takes up in his memory a poem from 1840 in *Toute la Lyre*

### Main historical events

- May 26: Last performance of *Ruy Blas*.
- May 29: The law on literary property is passed.
- June 27: The trial of the May insurgents begins, with Barbès as one of the defendants.
- June 29: Gustave de Beaumont publishes *L'Irlande sociale, politique et religieuse* by Charles Gosselin.
- July 2: Alexis de Tocqueville makes his first speech to the Chamber on the Question of the Orient.
- July 4: The Turkish fleet leaves the Dardanelles. It is thought to be going to fight the Egyptians.
- July 12: Armand Barbès is sentenced to death.

Victor Hugo writes "Au roi Louis-Philippe, après l'arrêt de mort prononcé le 12 juillet 1839" (in *Les rayons et les ombres*).

- July 13: Demonstrations in Paris in support of Barbès.
- July 14: Barbès's death sentence is commuted to hard labor for life.
- July 15: News reaches Paris of the Ottoman Sultan's death.
- July 22: Victor Hugo meets Balzac at Les Jardies.
- July 23: Alexis de Tocqueville submitted his Rapport fait au nom de la commission chargée d'examiner la proposition de M. de Tracy, relative aux esclaves des colonies françaises. The report concluded that all slaves should be emancipated immediately, but he never came up for discussion.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1839 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*La Princesse parisienne* (*Les Secrets de la princesse de Cadignan*) (*La Presse*, August 20-26); *Lettre au rédacteur en chef de "La Presse"* (on literary property) (*La Presse*, August 18); Une représentation du "Mosé" de Rossini à Venise (fragment de *Massimilla Doni*) (*La France musicale*, August 25); *Lettre sur le procès de Peytel*, notaire à Belley (*Le Siècle*, September 27-29 - December 22). In bookshops, he publishes with Hippolyte Souverain (2-volume editions): *Le Cabinet des Anitques* (followed by *Gambara*), in March; *Un grand homme de province à Paris* (<sup>2nd</sup> part of *Illusions perdues*), in June; *Une fille d'Eve* (followed by *Massimilla Doni*), in August; *Béatrix ou les Amours forcés*, in November. Charpentier reissues 13 volumes of Balzac's novels and short stories in its "bibliothèque in-18". A *Traité des excitants modernes* appears for the first time, in the same collection, as an appendix to a new edition of Brillat-Savarin's *Physiologie du goût*, in May.



François-Victor Hugo,  
Auguste Vacquerie and  
Victor Hugo



Adèle Foucher-Hugo,  
wife of Victor Hugo

### Main historical events

- July 25: Paris learns of the Turkish defeat at Nizib.
- July 26: Act to establish the railway from Lille to Dunkirk.  
After the death of the Sultan and the defeat of Nizib, the Turkish fleet surrendered to Egypt.  
Victor Hugo begins *work* on *Les Jumeaux*, which is completed on August 23.
- August 3: Law establishing the framework of the army staff.
- August 11: Laws establishing the railway from Paris to Versailles. from Paris to Orléans. Law establishing the railway from Paris to Le Havre and Dieppe.
- August 16: Honoré de Balzac is elected president of the Société des gens de lettres.
- August 26: Adèle Hugo and her children leave for the Vacquerie family home in Villequier.
- August 31: Hugo and Juliette Drouet travel to France.
- September 2: Opening to passengers of the railway line from Paris to Versailles via the right bank of the Seine.
- September 6: Discovery of Ahe atoll in French Polynesia by Charles Wilkes.
- September 7: Jacques' daguerreotype experiments Daguerre at the Palais du Quai d'Orsay, repeated on the 11th and 14th.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1839 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Pierre Grassou* was included in Volume II of the collective collection *Babel*, in December; two brief monographs, *L'Epicier* and *La Femme comme il faut*, were included in *Les Français peints par eux-mêmes* (Curmer, April and May). Also drafted or planned that year: *Les Mistouflet ou l'Election en province* (first idea for *Député d'Arcis*); *La Frélore*. Balzac also worked on *Qui a terre a guerre*, which he unsuccessfully proposed to newspapers. For the stage, *La Gina*, *Richard* and *Coeur d'Eponge* are sketched out, and *Vautrin* is largely written.



Emir Abdelkader  
(1808-1883)

### Main historical events

- September 9: Honoré de Balzac asks Armand Dutacq, manager of the newspaper *Le Siècle*, for his support in the Peytel affair, to save an innocent man from the scaffold, in a letter he sends from Bourg-en-Bresse.
- September 21: Adèle Hugo and her children leave Villequier for Le Havre.
- Sept. 27, 28 and 29: Honoré de Balzac writes a plea for Sébastien-Benoît Peytel in *Le Siècle*, to avoid a miscarriage of justice in this iniquitous trial.
- October 8: Adèle Hugo and the children return to Paris.
- October 13: Auguste Blanqui is arrested.
- Oct. 16-Nov. 2: The Duc d'Orléans and Marshal Valée ride from Constantine to Algiers via the Portes de Fer and Sétif. Abd El-Kader, seeing this as a violation of the Treaty of Tafna, declares war on the French.
- October 18: Stéphanie Girondelle throws a stone at the King's carriage as it leaves the Tuileries at around 5 p.m. on its way to St-Cloud. The Queen suffers a slight head injury. Two doctors, Chomel and Vignardance, recognize the attacker as insane.
- December 2: H. de Balzac withdraws his candidacy to make way for Victor Hugo, who is not elected.
- December 15: The death of the deputy for Mamers (Sarthe), Letronne, enables Gustave de Beaumont to be elected.
- December 31: Abd El-Kader is defeated.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

This year proved less fruitful. It was also marked by the failures of *Vautrin* and the *Revue parisienne*, and by the abandonment of Les Jardies to the pack of creditors. Balzac, however, had vast plans. He had found the title *La Comédie humaine* and was looking for a publisher for his collective edition. As far as we know, he makes no trips outside the Paris region where, until the end of September, he lives at Les Jardies or 108, rue de Richelieu. He had an affair with Hélène Marie Félicité Valette (1808-1873), from whom he borrowed 10,000 francs.



Battle of Mazagran

### Main historical events

- January 1<sup>st</sup>: Definitive introduction of the metric system and abandonment of Old Regime units of measurement (re-established by Napoleon 1<sup>st</sup> in 1812 after a first abolition on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1793), in application of the law of July 1837.
- January 9: Victor Hugo succeeds Honoré de Balzac as president of the Société des gens de lettres.
- January 14: The Parisian National Guards demonstrate to obtain the right to vote. Petitions circulating in their favor gather almost 190,000 signatures.
- January 15: General Bugeaud raises the question of French policy in Algeria before the Chamber: the alternative, in his view, is immediate evacuation or total occupation.
- January 31: Auguste Blanqui is sentenced to death by the Court of Peers. Sentence commuted because of the Barbès precedent.
- February 2: Battle of Mazagran, French victory in Algeria against Abd El-Kader's troops.
- February 20: Academic election, Pierre Flourens is elected over Victor Hugo.
- February 21: Resignation of the Soult ministry, outvoted over a proposed endowment for the Duc de Nemours on the occasion of his forthcoming marriage.
- February 25: Charles Baudelaire sends Victor Hugo a letter of admiration.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 2 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the start of the year, he completed and reworked *Vautrin*, which was twice rejected by the Theatrical Censorship Commission, on January 23 and February 27. Authorized on March 6, the play premiered on March 14 at the Porte-Saint-Martin, but was banned the following day by Charles de Rémusat. Despite representations from Alexandre Dumas and Victor Hugo, the ban was not lifted. On April 25, Balzac is authorized to have another play performed: he is thinking of *L'Ecole des ménages*, and *Richard Coeur d'Eponge*, which Frédérick Lemaître refuses to perform in early May.



Count Charles de Rémusat,  
Minister of the Interior from  
March <sup>1</sup> to October 29,  
1840



On view: Elle coud, elle  
court, La Grisette at the  
Maison de Balzac  
Museum in 2011-2012



### Main historical events

- March <sup>1</sup>: Second Thiers Ministry, a center-left ministry presided over by Adolphe Thiers. Alexis de Tocqueville gives Thiers the support he needs to carry out his policy in the East.
- March 6: François Guizot is appointed ambassador to London.
- March 8: Law on the organization and extension of the jurisdiction of commercial courts.
- March 12: Capture of Cherchell by the French army. During this campaign, the Duc d'Orléans was appalled to discover that Marshal Valée and his officers lacked sensitivity and humanity towards their men, brave soldiers without glory who knew nothing but garrison duty and, for many of them, hospital and death.
- March 14: Premiere of Balzac's play *Vautrin* at the Porte-Saint-Martin theater.
- March 15: Actor Frédérick Lemaître is accused of trying to make a charge out of Louis-Philippe. The latter, in Balzac's play "Vautrin", had "made a head" of King Louis-Philippe - a pear-shaped head, flanked by broad sideburns and topped with a toupee. The actor's buffoonery distracted attention from the drama, overrode the Balzacian text (which called for a Mexican general's costume...) and, through amused connivance with the audience, kept up the rebellion against power. Minister Rémusat banned the play.
- March 16: Victor Hugo accompanies Balzac to the Ministry to protest against the ban on "Vautrin".



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He wrote *Pamela Giraud et Mercadet*, which was read to the actor in the presence of Théophile Gautier, it seems, on May 28; Frédéric made Balzac wait several weeks before preferring to make his comeback in Dumas's *Kean*. The novelist then gave up theater for the time being and, with the help of Armand Dutacq, launched a small magazine modelled on Alphonse Karr's *Les Guêpes*: the "*Revue parisienne*, dirigée par M. de Balzac" had three issues, almost entirely written by the director; then Dutacq stopped the publication after the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue (July 25 - September 25): Balzac has worked three months for nothing.

A creditor, Foullon, obtained the seizure of the two houses in Les Jardies (September 18-19) and Balzac was forced to abandon Sèvres; on October 1, an apartment was rented at 19, rue Basse in Passy (*La Maison de Balzac*, 47, rue Reynouard), in the name of Mlle Breugnot- Desreaux (*sic*).



La Maison de Balzac,  
rue Reynouard, Paris

### Main historical events

- March 16: Gobineau and a few friends - Maxime du Camp, Paul de Molènes, Hercule and Gaston de Serre - found the Serenissima Società dei Scelti, or Cousins of Isis, to help its members build careers.
- April 17: French troops lay siege to Médéa in Algeria.
- April 24: Alexis de Tocqueville publishes the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of *De la démocratie en Amérique* with Gosselin, which is less successful than the first.
- April 27: The marriage of the Duc de Nemours and Princess Victoire de Saxe-Cobourg-Kohary is celebrated at the Château de Saint-Cloud.
- May 9 - June 20: Prison reform bill championed by Alexis de Tocqueville.
- May 12: Adolphe Thiers obtains a large loan so that the Prince of Joinville can bring the ashes of Napoleon 1<sup>st</sup> back from St. Helena.

The French army crosses the Atlas.

- May 16: Publication of Victor Hugo's collection of poems "*Les Rayons et les ombres*" - Inauguration of the new Opéra-Comique auditorium, place Favart.
- May 18: Capture of Miliana in Algeria.
- June 3: France publishes Gobineau's short story *Le Mariage d'un prince* (republished by René Guise in the August 1966 issue of *Nouvelle Revue Française*).



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac went into hiding there under the name of "M. de Brugnol" with his governess-mistress, Philiberte-Jeanne-Louise Breugniot known as "Mme de Brugnol" (1804-1874). Shortly afterwards, he took in his mother. On December 13, he attended a concert by Berlioz, and on December 15 the ceremonies marking the return of Napoleon's ashes. Victor Hugo succeeded Balzac as president of the Société des gens de lettres (January 9); Balzac presented the Société with a draft *Code littéraire* (April), which remained in manuscript for a long time.



The play Vautrin was staged in March 1840 at the Porte Saint-Martin theater, 18 boulevard Saint-Martin.

## Main historical events

- June 6: Law introducing various changes to the river fishing regime.
- June 10: A law orders the construction of Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>'s tomb at Les Invalides.
- June 14: A stormy review of the National Guard by the King at the Carrousel. Cries of "Vive le roi!" mingle with those of "Vive la réforme!"
- June 16: Victor Hugo goes to Saint-Prix (Château de la Terrasse), where his family is staying. He is accompanied by several friends, including Gérard de Nerval.
- June 20: Alexis de Tocqueville submits a report on prison reform, concluding that solitary confinement is superior. The matter was not debated in the Chamber until May 1844, after Tocqueville had submitted a second report on 5.7.1843, but the reform was not discussed in the Chamber of Peers, and was therefore not adopted.
- June 30: Gobineau contests his sister's naive idea of Christian superiority in art and literature. Above all, he criticizes her for judging contemporary writers without knowing them. He has her read George Sand's *Les Frères Mosaïstes*, whose style she will be able to admire.
- July 3: Sugar Act.
- July 7: Agreement between France and England withdrawing the exclusive Sicilian sulfur concession granted to a Marseilles company.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Le Siècle* serialized *Pierrette* (January 14-27); *La Caricature* published 3 new chapters of *Petites misères de la vie conjugale* (January 5-26 and June 8). The *Revue parisienne* publishes *Lettres sur la littérature, Lettres russes, Sur les ouvriers*, etc., as well as Z. Marcas (<sup>1st</sup> issue, July 25), *Les Fantaisies de Claudine (Un Prince de la bohème)* (<sup>2nd</sup> issue, August 25), *Etude sur M. Beyle* (<sup>3rd</sup> and final issue, September 25; this article was "happily" read by Stendhal in Rome on October 15).



The Duchesse d'Abrantès lived at 18 rue Basse-du-Rempart, a street that ran north along the boulevard des Capucines and the boulevard de la Madeleine from the rue de la Chaussée d'Antin.

### Main historical events

- July 11: Gobineau exposes his artistic theories, close to those of Jouffroy, to his sister. Art, in his view, is "an aspiration towards the manifestations of the material or ideal world" and not "an imitation of nature".
- July 15: Treaty of London, keeping France out of the question of the Ottoman Empire and Mehemet Ali.

Law amending some of the laws governing railroads. It grants a loan of 12.6 million to the Strasbourg-Basel railway company and a minimum interest guarantee of 4% to the shareholders of the Paris-Orléans railway.

- July 16: Law concerning the establishment of several steamship lines between France and America.
- July 22: Gobineau discusses metaphysics with his sister Caroline and defends the power of reason against her assertions of religious faith - Colonne de Juillet on the Place de la Bastille.
- July 25: Honoré de Balzac violently attacks Henri de Latouche in his journal *Revue parisienne*.
- July 28: Place de la Bastille, inauguration of the July Column, the monument to the memory of the fighters of July 1830.
- July 29: Beginning of mobilization in France in reaction to the attitude of the powers in the Orient affair - Marriage of Suzanne, Gobineau's adulterous half-sister, fille de la Coindière. She marries his music teacher. Influenced by father of his bride, the future son-in-law forbids Suzanne to continue his relationship with the Gobineau family.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1840 page 6 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Charpentier publishes new in-18 editions of *Histoire des treize* (*Ferragus*, *La Duchesse de Langeais*) in January, and of *Physiologie du mariage* in December; Souverain brings out the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and final, editions of *Œuvres complètes d'Horace*

de *Saint-Aubin* in January, and in September, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition containing the unpublished *Dom Gigadas*. Delloye and Lecou put *Vautrin* on sale (1<sup>st</sup> edition, March; 2<sup>nd</sup>, April; 3<sup>rd</sup>, May; 4<sup>th</sup>, July). Souverain publishes *Une Princesse parisienne* (Les

*secrets de la princesse de Cadignan*), volume 1 of the collection entitled *Le Foyer de l'Opéra*, in February;



Prince Louis Napoleon (future Napoleon III) assassinates a French soldier in front of a barracks in Boulogne-sur-Mer on August 6, 1840 (attempted coup d'état)



### Main historical events

- August 6: Attempt at Boulogne. Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte and his companions disembark near Boulogne-sur-Mer. The expedition is a complete failure. Louis-Napoléon, Persigny and 45 of their companions are arrested.
- August 19: Inauguration of the Nîmes-Alès railroad.
- August 25: Honoré de Balzac attacks Sainte-Beuve in his journal *Revue parisienne*.
- August 29: V. Hugo and Juliette Drouet travel to northern France and Germany. During this trip, V. Hugo sends Adèle, who lives in Saint-Prix, the 8 parts of his *Journal* and the 2 parts of the *Lettre sur Heidelberg*.
- September 3: Marie Lafarge trial opens.
- September 4: Riot in the Quinze-vingts district of Paris.
- September 7: The economy is at its worst, leading to an uprising by cabinetmakers in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine, firmly put down by the government.
- September 13: Construction begins on the fortification belt around Paris.
- September 16: Opening of the trial of Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte and his accomplices before the Chamber of Peers.
- September 18: At the Tulle trial, Marie Lafarge is sentenced to hard labor for life.
- September 25: H. de Balzac praises Stendhal's *La Chartreuse de Parme* in his journal *La Revue parisienne* the press pretended to ignore.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Le Livre des douleurs*, <sup>4th</sup> and final issue of *Études philosophiques* containing *Gambara*, *Les Proscrits*, *Massimilla Doni* and *Séraphita* (5 volumes in-12), late August or early September; *Pierrette* (followed by *Pierre Grassou*) (2 volumes), October or November.

Balzac works on *Le Curé de Village*, starts printing *Les Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées*, proposes *Ursule Mirouët* to *Le Messager*, who accepts, and the *Lecamus* (*Le Martyr calviniste*) to *Le Siècle*.



The Théâtre Italien in Paris...commonly known as *Les Italiens*

### Main historical events

- September 30: Gobineau finalizes his article on *Capo d'Istria* and has much to praise on this occasion from the Minister of Greece, who has granted him several interviews.
- October <sup>1</sup>: Gas stoves begin to be used in the Rue Duperré cooking class.
- October 6: The Chamber of Peers sentenced Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte to life imprisonment, Aladenize to deportation, Persigny, Montholon, Parquin and Lombard to 20 years' imprisonment by 152 votes to 160 abstentions.
- October 7: Prince Louis-Napoléon is interned at Ham fort, along with Montholon and Dr. Conneau. Persigny and Parquin are incarcerated at the Doullens fortress.
- October 8: France accepts the treaty of July 15 on condition that Egypt is guaranteed to Mehemet Ali and that the act of forfeiture of October 2 is not carried out.
- October 15: Darmès, a frotteur worker, shoots at Louis-Philippe's carriage.
- October 22: Thiers resigns, in disagreement with the king over his warmongering diplomacy - Gobineau sends Sainte-Beuve the manuscript of his article on *Capo d'Istria*, before submitting it to the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. It was his "first political work", and he attached great importance to it.
- October 27: Premiere of Donizetti's *Lucretia Borgia* at the Théâtre Italien in Paris. The libretto (Italian) by Felice Romane plagiarizes and parodies Victor Hugo. Adèle Hugo leaves Saint-Prix for Paris.

# BALZAC and his times

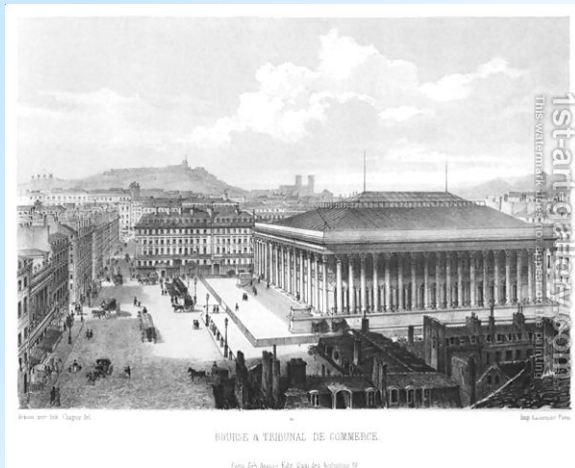
Year 1840 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 209 to 215

### The Paris Stock Exchange and Commercial Court in 1840



## Main historical events

- October 29: <sup>3rd</sup> Soult Ministry, dominated by François Guizot, Minister of Foreign Affairs. He pursued a conservative policy, favorable to the business bourgeoisie who benefited from the censal vote, the development of large-scale industry, credit, trade and the means of communication, without accompanying it with social measures to improve the situation of the urban proletariat. Less warmongering, Guizot pursued a policy of rapprochement with Great Britain. Thiers' foreign policy in Egypt had increased the threat of a Franco-British conflict - General Sébastiani was promoted to the rank of Marshal of France.

The Sceltis prepare a collective collection to be published in early 1841. What the Sceltis have in common is "ambition, independence of spirit, aristocratic ideas".

- Early November: Rhône: autumn flood; flow estimated at 12,000m<sup>3</sup>/s.
- November 5: Opening of the 1841 parliamentary session.
- November 9: François Guizot is invited to dinner by the Lord Mayor of London.
- November 22: Another attempt on Louis-Philippe's life.
- November 30: Arrival in Cherbourg of the ship "La Belle Poule" carrying the ashes of Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>.

Alexis de Tocqueville delivers his second major speech on the Question of the Orient against the new Ministry, which he accuses of to bring France down.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 209 to 215

#### Births in 1840

- April 2: Emile Zola, French writer († 29.09.1902)
- Nov. 14: Claude Monet, French painter († 5.12.1926)



Appearance of the Christmas tree

### Main historical events

- December 8: Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>'s coffin is transferred from "La Belle Poule" to the steamer "La Normandie", bound for Le Havre.
- December 14: Publication in brochure of Hugo's *Retour de l'Empereur* (reprinted in the 1883 edition of *La Légende des siècles*).
- December 15: Napoleon's ashes arrive at Les Invalides, in the presence of the King and royal family.
- December 16: In a letter to Ewelina Hanska, Honoré de Balzac gives an enthusiastic description of the ceremony for the return of Napoleon <sup>1st</sup>'s ashes "...one hundred thousand people in the Champs Elysées! A thing that would make one believe in the intentions of natural effects: at the moment when Napoleon's body entered the Invalides, a rainbow formed above the Invalides".
- December 20: Victor Hugo applies for membership of the Académie française. He aims for the seat of Népomucène Lemercier (who died on June 7).
- December 24: The German Christmas tree custom is introduced by Princess Hélène de Mecklembourg, wife of Ferdinand-Philippe, Duc d'Orléans.
- December 29: Bugeaud appointed Governor General of Algeria. The Scelti family plans to publish a *Revue de l'Orient*.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

It's a year of work that remains somewhat mysterious, particularly as regards a certain spring trip. On the other hand, the novelist sends only 5 letters to Madame Hanska and writes little to his other correspondents. An important event marks the year: the treaty for *La Comédie Humaine* is signed.

On January 15, Balzac is named honorary president of the Société des gens de lettres. He publishes *Notes remises à MM. les députés composant la commission de la loi sur la propriété littéraire*, published by Hetzel in March, and prepares a *Manifesto* in June; he resigns from the *Société* on September 5, but his resignation is rejected (October 5 and 22).



Child labor in coal mines:

the example of the United Kingdom in the early 1840s

### Main historical events

- January 7: Victor Hugo is elected to the Académie française.
- January 25: Lamartine delivers a speech against Thiers' plan to fortify Paris.
- January 28: Léopoldine Hugo goes to her first ball.

François Buloz hesitates to insert Gobineau's article on *Capo d'Istria*, despite Charles de Rémusat's favorable opinion. Gobineau expected this article to provoke criticism from *Capo d'Istria*'s friends. Scelti's *Revue de l'Orient* seems to be going well.

- February 1: Law on the fortifications of Paris. The Chamber votes on the Thiers project.
- February 6: Lamartine is elected president of the *Commission de la propriété littéraire*. He plans to set the age limit at 50.
- February 22: Bugeaud takes possession of his government in Algeria.
- February 27: The 560-meter-deep artesian well dug by Louis-Georges Mulot under the direction of François Arago is commissioned at the Abattoirs de Grenelle.
- March 22: Loi relative au travail des enfants employés dans les manufactures, usines et ateliers, <sup>1st</sup> law regulating working conditions. Following Villermé's survey: *Tableau de l'état physique et moral des ouvriers dans les fabriques de coton, de laine et de soie* (1840), child labor is regulated in French industry and their protection organized. Work was forbidden for children under 8, limited to 8h/d for 8-12 year-olds and 12h for 12-16 year-olds.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He frequented the salon of Marie d'Agoult (1805-1876); he was seen with the Girardin family and George Sand, who lived with Chopin on rue Pigalle. In April and early May, he made a fortnight's trip to "Blois, Orléans, Nantes and old Brittany", whose exact itinerary and companion (perhaps Hélène de Valette) we do not know. On June 3, he attends Victor Hugo's reception at the Académie française. On July 15, after lengthy legal proceedings, Les Jardies is sold to a nominee, his architect Claret. On October 2, the novelist signs a contract with the booksellers Furne (1794-1859), Hetzel (1814-1886), Dubochet (1798-1868) and Paulin (1793-1859) for the publication of his *Œuvres complètes* under the title *La Comédie humaine* (a contract cancelling a treaty signed on the previous April 14). A friendly relationship develops with Hetzel.



Marie d'Agoult



Marie d'Agoult in 1861.

### Main historical events

- March 23: Debates on literary property begin in the House.
- March 29: The Chamber rejects the Lamartine project on literary property.
- April 3: Law allocating a 140 million credit to the creation of a fortified enclosure to protect the capital. Known as the Thiers wall, after the French Prime Minister at the time, it was completed in 1845.
- April 10: The *Revue de l'Orient* project seems to be going badly. In fact, it will not appear, competing in advance with Dr. Barrachin's *Revue orientale*.
- April 15: The *Revue des Deux Mondes* finally publishes Gobineau's article *on Capo d'Istria*. In it, he puts on trial the naïve philhellenism that claims to see in modern Greeks the heirs and descendants of the ancient Greeks. An article not devoid of political lucidity and generosity, in which Gobineau rages against Capo d'Istria, considered the architect of Russian policy in the East, and thus, curiously enough, serves Guizot's policy.
- April 17: The success of Gobineau's article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* gives him hope for the future.
- April 19: Victor Hugo finishes writing his acceptance speech to the Académie.
- May 4: Tocqueville embarks with his brother Hippolyte and Gustave de Beaumont in Toulon, to make the voyage in Algeria that he had been planning for 1 year.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Numerous feuilletons appear: *Une ténébreuse affaire* in *Le Commerce* (Jan. 14-Feb. 20); *Les Deux Frères* (part <sup>1</sup> of *La Rabouilleuse*) in *La Presse* (Feb. 24). - March 4); *Farrabesche* (fragment of *Curé de village*, in *Le Messenger* (March 8,9,11 and 13); *Une scène de boudoir* (story reprinted in *Autre étude de femme*) in *L'Artiste* (March 21 and 28); *Les Lecamus* (*Le Martyr calviniste*) in *Le Siècle* (March 23 - Apr. 4); *Ursule Mirouët* in *Le Messenger* (Aug. 25 - Sept. 23); *Les Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées* ( <sup>1st</sup> and <sup>2nd</sup> parts) in *La Presse* (Nov. 26 - Dec. 6), Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, 1842); *La Fausse Maîtresse* in *Le Siècle* (Dec. 24-28); *Le Curé de village* (2 volumes published by Souverain, in March) is the only novel published in bookshops that year.



Pierre-Jules Hetzel, publisher and writer  
under the pen name of P.-J. Stahl

### Main historical events

- May 5: Law on expropriation in the public interest, an essential legal instrument for town planning policy.
- May 15: Tocqueville leaves Algiers by sea in the company of General Bugeaud, on his way to attack Tagdempt, capital of the Algerian Emir Abd el-Kader. Tocqueville reached Mostaganem, where he met General Lamoricière, with whom he had been in contact for several years, thanks to the officer's links with fellow graduate Louis de Kergorlay. An officer in the arable offices, Lamoricière had been involved in most of the military operations in Algeria since 1830, and had made the effort to get to know the country.
- May 18: Bugeaud leaves on a campaign against the Emir Abd el-Kader. Tocqueville, whose health is failing, is unable to accompany him; he leaves for Oran and then Mers el Kébir, accompanied by Beaumont. He will be back in Algiers on 22.5.
- May 28: Tocqueville embarks for Philippeville. "A coast like few I've seen in my life. This part of Algeria is infinitely more beautiful than the others," he writes to his brother Edouard on May 30.
- May 31: Execution of Darmès, author of the failed attempt on October 15, 1840.
- June 2: Act introducing serious amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure on the judicial sale of immovable property.
- June 3: V. Hugo is admitted to the Académie française. His speech is resolutely political. Salvandy, in his reply, denies him political importance and only quotes his first works.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In addition, 3 small illustrated volumes were published: a *Physiologie de l'employé* (Aubert), illustrated by Trimolet, in August; a *Physiologie du rentier de Paris et de province* (Martinon), illustrated by Gavarni, Monnier, Daumier and Meissonier, in September; and a *Histoire de l'Empereur racontée dans une grange par un vieux soldat* (extrait du *Médecin de campagne*) (Hetzel), illustrated by Lorentz, in December. In the issues of Volume I of *Scènes de la vie privée et publique des animaux*, illustrated by Grandville, Hetzel also publishes several texts by Balzac.



Charles Baudelaire, child and adult

### Main historical events

- June 9: Baudelaire boards the Paquebot-des-Mers-du-Sud bound for Calcutta.
- June 11: Alexis de Tocqueville returns to Toulon.
- June 13: Law to establish the railway from Bordeaux to La Teste.
- June 14: Law amending the Commercial Code on the liability of owners of merchant ships.
- June 15: In the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, Magnin refers to V. Hugo's speech as a "minister's program".
- June 17: Naval Staff Organization Act.
- June 24: At the Académie, Charles Nodier is appointed Director and Victor Hugo Chancellor.
- June 25: Law on the retail sale of goods by auction, or public auction; law on the transmission of offices regulating the form and registration fees of treaties; law authorizing a 3% annuity issue, which amounted to 12,810,245 annuity francs and produced 450,000,000 francs.
- June 28: Première of *Gisèle* at the Paris Opera, with Carlotta Grisi in the title role.
- July 7-13: Unrest in Toulouse aimed at preventing the tax census ordered by Finance Minister Georges Humann to reform the tax base for the doors and windows .

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary continued on page 223



Colonne de la grande armée place Vendôme - Paris



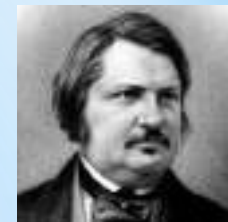
Colonne de la grande armée, Boulogne sur Mer

### Main historical events

- July 13: Convention closing the straits to non-Turkish warships, except in the event of war.
- July 17: Gobineau completed his biography of Alviane and wrote an article for *Le journal des Débats* on the Candie question. He has no confidence in the Legitimist committee: "What are we to make of these people in an affair where so much measure, prudence, skill and firmness should be brought to bear?"
- July 26: The Comte de Chambord, a Legitimist pretender, suffers a serious riding accident that leaves him slightly disabled in the left leg.
- July 30: In response to the wishes of the National Guard of Boulogne, Victor Hugo writes for the inauguration of a statue of Napoleon in the town: *Hymne pour l'inauguration de Napoléon* (Hymn for the Inauguration of Napoleon).
- August 16: Inauguration of the statue of Napoleon <sup>1st</sup> in Boulogne-sur-Mer (see Grande Armée column). Deemed politically biased, Victor Hugo's text is not delivered.
- September 11-18: Unrest in Paris. The city is gripped by Republican demonstrations. "Vive la République! Down with Louis Philippe!" The unrest lasts for several days.
- September 13: The Duc d'Aumale, returning from Africa and marching at the head of his troops, is nearly pistol-whipped to death by Quénisset, an extremist.
- Sept. 25-Nov. 16: Chateaubriand writes the conclusion of the *Mémoires d'outre-tombe*. In Vienna, the Comte de Flahaut replaces the Comte de Saint-Aulaire appointed to London as ambassador.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1841 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



## Honoré de Balzac's genealogy

The novelist dreams of winning the Montyon prize by writing *Les Frères de la consolation* (*L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*). At the end of the year, he reached an agreement with the Odéon to stage a new play, *Les Ressources de Quinola*, and gave a reading on December 29, but Marie Dorval did not accept the role.



Nicholas I, Tsar of Russia



Nicholas II, his wife  
and children

## Main historical events

- October 2: Balzac signs a contract with Fume, Hetzel, Paulin and Dubochet for his "complete works", to be published under the general title *La Comédie humaine*.
- November 6: Victor Hugo wins his case against Donizetti. Donizetti was obliged to adopt another libretto and change the title of the opera (*Lucretia Borgia*).
- November 11: the Count of Pahlen, Russian ambassador, leaves France to avoid having to present the wishes of the diplomatic corps to Louis-Philippe<sup>1</sup> (whom Nicholas<sup>1</sup> of Russia more or less vehemently rejects as king; in his view, he should have been regent to the Duke of Bordeaux). The start of a diplomatic quarrel with Russia lasting several years. Casimir Périer, son, is chargé d'affaires and Ernest de Barante (perhaps the son of Prosper de Barante) is ambassador in title.
- December 11: The Evreux court sentences Mme Louis de Gobineau to 6 years' imprisonment, a 100-franc fine and public exposure.
- December 20: L'Union catholique published an article by Gobineau, "La Grèce depuis 1833" (Greece since 1833), the sequel to which appeared in the same paper on December 20, 26-27 1841 and January 17. 1842.
- December 23: A. de Tocqueville is elected to the Académie française, replacing Jean Girard Lacuée de Cessac, who was Minister of War Administration under the Empire from 1810 to 1813.
- December 28: In the Chamber, Sauzet is re-elected president.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1842 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On January 5, Balzac learned of the death of Wenceslas Hanski, who had died in Wierzchnia in November 1841. This news turned his destiny upside down. From then on, he had one fixed idea: to marry Madame Hanska. Three volumes of *La Comédie humaine* went on sale during this year of intense work. The first rehearsal of *Les Ressources de Quinola* takes place at the Odéon on January 25, the dress rehearsal on March 16, and the first performance on March 19. The press was hostile, the public sulked, and the play left the stage on April 23, after 19 performances. It was a financial failure.



Hainsky or  
Hanski coat of  
arms



Wierzchnia is a late 18th-century castle, built by Italian architect Blerio. Property of Mr. Hanski and Madame Hanska. Balzac stayed there several times: between September 1847 and January 1848, then, very ill, between October 1848 and April 1850.

### Main historical events

- January 5: death of Count Hanski, Ewelina Hanska's husband. Honoré de Balzac was unable to join her until the following year.
- January 6: the ambassador to Spain, Salvandy, leaves Spain after the ceremonial business of presenting his credentials. He advises Guizot to consider war.
- January 28: publication of Hugo's original *Rhine*.
- February 7: the railroads bill is presented to the Chamber. Discussion began on April 26, on Dufaure's report, and lasted 15 days. Thiers's amendment substituting a single line (from the Belgian border to Marseille) for the network of 9 lines (6 proposed by the bill, and 3 added by the committee) was rejected. The whole project was adopted. Duchâtel plays an important role in the debate.
- February 15: during a debate on electoral reform, Lamartine delivers a famous speech comparing the July monarchy to a milestone: "One would say, to hear them, that the genius of politicians consists in only one thing, to stand there on a position that chance or revolution has made for them, and to remain there immobile, inert, implacable (...) so the genius of the statesman in charge of leading a government, but there would be no need for of statesmen, a milestone would suffice."
- February 17: Chancellor Pasquier is elected to the Académie française against Alfred de Vigny. Pierre-Simon Ballanche is elected to another chair.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1842 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On April 5 or 6, threatened by a bailiff for non-payment of rent, Balzac moves his furniture out of 108 rue Richelieu. The prospectus for *La Comédie humaine* appeared on April 10, and the first issue on April 16. Balzac, having thought of asking Hippolyte Rolle (1799-1883), the critic of *Le National*, to write a preface, visits George Sand on April 13 to offer to preface *La Comédie humaine* (she gives up in July). Mrs. B.-F. Balzac moved out of her room on rue Basse, probably in April. On June 2, the novelist has his portrait taken by the daguerreotypist Louis-Auguste Bisson (1814-1876).



The daguerreotypes is one of the first processes to record and You could see upside down



Photograph by  
Honoré de Balzac

### Main historical events

- March 19: Disappointing premiere at the Odéon theater of *Ressources de Quinola*, a play by Honoré de Balzac.
- March 23: Henri Beyle, alias Stendhal, dies of apoplexy the day before in the street.
- April 21: At his reception at the Académie française, Tocqueville, in eulogizing his predecessor, takes the opportunity to reflect on the history of the Empire.
- April 25: Georges Humann dies in his office at the Ministry of Finance.
- April 26: Arrival of Rear-Admiral Dupetit-Thouars, who takes possession of the Marquesas Islands and then imposes the French protectorate on Tahiti.
- May 1: Rear-Admiral Dupetit-Thouars occupies the Marquesas Islands.
- May 2: Honoré de Balzac expresses his enthusiasm for the daguerreotype in a letter to Madame Hanska.
- May 4: Henri Patin is elected to the Académie française. He is elected ahead of Alfred de Vigny and Charles-Augustin Sainte-Beuve.
- May 8: France's first rail disaster on the Versailles line, on the left bank, near Meudon: 57 dead, including Dumont-d'Urville, French naval officer and explorer.

More than 300 people were injured.

- June 10: Closure of the parliamentary session.

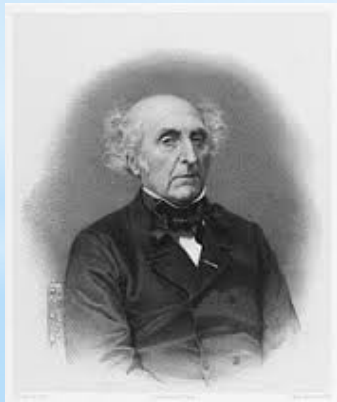
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1842 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In June or early July, he travels to Arcis-sur-Aube to complete his work *Le Député d'Arcis*. At Hetzel's insistence, he finally writes the "Avant-propos" to *La Comédie humaine*, in July. In November, during a dinner at Victor Hugo's, he agreed to David's (of Angers) proposal to do a bust of him. On December 18, he dined with Charles Nodier, who had accepted the dedication of *La Rabouilleuse*. He writes 18 long letters to Madame Hanska, who is experiencing difficulties with the liquidation of her husband's estate. *La Presse* completes publication of *Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées* (January 9-15), and several works also appear in serial form: *Albert Savarus* in *Le Siècle* (May 29-June 11).



Pierre-Sylvain Dumon,  
minister of public works  
in 1843 then minister of  
finances in 1847.



22nd president of  
French ministers,  
François Pierre  
Guillaume Guizot

### Main historical events

- June 11: Law governing railroad financing. It established the general network of our railroads, and stipulated that the cost of works which were to remain the responsibility of the State would be temporarily borne by the floating debt. At December 31, 1847, advances amounted to 441,000,000 francs. The law provided for the construction of a network radiating out from Paris; the State provided the infrastructure and bore 1/3 of the costs, the other two thirds being borne by the departments and communes served; the operation of the lines was conceded to private companies, which supplied the rails and rolling stock; this law, says Guizot (*Mémoires* T VIII p.626: "rightly called their Charter; the other (of 15.7.1845) regulated the police of the railroads and thus founded the permanent regime of this great new communication system. The latter law, presented and supported by M. Dumon, then Minister of Public Works, has not ceased to be in force. As of 12.31.1847, there were 2,059 kms of railroads in full operation, 2,144 kms of railroads under construction." - laws on the extension of the railway from Paris to Rouen as far as Le Havre.
- June 13: Dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. Elections are scheduled for July 9.
- June 18: Gobineau befriends German professor Adelbert von Keller and maintained a correspondence with him that lasted until his death.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1842 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Le Danger des mystifications (Un Début dans la vie)* in *La Législature* (26.7 - 4.9); *Les Méchancetés d'un saint* (a short story later incorporated into Part <sup>1</sup> of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*) in *Le Musée des familles*, in September; *Variétés, la Chine et les Chinois* (about an illustrated book by Auguste Borget in *La Législature*) (October 14, 15, 17 and 18); *Un ménage de garçon en province* (Part <sup>2</sup> of *La Rabouilleuse*) in *La Presse* (10.27 - 11.19).

Souverain published the first editions of: *Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées* (2 vol.), in January; *Ursule Mirouët* (2 vol.), in March; *Les Ressources de Quinola* (1 vol.), in April; *Les Deux frères (La Rabouilleuse)* (2 vol.), in December.



Death of Duke Ferdinand-Philippe d'Orléans

### Main historical events

- June 19: *Les Débats* begins publication of Eugène Sue's *Mystères de Paris*.
- June 28: At the Académie française, Victor Hugo is elected director; Ballanche, chancellor.
- July 9-11: The legislative elections are a relative success for Louis-Philippe and Guizot's government: the Ministry wins 236 seats out of 459. The opposition was divided between the Legitimists (26 seats), the center-left (180) and the Radical Republicans (18). In Paris, the opposition won 10 of the 12 seats.  
A. de Tocqueville is re-elected deputy for Valognes.
- July 13: Death of the Duc d'Orléans, heir to the crown, in a car accident at Porte Maillot. His horses bolted and he broke his skull jumping from the carriage.
- July 14: The Prefect of the Seine sets up a Halles Commission to "look for ways to bring supply halls into line with the needs of the population".
- July 16: First tariff treaty between France and Belgium.
- July 21: In his capacity as director of the Académie, following the death of the Duc d'Orléans, V. Hugo writes and reads an Address to the King.
- July 26: The Chambers meet in extraordinary session after the elections.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1842 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The first volume of *La Comédie humaine* ends with the issue in June, but without the "Avant-propos", delivered in July; the <sup>10th</sup> <sup>20th</sup> issue completes the second volume in September; the third volume is complete in November; these three volumes provide a carefully revised text, with a new classification of *Scènes de la vie privée*, including very recent works such as *Albert Savarus* and *Les Mémoires de deux jeunes mariées*. Hetzel completes Volume II of *Scènes de la vie privée et publique des animaux*, featuring a scene by Balzac. *An episode during the Terror* (taken from *Sanson's Mémoires*) appears for the first time under Balzac's name in the *Royal Keepsake* (published by the widow Janet) in December.

Balzac sketches and abandons *Valentine and Valentin*, in February. An Italian short story, *Les Fantaisies de la Gina*, written in the spring, was not published, but appeared, translated into Italian, in 1848.

Mme de Bargeton



Lost Illusions



## Main historical events

- July 30: The remains of the Duc d'Orléans are transferred from the chapel in Neuilly to Notre-Dame.
- August 30: Law on the regency of the kingdom. It removes the Duchess of Orleans from the regency.
- September 9: urged on by Dupetit-Thouars, Tahitian Queen Pomare IV asks for French protection. Treaty of protectorate.
- September 10: Victor Hugo begins writing the text *The Burgraves*.
- October 19: Victor Hugo completes *Les Burgraves* - Honoré de Balzac dedicates *Lost Illusions* to Victor Hugo.
- November 23: V. Hugo reads *Les Burgraves* at the Théâtre-Français. The play is accepted by 13 votes to 1.
- November 27: Tocqueville is elected General Councillor by the combined cantons of Montebourg and Sainte-Mère-Eglise. At the end of November and beginning of December, A. de Tocqueville recruits the young Arthur de Gobineau, whom he instructs to gather documentation for a report on the progress of morality, which he himself has been commissioned to write by the Académie des sciences morales et politiques. The order of March 22, 1840 required this Academy to draw up a "Tableau général de l'état et des progrès des sciences morales et politiques depuis 1789". In 1843-1844, the two men exchanged a great deal of philosophical correspondence on this subject.
- Society: One French boy in 42 attends secondary school.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 1 - Gregorian calendar

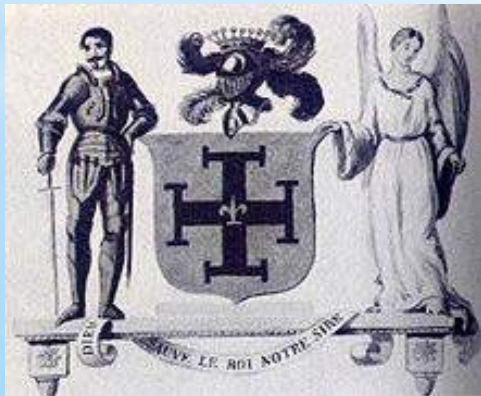


### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

It's another busy year, interrupted by a trip to St. Petersburg, where Balzac sees Madame Hanska again after 8 years apart. At the beginning of the year, he makes the acquaintance of the Comtesse de Bocarmé (1797-1873).

On March 7, he attended the premiere of Victor Hugo's *Les Burgraves*, and on the 25th met Andersen. From June 4 to early July, probably in the company of Mme de Brugnot, he takes up residence in Lagny, near the Giroux et Vialat printing works, where he composes *Esther and David Séchard*. On July 18, he was finally able to leave Paris for Dunkirk, where he embarked on July 21, on the *Devonshire*, which docked in Saint Petersburg on July 29. He reunited with Madame Hanska and stayed in the Russian capital until October 7.

Marquise Ida du Chasteler (Wasserloos July 9, 1797 - Blevio (Italy) December 22, 1873), was a Belgian herald painter who left her name in literary history, having drawn for Balzac the imaginary coats of arms of the families in the *Human Comédie*. *Ida du Chasteler is the wife of Count Julien Visart de Bocarmé (1787-1851).*



### Main historical events

- Jan. <sup>1</sup> - Jan. 14: Alexis de Tocqueville publishes 6 letters on the domestic situation in France in *Le Siècle*. He draws up a program for the opposition dynastic left, led by Odilon Barrot, with whom he has become close.
- January 8: Appointment as Governor of the Marquesas and representative in Tahiti of Captain Bruat, "an officer of proven intelligence and bravery" (according to Guizot).
- January 9: Opening of the 1843 parliamentary session.
- January 20: Honoré de Balzac publishes *Sur Catherine de Médicis*, the essay novel in the *Etudes philosophiques* series, begun in May 1830.
- January 27: Lamartine announces his move to the opposition.
- February 5: Gobineau's *Scaramouche* begins to appear in *Unity*. The sequel will be published on February 26 and March 2.
- February 12: In *L'Unité*, Gobineau hotly debates the political ideas expressed by Quinet in his resounding study *De la teutomanie*, published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of December 15, 1842. His article is a serious plea in favor of Germany.
- February 16: At the Odéon, revival of *Lucrece Borgia* by V. Hugo.
- March 2: Lamartine and Guizot clash in the Chamber on secret funds. In particular, Lamartine attacks the policy Spanish firm.
- March 3: Honoré de Balzac publishes *Honorine*.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On August 21, he attended the Imperial Guard's annual review at the Krasnoye Selo camp, where he caught a sunburn. His health did not improve much, and in Paris, Dr. Nacquart diagnosed a kind of chronic meningitis. The return journey was by land. The mail coach, passing through Riga, Mitau, Taurogen and Tilsit, deposited Balzac in Berlin on October 14. He met Humboldt and Tieck, dined at the French Embassy with the Duchess de Dino, visited Potsdam, took an excursion to Leipzig and Dresden to see the battlefields and the museum (October 18-22).



Dorothee von Biron,  
princess of Courlande  
and Duchess by Dino  
(1793-1862)



Baron Alexandre de  
Humboldt, is a naturalist,  
geographer and explorer  
German.

### Main historical events

- March 4: First issue of *L'Illustration*, created by Alexandre Paulin, Adolphe Joanne and Edouard Charton, a weekly with a strong emphasis on pictures, modelled on the *Illustrated London News*.
- March 5: Paul Meurice marries Palmyre Granger, a friend of the Hugo family and of Charles Baudelaire.
- March 7: Premiere of *Les Burgraves* at the Théâtre-Français. Unsuccessful. Honoré de Balzac gives the work his unconditional support.
- March 9: Second *Burgraves*. Catastrophic reception.
- March 12: Performance at the Palais-Royal of the parody by Dumanoir, Clairville and Siraudin: *Les Hures-Graves*.
- March 18: The father of Charles Vacquerie, Victor Hugo's son-in-law, dies in Villequier.
- March 23: Ferdinand Langlé and Dupeuty perform at the *Variétés* their parody: *Les Buses-Graves*.
- March 28: Michaud and Duriez put *Les Burgraves* up for sale. Victor Hugo meets Léonie Biard-d'Aunet. Gobineau seeks to break into *La Quotidienne* through the protection of La Bourdonnaye and leaves his job at the Post Office.
- April 5: Publication of *La Muse du département* by H. de Balzac.
- April 9: Veuillot attacks *Les Burgraves*.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

After a few days in Belgium, he returned to Passy on the evening of November 3. He went to Le Havre to pick up his trunk, which had been shipped back by sea (November 8-10), gathering information that would later find its way into *Modeste Mignon*. After a few visits, he decides not to run for the Académie française (December).

*La Presse* serializes *Honorine* (March 17-29); *Le Messenger* gives *Dinah Piédefer* (March 20-April 29).

Balzac was then forced to deal with two new newspapers, which tried to survive by merging;



Dona  
Francisca de  
Bragança,  
daughter of  
Brazilian  
Emperor Don  
Pedro I



Prince François Ferdinand d'Orléans, Prince de Joinville, is the third son and seventh child of Louis-Philippe, Duke of Orléans and later King of the French. He married Françoise de Bragança on May <sup>1</sup>, 1843.

### Main historical events

- April 15: Hercule de Serre is appointed student vice-consul.
- April 20: Marriage of Princess Clémentine d'Orléans to Prince Auguste of Saxe-Coburg.
- April 22: Triumph at the Odéon of Ponsard's classical tragedy *Lucrèce*, the death certificate of Romanticism: Hugo's *Les Burgraves* was a resounding failure at the Théâtre-Français on March 7.
- April 22: 33rd and final performance of *Les Burgraves*.
- April 24: Gobineau becomes a regular contributor to *La Quotidienne*, where he remains until 1847, despite his disagreements with Laurentie, the paper's main editor.
- April 29: *L'Unité* publishes Gobineau's "Etude sur l'Allemagne: des princes médiatisés".
- April 1843 - January 1848: Second prison reform bill (abolishing deportation, among other things), championed by Alexis de Tocqueville.
- May <sup>1</sup>: Prince de Joinville marries Françoise-Caroline, daughter of Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro.
- May 2: Inauguration of the Paris-Rouen railroad.
- May 3: Inauguration of the Paris-Orléans railroad.
- May 13: *L'Unité* publishes Gobineau's study of *Alviane*.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Le Parisien* gives *Esther ou les Amours d'un vieux banquier* (corrected reprint of *La Torpille*) (May 21-30), followed by the end of Part <sup>1</sup> and the start of Part <sup>2 of</sup> *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes* (May 31-July 1).

*L'Etat* publishes *David Séchard ou les souffrances de l'inventeur* (<sup>3rd</sup> and last part of *Illusions perdues*) (June 9 - 19), interrupted by the disappearance of the newspaper. The rest of the novel, preceded by a summary, is published in *Le Parisien - L'Etat* (July 27 - August 14); *Madame de la Chanterie* (a new fragment of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*) in *Le Musée des familles*, in September.



The Duke of Aumale,  
Henri of Orléans  
(1822-1897)



Growing demand favors  
development of resources  
the colony and thereby  
removes intermediate.



### Main historical events

- May 16: Capture of Abd El-Kader's smala by the Duc d'Aumale.
  - May 19: Gobineau starts work at *La Quotidienne*. He will earn 3,000 francs to cover foreign policy (Germany, Russia, the Orient, Northern Europe, minus England). He will pay off his debts and put some money aside. But Laurentie is wary of his youth and his religious and political views.
  - June 9: Honoré de Balzac publishes parts <sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> of *Splendors and miseries of courtesans*.
  - June 11: Law allocating unused amortization reserves, thanks to the constant rise of the 5, 4½ and 4% above par, to the extinction of budget overdrafts.
- French settlement of Fort-d'Aumale in the Gabon estuary.
- June 18: Law on auctioneers.
  - July 5: Tocqueville's second report on prisons.
  - July 7: Inauguration in Paris of the Quai Henri IV, created by joining the Île Louviers to the right bank.
  - July 18: Juliette Drouet and Victor Hugo travel with Claire Pradier. As usual, they tour France.
  - July 28: Law to establish the railway from Avignon to Marseille.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In March, Souverain launches *Une Ténébreuse affaire* (3 volumes, printed since June 1842) and, in July, *La Muse du département* (after publication of volume VI of *La Comédie humaine*). Furne and Hetzel publish volumes V, VI and VIII of *La Comédie humaine* (April, May and July). The *Monographie de la presse parisienne* (from the collection entitled *La Grande Ville*) had appeared in March. In September, Charpentier publishes a new edition of *Physiologie du mariage*. Reworked by Jaime and Bayard, *Paméla Giraud* was staged in Balzac's absence, at La Gaîté (September 26), without much success (28th performance on April 10, 1844); the reworked text was published in October.



Léopoldine Hugo and her  
husband Charles Vacquerie

The epitaph: In memory of Léopoldine Hugo and her husband Charles Vacquerie, drowned in the Seine here on September 4, 1843 - Grass must grow and children must die. I know, O my God!

### Main historical events

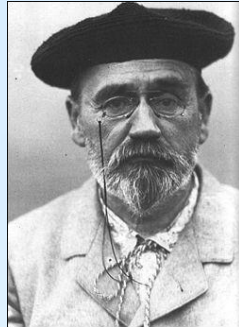
- July 29: Honoré de Balzac reunited with Ewelina Hanska in Saint Petersburg. He had not seen her since Vienna.  
Ledru-Rollin, Godefroy Cavaignac, Etienne Arago, Louis Blanc and Ferdinand Flocon found a new newspaper: *La Réforme*. It serves as a platform for Louis Blanc.
- July 31: Bugeaud is made Marshal of France.
- August 2: H. de Balzac publishes Part <sup>3</sup> of *Lost Illusions*.
- August 15-August 30: Hugo takes a health cure in Cauterets.
- September 2-7: Queen Victoria stays in France at the Château d'Eu.
- September 3: Louis-Philippe and his family set off on an excursion with Queen Victoria in a chariot.
- September 4: At 2pm, accidental death of Léopoldine Hugo and Charles Vacquerie. Their boat capsizes upstream of Villequier. Hugo visits Auch with Juliette Drouet.
- September 6: Léopoldine and Charles are buried in the Villequier cemetery.
- September 7: Queen Victoria leaves for England.
- September 12: Victor Hugo and Juliette Drouet returned to Paris.
- September 26: Honoré de Balzac's play *Paméla Giraud* premieres at the Théâtre de l'Odéon, without much success.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 6 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 229 to 233



Charles Nodier, French writer & academician  
(1780-1844)



Jenny von Westphalen (1814-1881) and Karl Marx  
(1818- 1883) married on June 19, 1843 in Bad  
Kreuznach.

### Main historical events

- October 5: Victor Hugo is appointed Director of the Académie française for the second time. Nodier is Chancellor.
- October 10: Honoré de Balzac completes his essay-novel *Sur Catherine de Médicis*.
- October 12: Juliette Drouet begins writing her diary.
- October 20: First experiment with electric street lighting, Place de la Concorde.
- October 21: Honoré de Balzac returns to France by mail coach. He crosses Estonia, Latvia and arrives in Berlin, where he meets the great scientist Alexander von Humboldt.
- October 23: Karl Marx and his wife move to Paris, no. 38 rue Vaneau.
- October 25: Honoré de Balzac arrives in Dresden, where he marvels at the splendor of the castles he visits.
- October 29: Return to Piraeus of Colettis, future Greek prime minister and friend of Guizot, whom he had met during his exile in France.

In a letter to his sister, Gobineau harshly ironizes the Legitimists who rush off to London to pay homage to the Duc de Bordeaux. Since joining *La Quotidienne*, he has been able to judge the foolishness and impotence of the Legitimists.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1843 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 229 to 233

Honoré de  
Balzac  
sculpted by his  
friend David  
d'Angers



Henri d'Artois, Comte de  
Chambord, Legitimist  
pretender to the thrones  
of France and Navarre.



François-René de  
Chateaubriand dressed as a  
peer of France

### Main historical events

- November 6: Appointment of Count Bresson as ambassador to Berlin, followed by Madrid on December 7.
- November 11: Sainte-Beuve publishes a few copies of *Le Livre d'amour*.
- November 16: Premiere of *Paméla Giraud*, a play by Honoré de Balzac that is a total failure.
- November 23: Construction of the first road tunnel at Le Lioran is completed; it is opened to traffic on 31.10.1847.
- Nov. 29: In London, the Comte de Chambord receives his supporters at 35 Belgrave Square. Five Members of Parliament make the trip. Chateaubriand joins the Comte de Chambord's followers.  
Abd El-Kader takes refuge in Morocco.
- December 15: Honoré de Balzac renounces his candidacy for the Académie française.
- December 20: Victor Hugo delivers a speech at Casimir Delavigne's funeral.
- December 22: David d'Angers completes the bust of Honoré de Balzac.
- December 27: Opening of the 1844 parliamentary session.  
Dostoyevsky translates Honoré de Balzac's *Eugénie Grandet* into Russian.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

It's another year of work. Balzac does not carry out his plans for a trip to the Rhine, and hardly leaves Passy. He is seized by the bric-a-brac demon and dreams of acquiring real estate in the hope of marrying Madame Hanska. His health was not good. He seldom went out; nevertheless, he was seen at the homes of Countess Merlin (1789-1852) and Princess Belgiojoso (1808-1872). Mme de Bocarmé paints the watercolor *Armorial de la Comédie humaine*, based on the coats of arms designed by Ferdinand de Grammont.



Countess Merlin,  
Maria de las Mercedes  
de Jaruco - of Cuban  
origin (1788-1852)

Italian Princess  
Maria Cristina  
Trivulzio Belgiojoso



### Main historical events

Raffenel's expedition to Boundou (ends in 1847).

French penetration of the Oubangui-Chari region. The country is criss-crossed by numerous ethnic groups fleeing either slave traders or the despotism of Muslim chiefs. The French encountered societies organized around clans or families and military sultanates, one of whose activities was the deportation of the Ubangian peoples to the Orient.

- January 15: Rue Richelieu in Paris, inauguration of the Fontaine Molière sculpted by Pradier.
- January 29: Death of the infanta Carlotta, sister and enemy of Queen Christine (mother of Isabella II of Spain), from "re-entrant measles". M. Bresson told me (Guizot speaking): "The more we reflect on this death, the more it strikes us as a great event. This princess's spirit of intrigue, her activity, her audacity prepared us for more than one embarrassment in the question of marriage. It is difficult to be less missed than she is. This branch of the royal house will no longer have any importance other than that which it will please Queen Christine to grant it."

A revival of Victor Hugo's *Marie Tudor*.

- February 1: Creation of a Department of Arab Affairs supervising local Arab offices in the provinces of Algiers, Oran and Constantine.
- February 5: Sainte-Beuve pays an academic visit to Victor Hugo. The meeting is a welcoming one.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Charles Nodier dies on January 27, and Balzac attends the funeral on the 29th, despite complaining of nervous pains. At the first performance of Eugène Sue's *Mystères de Paris*, he finds the play "bad", but Frédéric Lemaître "sublime" (February 13). In April-May, he suffers from jaundice and plans to go to Carlsbad for a cure. In June, he takes numerous steps to have Henriette Borel (deceased 1857), former governess to Madame Hanska's daughter, admitted to the Visitation convent.



Ida du Chasteler,  
Madame de  
Bocarmé  
(1797-1873)



Engraving showing the rich  
visiting the poor

### Main historical events

- February 8: At the Académie française: Saint-Marc Girardin is elected to Campenon's seat. In the Casimir Delavigne chair, after 7 rounds of voting, Sainte-Beuve and Vatout tied.

Award ceremony for the first Concours général d'animaux gras, forerunner of the Concours agricole. Held annually in Poissy until its transfer to the Villette livestock market in 1868.

- February 15: At the general call, Queen Christine leaves Paris to join her daughter Queen Isabella II of Spain.

Gobineau's first book, *Les Adieux de Dom Juan*, is published on a self-publishing basis. The author didn't want any publicity, even in *La Quotidienne*, abhorring "this newspaper fiddling around with a work of art". The work was announced in the Bibliographie de la France on March 9, 1844.

- March 3: In Tahiti, Pritchard, British consul, is expelled on the orders of Captain d'Aubigny.
- March 8: Death of Charles XIV of Sweden (Marshal Bernadotte).
- March 11: Sainte-Beuve pays another (cordial) visit to V. Hugo.
- March 14: Sainte-Beuve is elected to the Académie française, in Casimir Delavigne's chair. Prosper Mérimée is elected to Charles Nodier's seat.
- March 16: Opening of the Musée de Cluny.
- March 20: Quai de Grève, V. Hugo is almost killed by the fall of a cannon taken from Algiers.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

During the first fortnight of October, he suffered from neuralgia. Madame Hanska, her affairs settled, returned to Wierzchownia in May. In November, she left the Ukraine to spend the winter in Dresden. Balzac took up the habit of writing to her almost daily. Published in serial form: *Modeste Mignon* in *Journal des*

*Débats* (April 4-18, May 17-June <sup>1</sup>, July 5-21); *Un Gaudissart de la rue Richelieu* (*Gaudissart II*) in *La Presse* (October 12);

*Madame de la Chanterie* (fragment of part <sup>1</sup> of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*) in *Le Musée des familles* (October-

November); *Les Paysans* (part <sup>1</sup>, the only one to appear during Balzac's lifetime) in *La Presse* (December 3-21); *Les Petits Manèges d'une femme vertueuse* (last part of *Béatrix*) in *Le Messager* (December 24-January 23, 1845).



Léonie Biard-d'Aunet  
had a 7-year affair with  
V.Hugo



Paul Verlaine aged 13  
years (1844-1896)

### Main historical events

- March 30: Paul Verlaine is born in Metz.
- April <sup>1</sup>: The relationship between Victor Hugo and Léonie Biard- d'Aunet becomes clearer.
- April 28: (Japan) Intervention of French ships commanded by Fornier-Duplan in the Ryūkyū under the pretext of rescuing shipwrecked crew - Miners' strike in Rive-de-Gier.
- May 3 Hunting law, introducing a license. Hunting with greyhounds is prohibited.
- May 18: *Vie de Rancé* by Chateaubriand.
- May 30: The troops of the Emperor of Morocco invade Algeria and "come to insult General de Lamoricière".
- June 3: Death of the Duc d'Angoulême.
- June 15: Another Moroccan attack.
- June 29: *Le Commerce*, a newspaper specializing in commercial and industrial news, is taken over by an operating company comprising six opposition MPs, including Corcelle and Tocqueville. On July 24, a manifesto sets out the editorial line of the title, which aims to represent the "a great national party that has never stopped working (...) to establish political freedom and equality before the law among us".
- July 3: Third Moroccan attack.
- July 5: Patent Act.
- July 7: Law to establish the railway from Montpellier to Nîmes.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Published by Dumont: *David Séchard* (<sup>1st</sup> separate edition of part <sup>3</sup> of *Illusions perdues*) (2 volumes), in March; *Un début dans la vie* (followed by *La Fausse maîtresse*) (2 volumes) in June; by de Potter: *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes, Esther* (3 volumes) in August; *Honorine* (followed by *Un prince de la Bohème*) (2 volumes) in October or November (these publications freed Balzac from his troubles with Loquin, a banker from Lagny with whom he had signed a treaty for the publication of some of his works); *Catherine de Médicis expliquée, Le Martyr calviniste* (3 volumes, printed since 1842, shared between Souverain and Chlendowski) in September.



François d'Orléans, Prince of Joinville (1818-1900)



### Main historical events

- July 26: Numerous laws to establish railroads serving the entire French rail network.
- July 28: Death of Joseph Bonaparte, former King of Naples and patron of Léopold Hugo - Louis Bonaparte publishes *De l'extinction du paupérisme*.  
Gobineau sells himself to the *Revue de Paris*, which takes articles from him as and when he can...He writes for *Le Commerce*, which is partly owned by Tocqueville.
- August 2: Act to establish a railway from Paris to the German border, via Nancy and Strasbourg.
- August 5: Act to establish the railway from Paris to Sceaux.
- August 6: Start of the Moroccan War. Bombardment of Tangier by the Prince de Joinville's squadron.
- August 14: Battle of Isly. Bugeaud's victory over the Moroccans on the Oued Isly.
- August 15: The Prince of Joinville occupies Mogador.
- September 10: Treaty of Tangier between France and the Sultan of Morocco: France renounces intervention in Morocco and the Sultan refrains from supporting Abd El-Kader in Algeria.
- September 24: *Le Commerce* publishes an article by Gobineau on Alfred de Musset. The rest will appear in *Le Commerce*, on October <sup>1</sup>. Tocqueville criticizes him for speaking at such length of "a second-rate talent".
- October <sup>1</sup>: With Juliette Drouet, Victor Hugo leaves Paris for a short trip.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 5 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

*Modeste Mignon* (4 volumes) from November to January 1845, an edition shared between Souverain, Chlendowski and Roux et Cassanet, supplemented in volume IV by *Un épisode sous la Terreur* and *Une passion dans le désert*. Delayed by Balzac's trip to Russia, publication of *La Comédie Humaine* resumes; volumes VII, IX, X and the start of volume XI appear in September.

Four of Balzac's texts were included in Volume I of *Le Diable à Paris*, Hetzel's new illustrated collection. On August 30, Hetzel bought a second series of works from Balzac, but was unable to publish them all in Volume II of the same collection.



Flora Célestine Thérèse Henriette Tristan y Moscoso, French woman of letters, socialist activist and feminist. She was one of the leading figures of social debate in the 1840s.



### Main historical events

- October 4: Ordinance regulating property rights in Algeria and authorizing the expropriation of indigenous land.
- October 8-14: Official visit to Great Britain by Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup>. He leaves Le Tréport and arrives in Portsmouth. He is received in Windsor by Queen Victoria.
- October 12: Louis-Philippe leaves England via Dover.
- October 15: *Le Commerce* publishes an article by Gobineau on Théophile Gautier.
- October 21: Inauguration of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul church, construction of which began in 1824.
- October 24: Huangpu Trade Treaty between France and China (Théodore de Lagrené): extra-territoriality for foreigners and prohibition on Chinese officials interfering in their trade.
- October 26: In the absence of the Neapolitan alliance, François Guizot asks the King's ambassador in Madrid, Bresson, to consider marrying the Duc de Montpensier to the Infanta Dona Fernanda.
- November 14: Flora Tristan dies.  
Jean-Baptiste Marbeau creates the first crib at Chaillot.
- November 17: Treaty of friendship and trade signed between France and the Imam of Muscat (now Muscat, capital of the Sultanate of Oman).
- November 24: Extraordinary performance of *Lucrezia Borgia* by Hugo at the Porte-Saint-Martin.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1844 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The novelist wrote *Les Roueries d'un créancier* (*Un homme d'affaires*) at the end of January, worked on *Les Petits Bourgeois* (January-March), sketched out *Programme d'une jeune veuve* (January-February), *L'Hôpital et le peuple* and, no doubt, the initial scene for *Le Cousin Pons*. In July, he designs a *Catalogue des ouvrages that will contain La Comédie humaine* (125 works, including 40 to be done). In the placard Balzac had typeset in 1845, this *Catalogue* would contain 137 works, including 50 to be done. After having hoped to stage *Mercadet*, he gave up again and considered several subjects for the theater, including *Prudhomme en bonne fortune*.

Balzac sketched by Janin



Balzac at the  
Tuileries

### Main historical events

- November 25: Duc d'Aumale marries Marie-Caroline de Bourbon-Siciles in Naples.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 12: *Le Commerce* publishes a series of polemical articles in favor of broad educational freedom, attributable to Alexis de Tocqueville. Tocqueville is attacked both by ultramontanes like Veillot and by the anticlerical left in *Le Siècle*. He fell out with his friend Gustave de Beaumont, who remained associated with *Le Siècle*.
- December 26: Opening of the 1845 parliamentary session.
- December 29: Ordinance creating a Conseil des prud'hommes. It was installed on 11.3.1845 at the Palais de Justice.
- December 30: Villemain's bill to reform secondary education fails. Villemain resigns as Minister of Public Instruction, suffering from mental illness.

Charles Dickens, visiting Paris, met many famous people, including Victor Hugo.

Charles Dickens  
(1812-1870)





## BALZAC and his times

Year 1845 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The year marks a marked slowdown in Balzac's output. From then on, travels to various European countries with Madame Hanska took up much of his time. On January 20, he receives his marble bust by David (of Angers); on April 24, he is named Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, along with Alfred de Musset and Frédéric Soulié. He left Paris on April 25 and met up again in Dresden, around May<sup>1</sup>, with Madame Hanska, her daughter Anna (1828-1915) and the latter's fiancé, Count Georges Mniszech (1823-1881). From there, they travelled to Hamburg in the Palatinate, then to Cannstadt on the Neckar, where they spent just over a month (end of May - July<sup>1</sup>).



Count Georges Mniszech (1823-1881) fiancé of Anna Hanska (1828-1915), daughter of Ewelina Hanska (1801-1882)

### Main historical events

- January 16: Victor Hugo's speech to the Académie française in response to St-Marc-Girardin's acceptance speech.
- January 27: The House accepts the principle of compensation for Pritchard.
- February<sup>1</sup>: Salvandy succeeds Villemain as Minister of Education.
- February 3: Karl Marx is ordered to leave Paris by Guizot because of his revolutionary activities. He took refuge in Brussels, where he organized and directed a network of revolutionary groups across Europe, known as the Comités de correspondance communistes.
- February 6: Prosper Mérimée is admitted to the Académie française.
- February 10: Juliette Drouet moves to 12 rue St-Anastase.
- February 22: Chateaubriand finishes his *Mémoires d'outre-tombe*.
- February 27: Speech by V. Hugo at the Académie française in response to Sainte-Beuve's acceptance speech.
- March 10: By decree, Spain confers the Order of Charles III on V. Hugo.
- March 11: Installation of the Conseil des Prud'hommes at the Palais de Justice.
- March 15: The Duc de Broglie arrives in London to negotiate the treaty on visiting rights.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1845 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On July 5, Balzac, Madame Hanska and her daughter are in Strasbourg. Balzac takes his friends back to Paris and installs them in a small apartment on rue de la Tour. At the end of July and beginning of August, they set off on excursions to Orleans, Bourges, Montrichard, Tours and Blois. On August 11, they are in Strasbourg, from where they take a steamer down the Rhine and visit The Hague (August 22), Amsterdam (23), Rotterdam (25), Antwerp (26), Brussels (27), where they part company; Balzac returns to Paris on August 30. On September 24, he leaves Paris for Baden, arriving on the 26th and returning on October 4. Auguste Fessart (1789-1874), his businessman, finally liquidates Les Jardies (in October).



Balzac was awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur medal on April 24, 1845.

### Main historical events

- March 25: Death of Pierre Foucher (b. 1772).
- March 30: Death of Alexandre Soumet.
- April 13: Victor Hugo is appointed Peer de France.
- April 15: Ordinance on the administration of French possessions in Algeria; the conquered territories are divided administratively into three categories: civil, mixed, Arab.
- April 22: Musical jousting on the Champ-de-Mars: Adolphe Sax's saxophone triumphs over its competitor. It is adopted by military bands and patented on June 22, 1846.
- April 24: Honoré de Balzac is named Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.
- April 27: <sup>1st</sup> successful attempt at an electric telegraph link between Paris and Rouen. On July 3, 1846, a law establishes a Paris-Lille line.
- April 29: Irrigation law - In *Les Guêpes*, an indignant article by Alphonse Karr about Sainte-Beuve's *Livre d'Amour*. V. Hugo is undoubtedly aware of the whole affair. - *La Revue Nouvelle* publishes an important study of Gobineau, "Current emigration of Germans".
- May 5: Death of Godefroy Cavaignac, one of the leaders of the Republican party.
- May 8: Alfred de Vigny is elected to the Académie française.
- May 18: Abdication of Don Carlos in favor of his son Charles-Louis. He writes to Louis-Philippe.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1845 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Honoré de Balzac's genealogy

On October 23, Balzac met Madame Hanska, Anna and Georges Mnischev in Chalon-sur-Saône, on their way from Baden.

All four descend the Saône and Rhône rivers on a steamer. On the 29th, they visited the Toulon roadstead. On November <sup>1st</sup>, they set sail from Marseille on the *Léonidas*, which reached Naples on the 5th. Balzac left his friends there on the 8th for an excursion to Pisa. The *Tancrede*, on which he had embarked, reached Marseille on the 12th; after visiting antique dealers, he returned to Passy on the 17th. On December 2, he attended Henriette Borel's taking of the veil; on the 13th, he visited the Conciergerie; on the 22nd, in the company of Théophile Gautier, and no doubt in the presence of Baudelaire, he tasted hashish at the Hôtel Pimodan. On December 26, he travels by rail to Rouen to buy an ebony piece of furniture.



(Don Carlos) and his son Charles-Louis  
(1818-1861) Infante Charles de Bourbon Charles  
V (1788-1855)

### Main historical events

- May 18: Abdication of Don Carlos in favor of his son Charles-Louis (Carlist succession). He writes to Louis-Philippe.
- May 27: With *Le Commerce* attracting few readers, the dissolution of the operating company is requested.
- May 28: V. Hugo is sworn in at the Chamber of Peers.
- May 29: Treaty between France and Great Britain on the right to inspect ships. It provides for joint British and French visiting rights and joint surveillance of traffic in Africa and on the coast.

Chateaubriand's last trip to Venice at the end of the month, at the invitation of the Comte de Chambord.

- June 3: New edition of *Rhin*, expanded by a previously unpublished volume
- June 9: Carpenters' strike. Soldiers are made available to employers.
- June 18: 530 Ouled-Rhia "rebels" are smoked to death in caves on the orders of Colonel Aimable Pélissier.
- June 21: Law abolishing vacation rights for justices of the peace and increasing their salaries.
- June 22: Law setting maximum and minimum deposits in savings banks.
- June 25: Interpellation in the Chamber on the massacre of an arable tribe perpetrated by Colonel Pélissier west of Algiers.
- June 30: Alexis de Tocqueville withdraws from the editorial team of the newspaper *Le Commerce*.



## BALZAC and his times

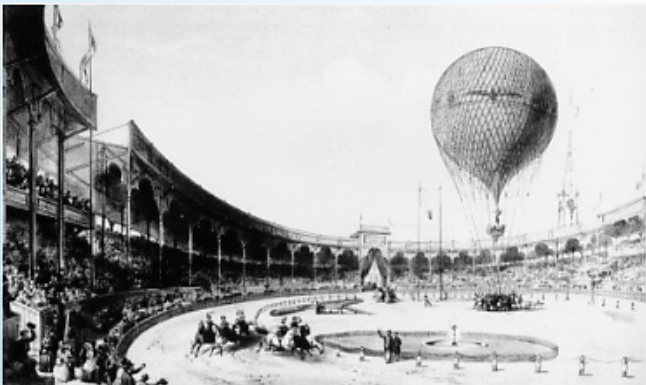
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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Charles Beaudelaire



Hippodrome de la barrière de l'Etoile in 1845



### Main historical events

- June 30: Gobineau publishes "*Des buts techniques de la littérature*", in the *Revue Nouvelle*.
- July 1: Charles Duveyrier founds the Société Générale d'Annonces on the Place de la Bourse. Combining the ideas of Havas and Emile de Girardin, it owns the advertising departments of the six main daily newspapers. It joined forces with the Havas agency in 1857.
- July 4: Opening of the Hippodrome de la barrière de l'Etoile. It burns down on July 27, 1846.
- July 4-5: Railway Police Act.
- July 5: Victor Hugo and Léonie Biard are caught in the act of adultery in a hotel in the Passage Saint-Roch. Pair de France, Victor Hugo cannot be arrested. Léonie is taken to Saint-Lazare prison.  
Act to establish the railway from Lille to the Belgian border.
- July 6: *Le Moniteur* notes that the Jesuits cease to exist in France. Successful negotiation by Guizot via Rossi with the Court of Rome.
- July 11: Auguste Biard withdraws his complaint against Victor Hugo (at Louis-Philippe's request).
- July 15: Railway Police Act.
- July 16: Supplementary law on the Paris-Lyon and Lyon-Avignon railroads.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Under the common title *Etudes de mœurs*, *Le Siècle* published three texts intended for *Le Diable à Paris* and resold by Hetzel: *Une rue de Paris et son habitant*, *La Journée d'un savant* (fragment d'*Entre savants*) (July 28); *Le Luther des chapeaux* (fragment des *Comédiens sans le savoir*) (August 19); *Les Roueries d'un créancier* (Un homme d'affaires) (September 10); *La Presse* published *Petites misères de la vie conjugale* (17 chapters of Part <sup>2</sup>) from December 2 to 7. <sup>3rd</sup> part of *La Lune de miel* (part of *Béatrix*) (2 volumes completed by *Les Premières Armes d'un Lion*, new title of *Autre étude de femme*, by Adam Chlendorowski) in May.



Fortunée Hamelin (1776-1851) circa 1800...she worked to get Léonie (pictured right) out of prison to ease her internment in a convent.



### Main historical events

- July 18: Mackau Law, which regulates and softens the regime of slavery in the colonies: Abolition of slavery, but does not specify the deadline or terms.
- July 19: The treaty on joint visiting rights is promulgated; supplementary law for the railways from Tours to Nantes and from Paris to Strasbourg; law to establish the branch line to Reims and Metz, to Dieppe and Fécamp and from Rouen to Le Havre; law to establish the branch line from Aix-en-Provence to Marseille and Avignon.
- July 21: Creation of the Compagnie des chemins de fer du Nord.
- August 14: The Tribunal de la Seine pronounces separation from bed and board between the Biard couple.
- August 25: Feast of St. Louis in Rome after the happy outcome of the Jesuit affair. Guizot: "On August 25, 1845, the feast of St. Louis was celebrated in Rome with unusual splendor: "At 9:30 a.m.," wrote M. Rossi, "I went with all the members of the King's embassy to our national church. M. le directeur de l'Académie, with MM. les pensionnaires, had also gone there. 18 cardinals, i.e. almost all the members of the sacred college present in Rome, attended the mass." The pope is kind to Rossi."
- September 4: Bugeaud returns to France on leave.
- September 6: Mme Hamelin obtains Biard's authorization to transfer Léonie from St-Lazare prison to a convent.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1845 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

That year saw the publication of *Paris marié* illustrated by Gavarni (Hetzel, July-November) and the start of *Petites misères de la vie conjugale*, illustrated by Bertall (the 50th and final issue was not published until 1846). Also from Hetzel, two texts in volume II of *Le Diable à Paris*. Volumes IV and XI of *La Comédie humaine* are completed, but not put on sale, in February. Volumes XIII and XIV (February), XV and XVI (November) are "corrected"<sup>3</sup>. But Balzac was unable to write Part 3 of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes* (*Splendors and Misfortunes of the Courtesans*), scheduled to open Volume XII.



The battle of Sidi-Brahim took place from September 23 to 26, 1845, between French troops and Abd El Kader. It lasted 3 days and 3 nights.

### Main historical events

- September 7: Battle of Sidi-Brahim.
- September 8: Queen Victoria's second visit to Louis-Philippe at the Château d'Eu.  
Victor Hugo leaves for a short trip around Paris.
- September 10: Léonie Biard-d'Aunet enters the Augustinian convent (she will remain there for approximately 6 months).
- September 20: Gobineau is dissatisfied with the *Revue Nouvelle*, which he is thinking of leaving unless he gets the satisfaction he demands.
- September 22: Massacre of the Djema-Ghazaouât garrison.
- September 26: Victor Hugo and Juliette Drouet are in Metz.
- October 5: 1st issue of Pierre Leroux's *Revue sociale*.
- October 6: Bugeaud in Excideuil learns of the massacre of the Djemma-Ghazaouât garrison.
- October 7: Juliette Drouet refuses to let V. Hugo buy the Metz house from her.  
Bugeaud departs for Algeria on the night of the 7th to the 8th.
- October 8: John Henry Newman converts to Catholicism.
- October 9: Ernest Renan renounces the priesthood.
- October 15: Bugeaud returns to Algiers.
- October 17: V. Hugo begins writing what will become *Les Misérables*.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Princess Louise Marie Thérèse d'Artois, only sister of the Comte de Chambord. She married Charles III, Duke of Parma on 10.11.1845.

The Comte de Chambord in the 1840s



### Main historical events

- October 23: Honoré de Balzac meets up with Ewelina Hanska in Chalon-sur-Saône. Together, they sail down the Rhône to Marseille before embarking for Naples.
- October 24: Bugeaud blocks Abd el-Kader's path as he re-enters the Tell.
- November 10: Soult relinquishes the Ministry of War, retaining only the presidency of the Council, which gradually becomes a mere honorary position, the role of President of the Council being assumed de facto by Guizot. General Alexandre Moline de Saint-Yon succeeds him at the Ministry of War.

Marriage of Mademoiselle, only sister of the Count of Chambord, to Charles III, Duke of Parma.

- November 20: The French and British navies crush the fleet of Rosas, the Argentine dictator, at Obligado.
- November 29: Laying of the foundation stone for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Quai d'Orsay.

The title *Le Commerce* is taken over by Guillemot, former editor of *Le Siècle*. The former manager of *Le Commerce*, Armand Dutacq, develops a project for a daily newspaper, *Le Soleil*, to cover political, commercial, medical, scientific, judicial, administrative, literary and public education issues. Tocqueville was to be on the board of directors; Dutacq also planned to buy *Le Commerce* for 100,000 francs and merge it with *Le Soleil*. But the deal fell through.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Customs drummer (1845)

### Main historical events

- December 1: Gobineau's article in *Revue Nouvelle*: "Germany's current unrest".
- December 2: Dr. Etienne Pariset founds the Society for the Protection of Animals.
- December 9: Consecration of the Madeleine church.
- December 13: Treaty on mutual tariffs in place of the Customs Union.
- December 15: La *Revue Nouvelle* publishes an article by Hercule de Serre on the "*Politics of the German Customs Union*".
- December 27: Opening of the 1846 parliamentary session.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The year proved more fruitful than the previous one, and Furne announced the completion of the sixteen-volume edition of *La Comédie humaine*. On May 22, in his *L'Epoque* feuilleton, Amédée Achard publishes the aforementioned *Catalogue des ouvrages que contiendra La Comédie humaine*. But Balzac is obsessed with marriage, travel, house-hunting and bric-a-brac. On March 16, he takes the mail coach to Lyon and Marseille, where, on the 21st, he boards the *Mentor* for Civita-Vecchia. This was his 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Italy.



Alfred de Vigny  
(1797-1863)



Étienne Pivert de Senancour,  
born in Paris on 16.11.1770  
and died in Saint-Cloud on  
10.1.1846, is a writer French  
pre-romantic.

### Main historical events

- January 5: Alfred de Vigny refuses to include a eulogy of the King in his acceptance speech for the Académie française.
- January 7: Completion of the Gare du Nord railway station. The Nord railway line is inaugurated on June 14.
- January 8: Charles de Rémusat is elected to the Académie française.
- January 10: Death of Sénancourt.
- January 29: Vigny is admitted to the Académie française. Molé's response is offensive.
- February 7: Victor Hugo reappears at the Comité des monuments historiques.
- February 11: Vigny refuses to be presented to the King as a new Academician.
- February 14: Victor Hugo's speech to the Chamber of Peers: On the ownership of works of art.
- February 18: *Ruy Blas* is revived at the Porte Saint-Martin.
- February 22: A new insurrection begins in Poland.
- March: Honoré de Balzac meets Ewelina Hanska in Rome.
- March 15: In Paris, creation of a General Committee in favor of Polish independence.
- March 19: Victor Hugo's speech to the Chamber of Peers: On Poland.
- March 30: Troops open fire on workers in St-Etienne.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 2 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In Rome (around March 25), he reunited with Madame Hanska, who had spent the winter in Naples. He paid a thorough visit to Rome, attended the Holy Week ceremonies (April 6-12), was received in audience by the Pope and bought paintings. On April 22, the two left Civita-Vecchia for Genoa, lingered by the lakes in northern Italy, reached Switzerland via the Simplon, passing through Geneva (May 8-10), Berne, Basel (for Saint-Honoré Day, May 16), and spent a few days in Solothurn. Balzac left Madame Hanska in Heidelberg and arrived in Paris on May 28. On the 30th, he alludes for the first time to Madame Hanska's hope of motherhood.



Ibrahim Pacha's visit to the  
Saint-Cyr school, May 22,  
1846



May 25: Egyptian general Ibrahim Pasha, visiting Paris, takes part in the review on the Champ de Mars.



### Main historical events

- March 31: *Les Aventures de Jean de la Tour-Miracle*, nicknamed Gobineau's lucky prisoner, begins publication in *La Quotidienne*. Publication continues until the end of May.
- April 1: Creation of *Paquita* (pantomime ballet) by Joseph Mazilier and Paul Foucher at the Paris Opéra.  
Victor Hugo's speech to the House of Peers: On the trademark.
- April 14: Grand Duke Constantine, second son of Russian Emperor Nicholas I, visits Toulon.
- April 15: Prefectoral decree regulating sidewalk construction.
- April 16: In the forest of Fontainebleau, a former forest ranger, Pierre Lecomte, fires two shots at Louis-Philippe and his family.
- April 21: Laying of the foundation stone for the new Hôtel du Timbre et de l'Enregistrement on rue de la Banque.
- April 24: Abd-el-Kader has French prisoners executed.
- May 16: Allocation from V.Hugo "to the founders of the Jury des récompenses pour les ouvriers".
- May 23: In the Chamber of Deputies, Isambert protests against the archbishops who, through their decrees, authorize freedoms for the clergy that the law denies them.
- May 25: Egyptian general Ibrahim Pasha, visiting Paris, takes part in the review on the Champ de Mars.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

From June 3 to 9, he travels to Tours, Vouvray and Saché to study the possible acquisition of the Château de Moncontour. On August 30, he left Paris for Creuznach, accompanying Madame Hanska to Mainz; she went to Wiesbaden while he returned to Passy (Sept. 15). He made another short trip to Germany (Oct. 9-17), and on October 13 in Wiesbaden was best man at the wedding of Anna Hanska and Georges Mnischev.

In preparation for his hoped-for marriage to Madame Hanska, Balzac made a series of plans to buy property in the provinces and houses in Paris, before acquiring an outbuilding of the Beaujon Charterhouse on rue Fortunée (now rue Balzac) on credit on September 28.



The castle of Moncontour in Vouvray is placed on the hillside in freestone and overlooks the Loire



Honoré de Balzac's house, rue Fortunée, Paris

### Main historical events

- May 25: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte escapes from the fort at Ham (Somme), disguised as a workman, wearing the clothes of the mason Badinguet.

Victor Hugo dictates a text about Isambert's protest.

- May 30: Lamartine, speaking before the Chamber of Deputies, praises Casimir Delavigne and François Ponsard. Victor Hugo is offended.
- June 1: Pierre Lecomte's trial before the Chamber of Peers begins.

Communication from Le Verrier on the planet Uranus.

- June 2: Lamartine-Hugo reconciliation.
- June 3: Visit to Touraine and Anjou by Honoré de Balzac, who plans to buy the Château de Moncontour.
- June 5: The Chamber of Peers sentences Lecomte to death. Victor Hugo intervenes on Lecomte's behalf. He pleads irresponsibility.
- June 7: Inauguration of the railway line from Paris to Sceaux.
- June 8: Execution of Lecomte.
- June 12: Death of the geographer Eyriès, born in 1767, protector of Gobineau in 1835 and, undoubtedly, one of the initiators of his curiosity about the exotic.
- June 14: A. de Vigny is received by Louis-Philippe without being introduced by Molé.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On December <sup>1</sup>, he learned that Madame Hanska had miscarried in Dresden. She forbade him to come and join her; in despair, he was unable to write for several weeks.

On December 17, he sprained his foot for the <sup>3rd time</sup> and was immobilized for several days.

Published in serial form: *Les Comédiens sans le savoir* in *Le Courrier français* (April 14-24); *Une Instruction criminelle* (<sup>3rd</sup> part of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes*) in *L'Epoque* (April 7-29); *La Cousine Bette*, in *Le Constitutionnel* (Oct. 8-Dec. 3). Dec.); *La Semaine* publishes a *Lettre à M. Hippolyte Castille*, October 11; *La Presse*, to mark the completion of the edition, reproduces the "Avant-propos" of *La Comédie humaine*, October 25.



H. De Balzac drew inspiration for his character Cousin Bette from Madame de Brugnol, his governess and mistress.

### Main historical events

- June 17: Creation of *L'inventeur de la poudre* by Eugène Labiche at the Théâtre du Palais-Royal in Paris.
- June 21: Act to establish the Dijon-Mulhouse railroad with branch lines. Western Network Development Act.
- June 27: Victor Hugo makes his first speech at the Chambre des Pairs *on the consolidation and defense of the coastline*.

Alexis de Tocqueville and Lamartine advocate the establishment of a civil government in Algeria.

- July <sup>1</sup>: Hugo's second speech *on consolidating and defending the coastline*.
- July 3: Law modifying the postal system by abolishing the rural decime and reducing the tax on remittances.

Law to establish the railway from Orléans to Vierzon and from Nîmes to Montpellier (complementary law).

Closure of the parliamentary session.

- July 6: Guizot dissolves the Chamber of Deputies and calls the electorate to vote on August <sup>1</sup>.
- July 14: *Hernani* is revived at the Théâtre Français.
- July 18: Victor Hugo is among the signatories of a protest against the Comédie-Française's rejection of Alexandre Dumas's play *L'Ecole des familles*.
- July 20: Start of the *Journal of what I learn every day* by Hugo.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Adam Chlendorowski completes the illustrated edition of *Petites misères de la vie conjugale*; Roux and Cassanet launch the unillustrated edition (3 volumes plus a monograph, entitled *L'Employé*) and that of *La Femme de soixante ans* (<sup>1st</sup> part of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*) (3 volumes plus *L'Enfant maudit*, and three monographs, *L'Epicier*, *Le Notaire* and *La Femme de province*) in September.

Charpentier reprints *La Peau de chagrin* in June.



Specialist in Persian and diplomat posted in Persia from 1855 to 1863, Gobineau is the author of several works specialized in Central Asia.



Louis Bonaparte (2.9.1778 - 25.07.1846), died of a stroke in Livorno (Italy)

### Main historical events

- July 25: Louis Bonaparte, ex-king of Holland, Napoleon's brother and legal father of the future Napoleon III, dies in Livorno.
- July 29: a metal craftsman, Joseph Henri, fires 2 shots at Louis-Philippe <sup>1er</sup> as he greets the crowd on the Tuileries balcony - the elephant on the Place de la Bastille is demolished.
- August <sup>1</sup>: Legislative elections give a large victory to the Conservatives. Guizot's electoral triumph. Alexis de Tocqueville is re-elected.
- August 19: Opening of an extraordinary session of the Chambers.
- August 25: Opening of the Joseph Henri trial in the Chamber of Peers.
- August 27: Joseph Henri is sentenced to forced labor for life. In the Chamber of Peers, V. Hugo intervenes in favor of leniency for Joseph Henri.
- August 31: Le Verrier provided numerical data and proved the existence of Neptune.
- September 2: Honoré de Balzac stays in Mainz with Ewelina Hanska.
- September 4: End of the extraordinary session and convening of the ordinary session on January 11, 1847.
- September 10: Victor Hugo visits the Conciergerie.

Gobineau marries Clémence-Gabrielle Monnerot Destourelles in Saint-Philippe du Roule. Gobineau's witnesses are Courtais and Hercule de Serre.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In August, Balzac announces the completion of *La Comédie humaine* with the sale of volumes XII (dated 1846), XIV AND XV (dated 1845), XVI (dated 1846). Volume IV (dated 1845), the end of volume XI (dated 1844), volume XIII (dated 1845), not mentioned in the above announcement, are registered late with the *Bibliographie de la France*, in November. Unhappy with his text of *Le Cousin Pons*, Balzac abandons it to write *La Cousine Bette*. He drafts *Adam le Chercheur*, fails to write *La Dernière Incarnation de Vautrin* (which becomes Part IV of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes*) and still hopes to complete *Les Paysans* and *Les Petits bourgeois*.



Anna Hanska,  
Countess Mnischech



Count Georges  
Mnischech

### Main historical events

- September 19: Apparitions of Our Lady of La Salette.
- September 28: The Duc de Montpensier, Antoine d'Orléans, leaves Paris for Spain to marry the Infanta of Spain.
- September 28: Honoré de Balzac buys the Folie Beaujon on rue Fortunée in Paris to marry Ewelina Hanska.
- September 30: Riot in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine over high bread prices. The troops restore order.
- September-October: A. de Tocqueville contacts Adolphe Billault and Jules Dufaure to create a "Young Left".
- October 11: Marriage of the Duc de Montpensier to the Infanta of Spain.
- October 13: Honoré de Balzac attends Anna Hanska's wedding to Georges Mnischech.
- October 28: Tocqueville's <sup>2nd</sup> departure for Algeria with his wife as part of a parliamentary commission tasked with choosing between Bugeaud's policy (military government, colonization by peasant-soldiers) and that advocated by General Lamoricière (civil administration, colonization entrusted to financial companies).
- October 29: Trial of the Faubourg Saint-Antoine rioters begins - Proudhon's Philosophy of Misery - Terrible flooding of the Loire.
- November <sup>1</sup>: Tocqueville stays in Algiers from November <sup>1</sup> to 19.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1846 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In November, he proposed a 5-act comedy, *L'Education du prince*, to the Comédie Française, of which we have no fragments.



Arrival of the Duc de Montpensier at La Goulette in June 1846, received by a guard of honor from the beylical army. On the left, part of the El Sharfiya summer palace, no longer in existence today.

Ahmed <sup>1st</sup>, bey of Tunis

### Main historical events

- November 7: Marriage of the Count de Chambord to Maria Theresa of Modena.
- November 11: *La Quotidienne* begins with a study of Abel-François Villemain, a series of articles by Gobineau on "Quelques critiques contemporains" (Nov. 22: "Gustave Planche"; Dec. 11: "M. Sainte-Beuve"; Dec. 12: "M. Jules Janin"; Dec. 25: "M. Saint-Marc Girardin"; 1847, Jan. 16: "M. Charles Magnin".
- November 15: Delacroix's frescoes for the Luxembourg library are completed.
- At the Théâtre-français, revival of *Hernani*.
- November 23: The Bey of Tunis is in Paris.
- December 6: Première of Berlioz's *Damnation de Faust* at the Opéra-Comique.
- December 13: Victor Hugo meets Jean Journet.

Alexis de Tocqueville, escaping official patronage, visits with the journalist Bussière the colonization villages of the Sahel of Algiers and the Mitidja. He took the boat to Bône (December 10), then Philippeville, reached Constantine by road, and embarked from Philippeville for France on December 29, although no details are known of this second leg of his journey, where he met General Bedeau, a moderate officer with whom he would remain close.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Moving from deep despair to creative fever when he learned that Madame Hanska had agreed to meet him in Paris, Balzac managed to publish three novels simultaneously in three different newspapers.

Shortly before leaving for Frankfurt, Balzac parted company with

"Louise de Brugnol"; since her stay in 1845, Madame Hanska had no illusions about the nature of Balzac's relationship with his governess, and had no doubt demanded a separation before his arrival.



Mme Céleste de  
Chateaubriand

François-René  
Chateaubriand

Mme  
de Récamier

### Main historical events

- January 11: Opening of the parliamentary session.
- January 13-14: Peasant riots in Buzençais. A landowner kills a rioter and is put to death by the crowd.
- January 18: During a ball, fire breaks out in the Rue d'Astorg, at the home of the Duchesse de Galliera.
- Jan. 29-Feb. 20: *Mademoiselle Irnois*, a short story by Gobineau, appears in *Le National*.
- February 2: Decision to build the station for the Paris-Lyon line on bd Mazas (Diderot). Work lasts until 1853.
- February 6: Publication of the first volume of *Louis Blanc's Histoire de la Révolution*.
- February 8: Death of Mme de Chateaubriand. Hugo (*Choses vues* T1, p.411): "Chateaubriand. Mme Récamier. Hugo: "Mme de Chateaubriand died on February 11, 1847. She was a thin, dry, black person, very marked with smallpox, ugly, charitable without being good, spiritual without being intelligent. She was very conveniently married to M. de Chateaubriand. In my extreme youth, when I came to see M. de Chateaubriand, I was afraid of her. She received me rather badly. M. de Chateaubriand, at the beginning of 1847, was paralytic; Mme Récamier was blind. Every day, at 3 a.m., M. de Chateaubriand was carried to Madame Récamier's bed. It was touching and sad. The woman who could no longer see sought out the man who could no longer feel; their two hands met. God be blessed, we're going to stop living that we still love each other."

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Having joined her in Frankfurt on February 6, Balzac brought her back to Paris and installed her in a furnished apartment at 12 bis, rue Neuve-de-Berry. During this incognito stay, they went to the theater, concerts, the Opéra and the Salon de peinture; Balzac nevertheless worked hard, correcting the proofs of his feuilletons. For the April 15 term, he moves from rue Basse to rue Fortunée. At the beginning of May, he drove Madame Hanska back to Germany, and returned to Paris on May 13, where he stayed until September 5, working mainly on the refurbishment of the rue Fortunée hotel.



Louis Daguerre, born November 18, 1787 in Corneilles-en-Parisis (Val-d'Oise), died July 10, 1851 in Bry-sur-Marne (Val-de-Marne), was a French painter and photographer. His commercialization of the daguerreotype, inspired by the work of Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, led him to be considered the inventor of photography.

### Main historical events

- February 11: Empis is elected to the Académie française.
- February 13: Publication of the first volume of *Jules Michelet's Histoire de la Révolution française*.
- February 15: At the Chambre des Pairs, Victor Hugo tables and supports the Pasquier petition for the creation of refuge and retirement homes for workers.
- February 19: Inauguration of Alexandre Dumas père's Théâtre historique with his drama *La Reine Margot*. A traveling salesman sells for the <sup>1st time</sup> to people waiting in line a product destined for great success: bouillon.
- February 24: Death of Alexandre Guiraud.
- February 26: At Guiraud's funeral, Victor Hugo holds one of the stove cords.
- February 27: Bugeaud's military colonization bill is presented to the Assembly. Bugeaud anticipated failure.
- March 3: Honoré de Balzac pays tribute to Louis Daguerre and his creative power in *Le Cousin Pons*.
- March 6: Victor Hugo attends the Association des artistes dramatiques ball.
- March 15: Inauguration of the Amiens to Abbeville section of line by the Compagnie du chemin de fer d'Amiens à Boulogne.
- March 20-June 12: Publication of Lamartine's *Histoire des Girondins* (8 vols.).

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

He draws up his will, bequeathing to Madame Hanska all his real and personal property and "the final manuscript of *La Comédie humaine*", i.e. his copy of the "Furne" edition corrected in his own hand, the basis of the present edition (June 28).

After abandoning plans to stay at Saché, he made a few excursions: Montmorency (August <sup>1</sup>), l'Isle-Adam (August 13). On the evening of September 5, he leaves Paris via the Gare du Nord, travels by train to Hamm (on the 7th), then by *Schnell-Post* to Hanover. The train takes him to Breslau and Gleiwitz; he crosses Galicia, crossing the Austro-Russian border (on the 11th); on the 13th, he finally arrives at Wierzchownia Castle and remains in the Ukraine until January 1848.



Wierzchownia Castle

### Main historical events

- March 20: Death of Mademoiselle Mars.
- March 26: Victor Hugo attends the funeral of Mlle Mars.
- March 27: Arrival of the railroad in Le Havre on the Paris-Le-Havre line.
- April <sup>1</sup>: Creation of the Cercle de la Librairie et de l'Imprimerie to defend and promote the interests of these professions.  
Absorption of Compagnie du chemin de fer de Creil à Saint-Quentin by Compagnie du chemin de fer du Nord.
- April 5: Victor Hugo visits the Roquette prison and speaks with Marquis, a student of Viollet-le-Duc and condemned to death.
- April 8: Death of Mme de Castellane, mistress of Chateaubriand and later of Molé. Hugo (*Choses vues* T1, p. 439): "She had been very pretty, but she had withdrawn early from pretensions to beauty."
- April 11: At Victor Hugo's, an autograph lottery is held to raise funds for crèches.
- April 15: Toulouse: start of the Louis Bonafous affair, Brother Léotade (in religion), accused of raping and killing 14-year-old Cécile Combettes.

Battle of Tourane: France launches an expedition to Cochinchina (northern Vietnam).

- April 16: Three rioters from Buzençais are executed.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The novelist simultaneously published *Le Cousin Pons* in *Le Constitutionnel* (March 18-May 10); *Le Député d'Arcis* in *L'Union monarchique* (April 7-May 10); *La Dernière Incarnation de Vautrin* in *La Presse* (April 13-May 4). He sold *Le Siècle* and *Le Constitutionnel* (January 22, March 11 and 27) the right to reprint numerous novels in their literary supplements; *Le Siècle's Musée littéraire* begins its series with *César Birotteau*. Under the title *Un drame dans les prisons*, Souverain offers for sale the separate edition of Part <sup>3</sup> of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes* (2 volumes dated 1847); in July, Louis Chlendorowski publishes *La Dernière Incarnation de Vautrin* (3 volumes dated 1848).



Wing occupied by Balzac during his stays at Wierzchownia Castle

### Main historical events

- April 16: Victor Hugo protests against the torture used in the African army (letter to Moline de Saint-Yon, Minister of War).
- April 22: Jean-Jacques Ampère is elected to the Académie française.
- April 28: To spare Charles Hugo from military service, Victor Hugo buys a replacement. Adolphe Grangé signs the contract in exchange for 1,100 francs.
- May 4: The Teste-Cubières scandal begins.
- May 6: The Chamber of Peers prepares to judge General Despans-Cubières.
- May 8: Three ministers resign. They are replaced the following day.
- May 13: The Théâtre-français revives Hugo's *Marion Delorme*.
- May 24: Publication in the *Moniteur universel* of Tocqueville's parliamentary report on the bill concerning the extraordinary credits requested for Algeria. This is followed by a second report on the bill requesting a credit of 3 million euros for agricultural camps in Algeria (*Moniteur universel*, June 2 session). These two works testify to Tocqueville's interest in the colonization of Algeria.
- May 27: Rejection by the Assembly of the single tariff for postal items in France, proposed by deputy A. Glais-Bizoin.
- May 30: Bugeaud resigns as Governor General of Algeria.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Roux and Cassanet published *Le Provincial à Paris (Les Comédiens sans le savoir, attached to Gaudissart II)* (2 vols. dated 1847). The 12-volume publication of *Les Parents pauvres* (with Louis Petion, who went bankrupt, and later with Louis Chlendorowski) began in 1847 and ended in 1848. Charpentier reprints *Le Lys dans la vallée* in September. At the beginning of the year, Balzac sketched out and abandoned *Mademoiselle du Vissard* (January), broke definitively with Emile de Girardin in July and gave up on completing *Les Paysans* in *La Presse*. For the theater, he plans *Orgon*, *La marâtre* and probably writes *Le Corse* in August.



Ewelina in her interior furnished by  
Balzac – painting by Jean Gigoux

### Main historical events

- June 2: Alexis de Tocqueville reports on Bugeaud's military colonization project, concluding negatively.
- June 3: In *La Presse*, on May 12, Girardin violently denounced ministerial corruption, and the Chambre des pairs decided to summon him.
- June 4: Gobineau begins publication of *Nicolas Belavoir* serialized in *L'Union monarchique*.
- June 5: Bugeaud leaves Algeria for good.
- June 10: The government withdraws the military colonization bill for Algeria.
- June 12: Death of Ballanche, a great friend of Madame Récamier. Victor Hugo puts on the agenda of the Chamber of Peers a discussion on the repeal of the law of exile for the Bonapartes (the petition is from King Jérôme).
- June 14: Victor Hugo delivers a speech "on the Bonaparte family" at the Chambre des Pairs.
- June 21: On the <sup>1st</sup> anniversary of Claire Pradier's death, Victor Hugo attends mass at Saint-Mandé. The day before, he had dined with Princess Mathilde (daughter of King Jérôme).
- June 22: Girardin appears before the Chamber of Peers. Victor Hugo speaks in Girardin's favor. He is acquitted.
- June 25: The Chamber of Peers indicts Teste, Cubières, Parmantier and Pellapra.
- June 26: H. de Balzac makes Ewelina Hanska his legatee universal.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 6 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

In Wierzchownia, he wrote *The Initiate* (part <sup>2</sup> of *The Upside of Contemporary History*), began and abandoned *The Theater as It Is*, *The Woman Author*, *A Woman's Character*, and *Letter on Kiev*.



Ewelina and Honoré

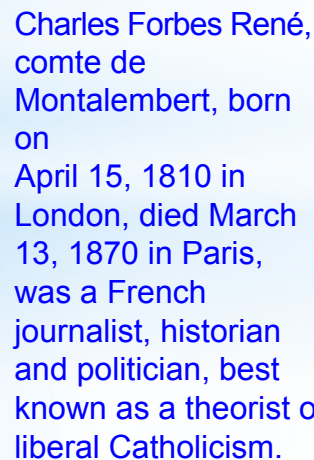
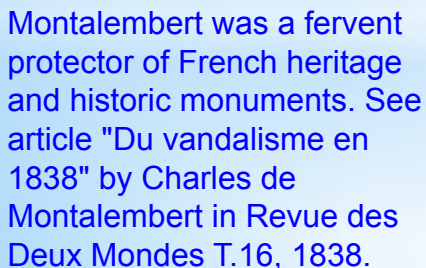
### Main historical events

- June 27: Several people are killed in Mulhouse, after troops open fire on rioters.
- June 28: Prefectoral decree ordering the complete re-numbering of all properties on public roads. The operation begins on July <sup>1</sup> and is completed in January 1851. Enamelled porcelain plaques, with white numerals on a blue background, were affixed to the facades. This regulation remained in force until 1939.
- July <sup>1</sup>: Amateur astronomer Hencke discovers the asteroid Hebe.
- July 5: Victor Hugo returns to writing *Les Misérables*.
- July 6: Pellapra flees.
- July 8-17: Trial before the Chamber of Peers of two former ministers, Teste and General Despens-Cubières, accused of corruption.
- July 9: Beginning of the banquet campaign with the first banquet in Paris, attended by 1,200 guests in the garden of the Château-Rouge in Montmartre (Duvergier de Hauranne, Molé, Barrot). With Guizot banning public meetings, political leaders held banquets at which speeches and toasts were made in favor of reform. Tocqueville and his friends refrained from taking part. A gigantic banquet was planned for Paris on 22.2.1848.
- July 12: Teste attempts suicide.
- July 15: Teste is sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and a heavy fine.



## Year 1847 page 7 - Gregorian calendar

Summary pages 257 to 262



- July 16: Cubieres is sentenced to civic degradation and a fine.
- July 17: Parmentier is fined.
- July 18: In Mâcon, a banquet for Lamartine.
- July 26: In the Chamber of Peers, Montalembert accuses the vandalism of the restorations. Victor Hugo fully approves - Closure of the parliamentary session.
- July 29: A. de Tocqueville sends Jule Dufaure a letter with the program of the new "Young Left" party.
- August 3: During a discussion of the Interior budget in the Chamber of Peers, V. Hugo speaks in favor of subsidizing theaters.
- August 5: An accusatory letter from Warnery is read out in the Chamber of Peers.
- August 9: A new law adds to the favorable measures of the July 18, 1845 law on slavery, and institutes courts. responsible for uncovering the crimes perpetrated against and slaves.

An Act to complete the railway from Paris to Valenciennes; an Act to modify the concession conditions for the railway from Paris to Lyon; an Act to classify the railway from Montereau to Troyes.

- August 11: Law authorizing a 3% annuity loan (9,966,777 francs in annuities), to be used for public works.  
produced 250,000,000 which were intended to reduce the floating debt figure.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Alice Ozy circa 1860



Julie Justine Pilloy, in the "Alice Ozy" theater, (August 6, 1820 in Paris - March 3, 1893 in Paris) was a famous 19th-century stage actress and courtesan.



Charles Hugo

The courtesan had an affair of several months with Charles Hugo



Victor Hugo circa 1853

### Main historical events

- August 14: Victor Hugo sends Alice Ozy a quatrain about her bed.
- August 15: Second quatrain to Alice Ozy.
- August 17: The Duc de Choiseul-Praslin murders his wife, daughter of Marshal Sébastiani.
- August 24: Praslin dies in Luxembourg prison after poisoning himself - Marquis executed in Versailles.
- August 29: François Buloz is appointed administrator of the Comédie française.
- August 31: Start of riots on rue Saint-Honoré - Disappearance of *Revue nouvelle*.
- September 11: The Duc d'Aumale is appointed Governor General of Algeria.
- September 12: Death of Colettis, Greek prime minister and friend of Guizot.
- September 15: Aged and tired, Soult resigns as President of the Council. Guizot takes his place.
- September 18: The Compagnie du chemin de fer de Marseille à Avignon opens the Tarascon to Saint-Chamas section of the line to the public. The 1<sup>st</sup> day sees 1,000 passengers.
- September 20: First tension between Victor Hugo and his son Charles over Alice Ozy, with whom they are both in love.

# BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 9 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Jérôme Bonaparte  
1852



Jérôme Bonaparte circa



Mathilde Bonaparte



Mathilde Bonaparte  
circa 1860

## Main historical events

- September 23: Frédéric Soulié dies - The Hugo family moves to Villequier.
- September 26: Louis-Philippe confers on Soult the dignity of Marshal-General of France, giving him command of all the Marshals of France.
- September 27: Victor Hugo delivers a speech at Frédéric Soulié's funeral.
- September 30: Victor Hugo leaves with Juliette Drouet for Normandy.
- October 9: Adèle Hugo has typhoid. She recovers.
- October 15: The Paris City Council decides to cancel the bread distributions begun after the riot of September 30, 1846. In 11 months, 450,000 people received 30 million vouchers worth 10 million francs.
- October 21: Inauguration of the Creil to Compiègne section of the line (Creil to Saint-Quentin line) by the Compagnie du chemin de fer du Nord.
- October 22-December 23: *Ternove* appears in the *Journal des Débats*. On November 11, Gobineau receives 1,500 francs from Armand Bertin for the novel (a rather high price, considering that in 1838 Stendhal sold *La Chartreuse de Parme*, a much longer novel, for 2,500 francs).
- October 23: Abd el-Kader surrenders.
- October 26: V. Hugo dines with King Jerome at the Mathilde Princess's house.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1847 page 10 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 257 to 262

#### The Lioran road tunnel



#### Locomotive in service in 1847



Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, Marie-Adélaïde de France,  
known as Madame Adélaïde, sister of Louis-Philippe  
1st, King of the French Republic.

### Main historical events

- October 31: Opening of the first road tunnel at Le Lioran, begun in August 1839.
- November 2: Suicide of Count Bresson, peer of France, ambassador to Naples.
- November 7: At a Republican banquet in Lille, Ledru-Rollin calls for universal suffrage. From July to December, some 70 banquets are organized.
- November 21: Inauguration of the section of line from Abbeville to Neufchâtel by the Compagnie du chemin de fer d'Amiens à Boulogne.
- December 18: Reformist banquet in Chalon-sur-Saône. Hardening.
- December 23: After his defeat by Moroccan troops, Emir Abd el-Kader surrendered to General Lamoricière. He was initially interned at Fort Lamalgue in Toulon. The February 1848 Revolution delayed his departure. He was interned in France at Pau, then Amboise (1847-1852).
- December 25: The last Reform banquet in Rouen.
- December 28: Louis-Philippe rejects any idea of electoral reform - opening of the 1848 parliamentary session.
- December 30: V. Hugo signs a contract with Renduel and Gosselin for the publication, in 4 volumes, of a novel entitled *Les Misères* - Victor Hugo refuses to be appointed director of the Académie once again.
- December 31: Death of Madame Adélaïde, sister of Louis-Philippe..

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1848 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The revolutions of 1848 upset Balzac's literary and matrimonial plans. His reaction to political events was negative, marked by a total rejection of the changes in the world that stood in the way of his personal goals. He left Wierzchownia, in the middle of the Russian winter, on January 30 or 31, and crossed the Russian-Austrian border on February 2. On the 6th, he travelled by train from Krakow to Breslau, passing through Dresden to see an antique dealer; from Frankfurt, where he arrived on the 11th, he made a detour to Mainz to see another antique dealer, then returned to Frankfurt; on the evening of the 15th, he arrived in Paris after an absence of 143 days.



February 22:  
Republican  
insurrection.  
Lamartine in front of  
Paris City Hall on  
February 25, 1848  
refuses the flag

The Paris Revolution had a  
huge impact on the European  
elite.

### Main historical events

- January 2: Michelet's lecture at the Collège de France is suspended.
- January 14: The last banquet planned in Paris is forbidden by Guizot.
- January 27: In a speech to the Chamber of Deputies in favor of reforming the electoral system, Tocqueville denounces the deterioration of public morals; he also worries that the "wind of revolutions" is rising; "public morals are deteriorating (...), the deterioration of public morals will lead you in a short time, perhaps soon, to new revolutions. (...) For God's sake, change the spirit of government, for that spirit is leading you to the abyss!
- January 28: The Seine is taken, says Hugo (*Choses vues* T1 p.585), we skate under the Pont-des-Arts.
- January 29: Lamartine returns to the Tribune de la Chambre des députés, where he delivers an anti-government speech.
- February 3: Petition for the resumption of the Jules Michelet course.
- February 13: Vote on the address reaffirming Guizot's conservative policy.
- February 14: Girardin resigns as a member of parliament.
- February 15: Honoré de Balzac returns from Wierzchownia. He is shocked by the events of the 23rd.
- February 22-24: Revolution in Paris. These 3 revolutionary days overthrew the July Monarchy, Louis-Philippe abdicates.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1848 page 2 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

The February Revolution broke out in Paris on the 23rd; the next day, Balzac witnessed the sacking of the Tuileries; on the 26th, he saw the proclamation of the Republic, and on the 29th, recommended his brother-in-law Surville to Lamartine. Returning home with a number of play projects, which he hoped would restore his financial situation and enable him to marry Madame Hanska, and having thought for a moment of standing for election to the legislature, he cursed the revolution, which was "ruining the book trade", but sought a way out in the theater.



#### **Flight of the royal family on 24.2.1848.**

1) Duchesse Hélène d'Orléans 2) Louis-Philippe<sup>1er</sup> 3) Louis-Philippe II, comte de Paris 4) the French king and his wife Marie-Amélie de Bourbon.



### Main historical events

- February 22nd: students from the Latin Quarter and workers from the suburbs gather, at the call of secret societies, and advance towards the Place de la Concorde. They were repulsed by the troops, but the anger continued to grow. The National Guard pacted with the demonstrators, demanding both reform and Guizot's resignation, which Louis-Philippe accepted on the 23rd.
- February 23: Tocqueville witnesses Guizot's resignation. In the evening, a shoot-out kills 52 people on Boulevard des Capucines; barricades are erected in the Eastern and Central districts. Louis Molé becomes <sup>Prime</sup> Minister. In the evening, the rioters celebrate their victory under Guizot's windows. The troops intervene and kill several rioters. The bodies are loaded onto carts and paraded around Paris. The parade of corpses triggers the revolution.
- February 24: in the early hours of the morning, the city was covered in barricades and Molé resigned. Adolphe Thiers and Odilon Barrot, supporters of reform, refused to succeed him. The Tuileries Palace was attacked by insurgents at 12pm. Louis-Philippe<sup>1st</sup>, King of the French, abdicates in favor of his 9-year-old grandson, the Count of Paris. On her arrival at the palace to request the regency, the Duchesse d'Orléans found that the victorious insurgents and the deputies forced (under threat) to form a provisional republican government had invaded the square. The royal family fled.

In the evening, the provisional government for the Republic is formed at the Hôtel-de-ville, comprising : Dupont de l'Eure, Lamartine, Crémieux, Ledru-Rollin, Louis Blanc, « Albert », Marie, Arago, Marrast, Flocon, Garnier-Pagès and Pyat.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1848 page 3 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

After considering reviving *Vautrin* (March-April), he planned to stage *Les Parents pauvres*, *Père Goriot*, *La Fausse maîtresse*, *La Femme abandonnée*, adapt Dumas' *Monté-Cristo*; he returned to old subjects such as *Orgon*, and imagined a new one: *Pierre et Catherine*. Finally, he writes *La Marâtre* (mid-March/mid-May). The play premiered on May 25 at the Théâtre historique. It was a success, critically acclaimed, but political events emptied theaters; withdrawn on May 30 after 6 performances, *La Marâtre* was performed again 21 times from July 20 to August 20.



Louis Blanc,  
French  
journalist and  
historian,  
member of  
the French  
government  
provisional  
1848  
Jacques



Charles Dupont  
de l'Eure,  
French  
politician and  
figurehead of  
the Republic,  
he witnessed  
and the actor of  
three  
revolutions:  
1789, 1830 and  
1848.



Alexandre-Auguste Ledru-  
Rollin, avocat et homme  
politique français.  
Républicain progressiste,  
il est l'un des chefs de  
file de la campagne des  
Banquets qui aboutit à la  
révolution de 1848.



### Main historical events

- February 25: Birth of the 2<sup>nd</sup> French Republic, proclaimed in Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville by Lamartine and Ledru-Rollin: Proclamation of the right to work; the tricolor flag is retained thanks to a speech by Lamartine, who turns crowd opinion in favor of the red flag.
- February 26: Creation of the *Ateliers Nationaux* to reduce unemployment (40,000 workers by mid-April). The following reforms are implemented: the death penalty for political offenses is abolished, press offenses are amnestied, titles of nobility are abolished, and the property of the royal family is confiscated. The *Luxembourg Commission*, made up of workers' delegates, was set up under the authority of Louis Blanc.
- February 28: Creation of a *Government Commission for Workers*, chaired by Louis Blanc. Louis Bonaparte leaves London and arrives in Paris.
- March 1: The Société du peuple du VIII<sup>e</sup> arrondissement expresses its deep distrust of Victor Hugo, whose republicanism it deems dubious.
- March 2: Victor Hugo delivers a speech for "the plantation of a tree of liberty" - proclamation of universal male suffrage.
- March 3: Karl Marx is expelled from Belgium and invited by the provisional government to reside in France.
- March 4: Freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.
- March 5: A Constituent Assembly is convened. It must to be elected on April 9 by direct universal suffrage by all French residents aged 21.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1848 page 4 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On June 3, Balzac left Paris for a final stay in Saché. In his homeland, as in 1830, he felt the fading echoes of the Parisian revolutionary days of June, and experienced the first symptoms of a serious heart condition. Returning to Paris on July 6, after a brief stay in Azay-le-Rideau, he was ill and discouraged, and eager to return to the Ukraine.

On July 8, he attends the funeral of Chateaubriand (who died on July 6) and considers running for his seat at the Académie française.



Guglielmo Brutus Icilius Timeleone Libri-Carucci dalla Sommaja, known in French as Guillaume Libri or Count Libri, (1803-1869, was an Italian mathematician, historian and bibliophile who taught in France, where he became famous for a case of rare book theft.



Banque de France banknote type in circulation in 1848.

### Main historical events

- March 6: Jules Michelet resumes his course. Organization of *National workshops*.
- March 7: Lamartine, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the provisional government, signs the decree dismissing Prosper de Barante as ambassador to Petersburg.
- March 8: Opening of the National Guard to all citizens.
- March 9: Prison for debt is abolished.
- March 12: Abolition of corporal punishment.
- March 15: Forced exchange of banknotes (Paris). To facilitate circulation of money, the provisional government issues 100-franc notes, and to fill the coffers, increases all direct taxes by 45% (45-centime tax).
- March 19: Alexis de Tocqueville presents his candidacy and his sincere support for the Republic.

The Libri affair begins: an article in *Le Moniteur* denounces the petty theft of Count Libri, academician and secretary of the Commission des Manuscrits des bibliothèques de France, who has fled with hundreds of priceless books.

- April 10-17: Inauguration of the Montereau to Troyes and Neufchâtel to Boulogne-sur-Mer railroad lines.
- April 21: The salt tax is abolished.
- April 23: Elections to the Constituent Assembly by suffrage universal male. Success for moderate Republicans.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1848 page 5 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Having retrieved his manuscript of *Mercadet* (1840 version) from Frédéric Lemaître, he finalized his text: *Mercadet*, now *Le Faiseur*, was typeset. Accepted by the Comédie française, the play was never staged. On August 6, Balzac draws up a list of 17 plays to be written (on various subjects, including a scenario for *Le Roi des mendiants*). Having finally obtained the necessary visas to enter Russia, and having settled his affairs (literary power of attorney to Laurent-Jan (1808-1877), general power of attorney and custody of his house to his mother).



The provisional government of 1848: top to bottom: Louis-Antoine Garnier-Pagès - Adolphe Crémieux - Armand Marrast. Bottom: Ferdinand Flocon - Alexandre Martin - Pierre Marie Saint-Georges.

### Main historical events

- April 23: In the elections to the Constituent Assembly, Lamartine is elected in 10 departments and comes out on top in Paris. The elections give victory to the moderate Republicans, but are a defeat for the candidates of the republican socialist left, particularly the leaders of revolutionary clubs such as Blanqui, Cabet and Raspail.
- April 26: Several dozen people are killed in a workers' demonstration in Rouen. Troops fire on workers.
- April 27: Publication of the decree abolishing slavery.
- April 29: Changarnier: appointed Governor General of Algeria.
- May 4: The Republic is officially proclaimed.
  - A center-left deputy under the July monarchy, Tocqueville now belongs to the center-right.
- May 9-10: The Constituent Assembly elects the Executive Commission (Arago, Garnier-Pages, Marie, Lamartine, Ledru-Rollin) to replace the provisional government.
- May 11: Appointment of a ministry. Demonstration in France in support of insurgent Poland. Failure of the revolutionary insurrection against the Constituent Assembly (Barbès, Blanqui, "Albert", Raspail). Tens of thousands of demonstrators storm the Palais Bourbon. The intervention of the National Guard, which drove out the occupiers, thwarted the attempt. The government takes advantage of the situation to arrest the Socialist leaders. Blanqui was on the run. Barbès, Raspail, Albert, Sobrier and Flotte are arrested. The Right triumphs; it prepares to dismantle the *Ateliers nationaux* and dissolve the Luxembourg Commission.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Honoré de Balzac took the train to Cologne on the evening of September 19; he was in Krakow on the 23rd, in Russia on the 27th and in Wierzychownia on October 2. He stayed there until the end of the year.

He published little. Newspaper articles include: "Lettre de candidature" (*Journal des Débats* and *Constitutionnel*, March 18); "Profession de foi politique" (*ibid.*, April 19); a letter to Hippolyte Rolle about his play *Les Petits Bourgeois* (*Le Constitutionnel*, August 16-17). The only serial is *L'Initié* (part <sup>2</sup> of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*), which appears in a short-lived newspaper, *Le Spectateur républicain*, from August <sup>1</sup> to September 3, preceded from July 29 to 31 by a reprint of part <sup>1</sup> under the title *Madame de la Chanterie*.



Napoleon III



Louis-Eugène Cavaignac

### Main historical events

- May 16: The Workers' Commission (Luxembourg Commission) is abolished.
- May 17: Cormentin, Marrast, Lamennais, Vivien, Dufaure and Tocqueville are elected to the Constitutional Commission by the Assembly. The 18-member commission sits from May 19 to June 17 (24 sessions). Louis-Eugène Cavaignac becomes Minister of War.
- May 22: Abolition of slavery on the island of Martinique.
- May 25: Premiere of Honoré de Balzac's play *La Marâtre* at the historic theater.
- May 26: Auguste Blanqui is arrested.
- May 28: Victor Hugo becomes president of the "Société de Petit-Bourg", a charity for poor, destitute, abandoned and orphaned children.
- June 2: The exile law is repealed by Louis Bonaparte.
- June 4-5: Supplementary elections to the Constituent Assembly, which includes Thiers, Changarnier, Proudhon, Victor Hugo and Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte.
- June 14: Louis-Bonaparte is elected deputy in the supplementary elections of June 4, and renounces his mandate.
- June 15: The Ajain rebels, peasants from the Creuse region, revolt against the 45-centime tax. They march on Guéret, prefecture of the Creuse department in the Limousin region. 16 of them were killed by the Guéret national guard.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Plans to publish *Ecce Homo* in *L'Événement* (July) are not realized. *La Marâtre* is published by Michel Lévy in August. *Les Parents pauvres* goes on sale, after Balzac's departure for the Ukraine, as the XVIIth volume of *La Comédie humaine* (under Furne's address, although Furne had sold the edition of *La Comédie humaine* to his first clerk Alexandre Houssiaux on July 27, 1846). Charpentier launches a new reprint of *Physiologie du mariage*.



The barricade on rue Soufflot in Paris. Rue Soufflot is a thoroughfare at the junction of the Sorbonne and Val-de-Grâce districts in the 5th arrondissement of Paris.

### Main historical events

- June 21: The government decides to abolish the *Ateliers nationaux*. A decree issued by the Executive Commission orders workers aged 17 to 25 to enlist in the army and others to prepare to leave the capital, thereby dissolving the *Ateliers nationaux*. The Constituante approved the dissolution of the *Ateliers nationaux*.
- June 23-26: June Days: workers' insurrection in Paris put down by the army commanded by General Louis-Eugène Cavaignac (5,000 workers dead, 11,000 arrested). The state of siege is not lifted until October 19.
- June 23: The eastern districts of the capital retreat behind the barricades. A. de Tocqueville witnessed the street fighting, which left many insurgents and defenders of order dead.
- June 24: The Assembly demands the resignation of the Executive Commission and entrusts military powers to General Cavaignac. A state of siege is declared in Paris. Victor Hugo is one of 60 commissioners specially appointed by the Constituante to restore order in Paris. The insurgents peacefully occupied Victor Hugo's house on Place des Vosges.
- June 25: Further repression and general attack by Lamoricière in the north, Bedeau in the center: recapture of the Hôtel-de-Ville district as far as La Bastille, and of all northern districts. Only the Faubourg Saint-Antoine held out.
- June 26: Talks fail - insurgents surrender at 11am.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Chateaubrian's burial in Saint-Malo



### Main historical events

- June 26: Final resistance in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine. Mass executions of insurgents. They are arrested and deported without trial. Cavaignac triumphs.
- June 27: Decree on the transportation of the insurgents of June 1848.
- June 28: The Executive Commission is replaced by Louis-Eugène Cavaignac, Minister of War, who is appointed President of the Council after crushing the riot and dissolving the workshops. He formed a moderate republican ministry, restricting freedom of the press, closing down the most revolutionary clubs and re-establishing stamp duties. Louis Blanc and Albert went into exile in England.
- June 29: The Cavaignac ministry is reshuffled.
- July 4: Chateaubriand dies.
- July 6: V. Hugo begins his campaign on behalf of political prisoners and against the extreme measures taken against them.
- July 11: Financial security imposed on newspapers. Many disappear, including Lamennais' *Le Peuple constituant*.
- July 12: At the Constituent Assembly, V. Hugo speaks out against restrictions on press freedom.
- July 19: Chateaubriand is buried in Saint-Malo, facing the sea at the tip of the Grand Bé.
- July 28: Law regulating the creation and operation of clubs - Restrictions on public meetings and clubs.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Louis-Philippe leaves the Palais Royal



The bridge of Archbishop's guarded by troops during the 1848 revolution

### Main historical events

- August 1<sup>st</sup>: Rail tourism begins with the first train from Paris to Dieppe.

The <sup>1st</sup> issue of *L'Événement*, a newspaper inspired by V. Hugo and edited by Charles and François-Victor Hugo, Auguste Vacquerie and Paul Meurice, goes on sale.

- August 7: Gustave de Beaumont is appointed Minister Plenipotentiary in London.
- August 13: Under the presidency of the Bishop of Langres, an office is set up to help those deported in June. Victor Hugo assumes the vice-presidency.
- August 25: By a majority, the Constituante authorizes proceedings against Louis Blanc and Caussidière. Victor Hugo votes against.
- August 28: Adoption of the postage stamp.
- August 29: The Constitutional Commission draws up a new draft, after consulting the offices of the Assembly. The "right to work" disappears from the new draft. Alexis de Tocqueville is elected general councillor by universal suffrage in the canton of Montebourg.
- September 2<sup>st</sup>: <sup>1st</sup> issue of Proudhon's newspaper *Le Peuple*.
- Sept. 4-Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>: Drafting of the Constitution begins. The Assembly examines the draft Constitution on <sup>1st</sup> reading. Debate focuses on the preamble, the election of the president by the legislature, and bicameralism.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Baron Viala  
Charon, Governor  
General of Algeria -  
military and  
French politics  
(1794-1880)

#### Definition of bicameralism

Bicameralism is a system of political organization that divides Parliament into two distinct chambers, an upper chamber and a lower chamber. The word, introduced in the 19th century, is from "bi" (two) and "camera" (chamber in Latin). The purpose of this system is to moderate the action of the Lower House, which is directly elected and thus directly represents the people, by subjecting all its decisions to examination by the Upper House, elected usually indirectly elected, often representing departments, regions or states. Federations almost always adopt a bicameral system of representation. One chamber represents the population; the other, the federated entities.

### Main historical events

- September 7: Victor Hugo votes with the Left to include a reference to "Human Rights" in the preamble to the Constitution.
- September 9: Baron Charon is appointed Governor of Algeria.
- September 11: V. Hugo addresses the Constituent Assembly "on freedom of the press".
- September 12: A. de Tocqueville speaks out against the Mathieu amendment calling for the right to work to be included in the preamble. He defends the idea of socially organizing charity.
- September 15: At the Constituante, V. Hugo speaks "against the death penalty".
- September 17: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte is elected in 5 départements.
- September 25-27: The Assembly debates bicameralism. A. de Tocqueville, ill, is unable to give the speech he has planned. prepared, in which, following the American example, he defended the principle of two chambers, which, in his opinion, allows for a better democracy. A single legislative assembly will be chosen, in keeping with the tradition of 1789.
- September 26: Louis Bonaparte makes his <sup>first</sup> appearance at the Assembly.
- September 27: The Assembly rejects the principle of two chambers.
- September 29: V. Hugo testifies before the <sup>2nd</sup> Paris Council of War.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Election campaign:  
two kids fight, one  
for Napoleon, the  
other for Cavaignac,  
published in  
l'Illustrierte  
Zeitung, 1848



The journey to the  
promised land:  
Between October  
8, 1848 and March  
18  
1849, encouraged  
by fiery official  
speeches, blessings  
and fanfares, 17  
convoys left the  
quays of Bercy to  
take the settlers to  
Marseille.

### Main historical events

- October 3: *L'Événement* publishes an article supporting Lamartine's candidacy for the presidency of the Republic.
- October 5: A. de Tocqueville intervenes in the debate on the Constitution to defend the election of the President by the people. The Assembly follows the American model: the President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for a 4-year term, but cannot be re-elected for another 4 years.
- October 8: Departure from Paris of the <sup>1st</sup> settlement convoy of 843 people bound for Algeria, Saint-Cloud's main agricultural colony.
- October 9: The Constituent Assembly decides to elect the President of the Republic by direct universal suffrage.
- October 11: The law of January 12, 1816 condemning the Bonapartes and certain supporters of the Hundred Days to exile is repealed.

At the Constituante, V. Hugo gives a speech "for freedom of the press and against the state of siege".

- October 12: The state of siege is lifted.
- October 13: Cavaignac reshuffles his government, appointing Jules Dufaure to the Interior, Alexandre Vivien to Public Works and Pierre Freslon to Public Instruction. A. de Tocqueville, who had applied for the latter post, was disappointed. In compensation, Cavaignac offered to represent France at the Brussels peace conference. between Austria and Piedmont. Tocqueville agreed, but the conference never took place.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Marquis Armand de Marrast (1801-1852) French journalist and politician, took an active part in the February 1848 revolution and was elected President of the Assembly.

Pellegrino Rossi (1787-1848) was a naturalized French Italian jurist and politician. He played a role, successively in Italy, Switzerland and France, before being assassinated in Rome in his native country.



Rossi  
murdered  
in Rome  
on  
15.11.1848

### Main historical events

- October 21: *Les Mémoires d'outre-tombe* begins serial publication in *La Presse* (until 8.2.1850).
- October 22: General Comte d'Hautpoul is appointed Governor General of Algeria.
- October 24: Goudchaux resigns from the Cavaignac government.
- October 25: Louis-Bonaparte visits V. Hugo to ask for his support (date not confirmed).
- October 28: *L'Événement* supports Louis Bonaparte's candidacy.
- November 2-4: The draft Constitution is adopted by a right-wing majority.
- November 10: At the Constituante, V. Hugo delivers a speech "on the question of encouragement for letters and the arts".
- November 12: Promulgation at the Place de la Concorde of the new constitution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic. The State must provide work or assistance to needy citizens. The executive was represented by a president elected for 4 years by universal suffrage, who appointed and dismissed ministers. A single Assembly, elected for 3 years, passed the laws.
- November 14: A. Marrast is elected President of the Assembly.
- November 15: Assassination of Rossi, former French ambassador to Rome, Italian, friend of Guizot.
- November 20: Louis Bonaparte publishes an election manifesto.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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#### Presidential candidacies

Candidate	Trend	%
L.-N. Bonaparte	Bonapartiste	74,44
L.-E. Cavaignac	Military, Curator	19,65
1) A. Ledru-Rollin	Republican, Far left	05,08
F.-V. Raspail	Republican, Far left	00,49
A. de Lamartine	Républicain	00,28
N. Changarnier	Monarchist	00,07



Following Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte's election as President, Tocqueville, who supports Cavaignac, considers resigning from the Assembly. Beaumont also leaves the French embassy in London.

Louis Napoléon Bonaparte in 1848

### Main historical events

- November 30: Departure from Paris, quai Saint-Bernard, of the 15th settlement convoy, comprising 865 people (including 40 children under the age of 2) bound for Algeria. Gobineau was outraged to see the Legitimists rally behind Louis-Napoléon's candidacy and "serve as a pedestal for the ambition of a Bonaparte".
- December 10: Louis Napoléon Bonaparte is elected President of the Republic with over 5.4 million votes; Cavaignac receives only 1.4 million. The scores of General Changarnier, Ledru-Rollin and Lamartine are negligible.
- December 20: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte is officially proclaimed President of the Republic and takes the oath before the Assembly. After swearing "to remain faithful to the democratic, one and indivisible Republic and to fulfill all the duties imposed by the Constitution", he forms a conservative cabinet chaired by Odilon Barrot, with Alfred de Falloux in charge of Public Instruction. Changarnier, despite or because of his legitimist fervor, was appointed commander of the Paris military division and commander of the Garde nationale mobile - Slavery abolished on Reunion Island.
- December 22: *L'Événement* expresses its disappointment with the cabinet proposed by the President.
- December 23: V. Hugo is invited to the Elysée Palace. First dinner organized by Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte.
- December 26: The Odilon Barrot ministry appears before Assembly.

## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Balzac spent the year in the Ukraine, in Wierzchownia, except for May, when he stayed with Madame Hanska in Kiev. Ill, he conceived a number of literary projects, but never realized them. He suffered from a "hypertrophy of the heart", had a "dreadful crisis" in June, and an "intermittent cephalalgic fever" at the end of October. Wierzchownia's doctor, Dr. Knothé, treats him - badly, it seems.

In July, Madame Hanska, who had sent a petition to the Tsar, learned of his decision: if she married Balzac, she would not be able to keep her properties.



Winter garden ball

the black 20 centimes Cérés,  
the first French stamp issued  
on January 1, 1849

### Main historical events

- January 1: The first French postage stamp is issued, the 20 centimes noir, in the Cérés de Barre type.
- January 4: Falloux forms a commission to study the school problem.
- January 10: Reorganization of Assistance Publique.
- January 11: The Duc de Noailles is elected to the Académie française. In the academic elections, Victor Hugo gave his vote to Balzac.
- January 15: Victor Hugo in front of the Assembly offices: "on the Question of Dissolution".
- January 18: Alexis de Saint-Priest is elected to the Académie française. Victor Hugo once again gave his vote to Balzac.
- January 20: Boulay de la Meurthe is elected Vice-President of the Republic.
- January 29: Alexis de Tocqueville votes for the Râteau proposal to repeal the Constituante's mandate; the proposal obtains only 5 majority votes.

Victor Hugo at the Assembly: "*On the separation of the Assembly*".

Changarnier's coup attempt fails. Winter garden ball.



## BALZAC and his times

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### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Two elections are held to the Académie française; on January 11 and 18, Balzac wins only a handful of votes. *Madame Marneffe où le Père prodigue*, an adaptation of *La Cousine Bette* by Louis Clairville (1811-1876), premieres at the Théâtre du Gymnase on January 4. The Furne et Cie bookshop puts *La Comédie humaine* back on sale (340 deliveries at 25 centimes starting in February). Charpentier reprints *Eugénie Grandet* in November.



March 3, start of the epidemic cholera



Antonin Moine (1796-1849)  
French Romantic sculptor

### Main historical events

- February 25: Hugo: On the night of February 25, following precise indications, the police raided Neuilly. About thirty individuals were seized, busy making powder and bullets. It was a real factory. A hundred or so escaped, escaping through the windows when the officers arrived. The others, caught red-handed, were taken to the prefecture. These men were working in a sort of cellar, at the bottom of which they had built a strange chapel: a gallows painted red, surrounded by red flags grouped with red bonnets. B. told me about it the next day, saying: "The old Republic had Saint Guillotinette. Will the future Republic have the gallows?"
- February 26: Inauguration of the Compiègne to Noyon section of the Creil to Saint-Quentin line by the Compagnie du chemin de fer du Nord.  
Victor Hugo speaks at the Assemblée "sur l'Achèvement du Louvre".
- March 3: Start of a cholera epidemic that lasts until September and claims more than 16,000 victims - The Rue de Poitiers "burgraves" (conservatives and monarchists) set up an Electoral Committee comprising 36 deputies. Victor Hugo is a member of the Rue de Poitiers Electoral Committee.
- March 7: The trial of the May 15 insurgents opens in Bourges, 1848.
- March 18: Reduced to poverty, sculptor Antonin Moine commits suicide.

# BALZAC and his times

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## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Rome Expedition

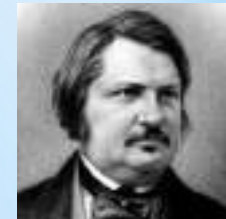
## Main historical events

- March 20: Death of Marie Dorval.
- March 28: Trial of Proudhon for his writings hostile to Louis Napoléon Bonaparte. He is sentenced to 3 years in prison.
- April 3: The High Court in Bourges delivers its verdict. Barbès and Albert are sentenced to deportation. Auguste Blanqui to 10 years' imprisonment, Sobrier 7 years, Raspail 6, Flotte and Quentin 5.
- April 7: Decision to create a legislative assembly through elections.
- April 16: A. de Tocqueville votes at the Assembly for credits to send an army corps to Rome, threatened by the Austrian army after its victory at Novara.
- April 21: In support of the "burgresses", the "Parti de l'Ordre" press created a "Comité de la presse modérée", of which *L'Événement* was a member.
- April 24: Expedition to Rome. General Oudinot's French troops disembark in the Papal States.
- April 30: General Oudinot, commanding French troops in Italy, is charged with preventing the Pope from being restored under the exclusive authority of Austria. In Rome, Garibaldi repulses Oudinot.
- May 7: The Constituent Assembly votes a reprimand against the government's foreign policy; the next day, Edmond Drouyn de Lhuys, Minister of Foreign Affairs, entrusts Ferdinand de Lesseps with a mission of conciliation between the pope and Roman Republican.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

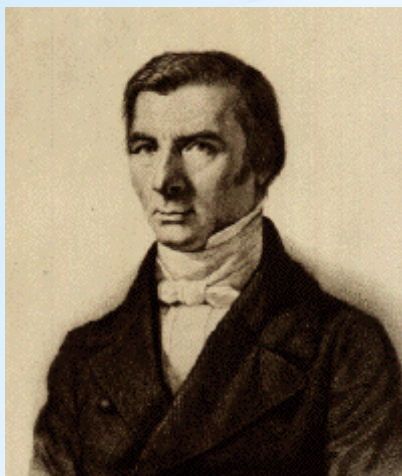


## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



Juliette Récamier dies of cholera



Léon Faucher



Cité Napoléon

## Main historical events

- May 7-23: Alexis de Tocqueville and his wife stay in Germany. In Frankfurt, he witnesses the crisis that leads to the dissolution of Parliament.
- May 8: Laying of the foundation stone for the working-class housing estate on rue de Rochechouart, completed in 1851 and named Cité Napoléon, the first example of Napoleon III's social housing policy.
- May 11: Juliette Récamier dies at 10 am. She dies of the cholera epidemic raging in Paris.
- May 13: Election of the Legislative Assembly. The Right (Order party) wins 450 seats.
- May 14: Resignation of Léon Faucher, Minister of the Interior, accused of abusive electoral maneuvers with prefects.
- May 26: The Constituent Assembly holds its final session.
- May 27: Hercule de Serre is appointed editor in the commercial department of the Foreign Office, and Arthur de Gobineau counts on him to find a position.
- May 28: The Legislative Assembly meets for the first time. André Dupin is elected president.
- May 29: Oudinot is authorized to resume hostilities against Rome.
- June 1: The Lesseps mission is recalled. The government's Italian policy is discussed at length in Assembly in the following days.



## BALZAC and his times

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During the Paris uprising of April 13-14 1834, the forces intended to quell the insurrection were divided into three brigades, one of which was commanded by Bugeaud.

When the army attacked a barricade on rue Transnonain (now rue Beaubourg), an officer was killed by a shot fired from a nearby house: the soldiers entered the house and killed all the inhabitants (men, women, old people and children). Although the location was not in the district assigned to the Bugeaud and that he himself had no part in it, the hatred of the people linked his name to the massacre and, despite the déclarations to the contrary, persisted in stigmatizing him as "l'homme de la rue Transnonain".

### Main historical events

- June 1: Opening of the Industry Products Show.
- June 2: A. de Tocqueville is appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in Odilon Barrot's government, and takes Arthur de Gobineau as his chief of staff. In his official dispatch of June 6, he declares to the French ambassadors in Rome and Naples: "I find that France has already embarked on a course that I was not called upon to choose. I hope, when decisive facts are accomplished, to preserve the States of the Church from the dangers of internal reaction and foreign intervention hostile to the liberties of Italy."
- June 3: On the basis of new instructions and in line with the shift in French policy towards the pope, Oudinot begins the siege of Rome; Karl Marx is in Paris.
- June 10: Bugeaud dies of cholera.
- June 11: The Roman intervention provokes Ledru-Rollin's request to impeach the Ministry for violation of the Constitution; this is rejected by the Assembly. Tocqueville intervenes only to refute rumors that part of the French cavalry has been destroyed.
- June 12: Demonstration announced by the Montagnards. On the grounds of the insurrection brewing in Paris, Tocqueville refuses the extreme left's request to communicate diplomatic documents relating to the siege of Rome, thereby demonstrating his solidarity with the Ministry.

# BALZAC and his times

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## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

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Punitive expeditions were launched in Paris against Republican newspaper printing works.



Joseph Arthur de Gobineau, known as the Comte de Gobineau, was a French diplomat and writer.



Château de Trie, owned by Arthur de Gobineau from 1857 to 1878

## Main historical events

- June 13: Last revolutionary day in Paris, led by Ledru-Rollin against the expedition launched in Italy to support Pope Pius IX against the Republican Giuseppe Mazzini (Huber). Paris and Lyon were placed under siege. With no real popular support, the Paris demonstration was quickly confined to the Rue Saint-Martin area, and crushed by the army: 8 dead. Montagnard leaders Ledru-Rollin and Félix Pyat were forced into exile.
- June 15: Punitive expeditions take place in Paris against Republican newspaper printing works;

Victor Hugo intervenes at the Legislative Assembly "*on the looting of printing works*";

By decree of Tocqueville, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gobineau was appointed Chef de Cabinet with a salary of 7,000 francs. While he was proud of his new responsibilities, he wasn't very sure of his future position, and his wife, forced to live in Paris, feared cholera and riots.

- June 17: *Le Siècle* reports on the deputies' dissatisfaction with Victor Hugo for the interpellation of the 15th.
- June 18: The Education Bill is presented to the Assembly.
- June 19: Suspension of the right of association. A law giving for one year to the government the right to ban any club or public meeting.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 7 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



Cane, by Honoré de  
Balzac, inlaid with  
turquoise stones

## Main historical events

- June 19: Armand de Melun tabled a proposal to hasten the drafting of laws on provident societies and public assistance. A parliamentary commission is to report on the proposal. Victor Hugo is a member.

Declaration by Victor Hugo before the offices of the Législative: "*to support the Melun proposal for an inquiry into misery.*"

- June 25: At the Assembly, Tocqueville defends a policy of European peace in response to two interpellations, by François Mauguin on the dangers of Russian expansion, and by Savoye on German affairs and the repression of the revolution in Baden by Prussian troops.
- June 26: Tocqueville briefly answers a question on the conflict between Germany and Denmark, arbitrated by Russia and the United Kingdom; attacked again by Mauguin on the intervention of Russian troops in Hungary and Poland, he rejects his hypothesis of a coalition of absolutist powers against the French Republic.

Victor Hugo's statement to the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Bureau "*against the law on teaching*" (law introduced by Falloux on the 18th).

- June 30: Oudinot enters Rome.
- July 3: General Oudinot takes Rome, and on the 14th proclaims the restoration of Pius IX.



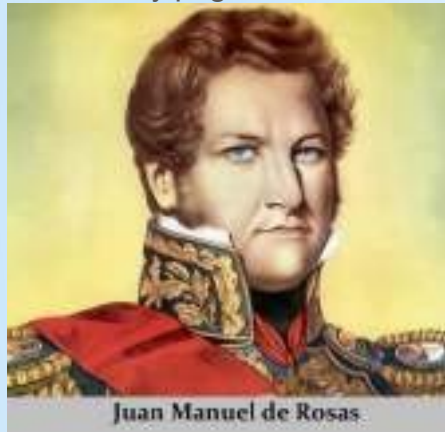
## BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 8 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



Manuel Oribe



Abolition in 1848 of slavery in the colonies  
French. Painting by Auguste François Biard.

### Main historical events

- July 5: Compagnie du chemin de fer de Paris à Strasbourg inaugurates the section of line from Paris to Meaux.
- July 8: Lamartine is elected in the Loiret (and additionally in the Saône-et-Loire) in supplementary elections.
- July 9: Victor Hugo gives a speech "on misery" at the legislative assembly. Victor Hugo denounces right-wing maneuvers to bury the Melun project.
- July 10: Rio de la Plata affair. Tocqueville submits to the Assembly an extraordinary credit bill to support Montevideo (Uruguay), besieged since 1843 by Manuel Oribe, the former president and ally of the Argentine dictator Rosas. Although he was in favor of the treaties negotiated by Admiral Le Prédour in the spring, which called for agreement with the latter, he wanted to maintain France's position of strength in future negotiations.
- July 12: Inauguration of the Viroflay Left Bank to Chartres section of the Paris to Le Mans line.
- July 14: *History of the 1848 Revolution*, by Lamartine.
- July 27: Laws restricting press freedom. The press law establishing prior authorization for publication is passed. adopted; it led to the disappearance of many newspapers. Peddlers were directly targeted.

Gobineau gave himself passionately to his duties with Tocqueville. He takes part in "diplomatic life at its fullest", and considers his position as an excellent school for political careers.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 9 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



The expedition to Rome in the spring of 1849 was designed to support Pope Pius IX in the face of the revolutionary unrest that had driven him from Rome.



Pope Pius IX



### Main historical events

- August<sup>1</sup>: Inauguration of the Saumur to Angers section of line by the Compagnie du chemin de fer de Tours à Nantes.
- August 6: At the Assemblée, Alexis de Tocqueville replies to Frédéric Arnaud de l'Ariège, who had questioned him on the Rome affair. He affirms the necessity of restoring the Pope's temporal power, but defends the principle of liberal institutions. On the same day, Piedmont and Austria signed the Peace of Milan, to which Franco-British mediation had contributed.
- August 9: An organic law on the state of siege is adopted.
- August 12: Inauguration of the Paris-Lyon railway line.
- Aug. 12-Sept. 5: French admiral Legorant de Tromelin fails in his attempt to seize Hawaii.
- August 17: Revival of Hugo's *Marie Tudor*.
- August 21: The International Peace Congress opens in Paris. Elected President of the International Peace Congress, Victor Hugo delivers the opening and closing speeches.
- August 24: Karl Marx leaves Paris for London.
- Aug. 24-Nov. 10: Gobineau's *L'Abbaye de Typhaines* appears in the *Union Monarchique*.
- August 26: Inauguration of the Meaux to Eprenay section of line by the Compagnie du chemin de fer de Paris à Eprenay in Strasbourg.

## BALZAC and his times

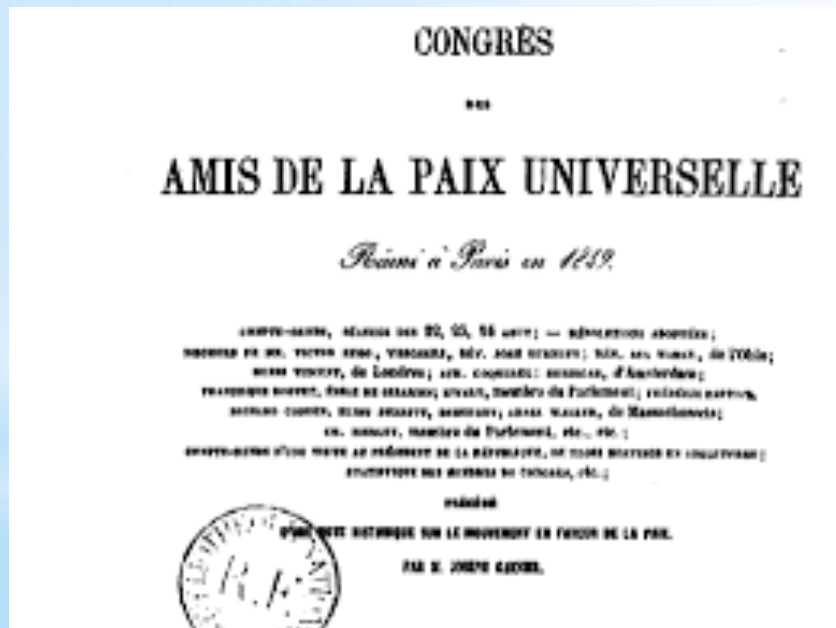
Year 1849 page 10 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281

Victor Hugo, a fervent supporter of universal peace



At the International Peace Congress in Paris, Victor Hugo, President, gave the opening and closing speeches.

### Main historical events

- August 27: Tocqueville elected President of the Conseil Général de la Manche - *La Revue provinciale* ceases publication.
- September 7: Louis Napoléon Bonaparte's letter to Edgar Ney, dated August 18, appears in the *Moniteur* on the 7th. The Prince President's disavowal of Pius IX's policy of reaction provoked a government crisis (the Legitimist minister Alfred de Falloux resigned) that served the interests of the Order party. For a time, Odilon Barrot considered giving way to Adolphe Thiers, who was portrayed by the satirical newspaper *La Silhouette* as spreading the rumor that "Toc-Toc is retiring from business to devote himself exclusively to the education and friendship of his greyhounds".
- September 8: Decree creating a provisional municipal commission that will last until the fall of the Second Empire.

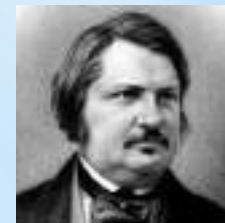
Victor Hugo and Juliette Drouet undertake a short trip to France. They return on September 17.

- September 17-30: Two depositions by Victor Hugo to the Conseil d'Etat "on the freedom of the theater".
- October 1: In *L'Événement*, Adèle Hugo publishes an article on the last year of Mme Dorval's life.
- October 12: To support the Sublime Porte, the French fleet is sent to the Dardanelles to join the British fleet.
- October 15: In front of the offices of the Legislative Assembly, Victor Hugo intervenes on the Rome expedition.



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 11 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



The last moments of F. Chopin. Painting (1849-1850) by Teofil Kwiatkowski - Frédéric Chopin Museum.



Frédéric Chopin is buried in Père-Lachaise cemetery.



## Main historical events

- October 16: Resolution of the crisis in the East. The Tsar agrees to the internment of Polish and Hungarian refugees in Turkish prisons, where they will remain for two years.
- October 17: Death of Frédéric Chopin.
- October 18-20: A. de Tocqueville reports to the Assembly on the Roman question, following the *Motu Proprio* and amnesty decreed by Pius IX on September 12. Two days later, Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte performs a spectacular volte-face, approving the pontifical policy.
- October 19: At the Législative, V. Hugo gives a speech "on the Expedition to Rome".
- October 20: Victor Hugo, to the Législative: "Réponse à Montalembert." - Inauguration of the Noyon to Chauny line (Creil to St-Quentin line) by the Cie de ch.de fer du Nord.
- October 21: V.Hugo writes his "*Lettre aux membres du Congrès de la Paix à Londres*" (to be published in *L'Événement* on 4.11).
- October 31: Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte dissolves the Odilon Barrot ministry and appoints a new government made up of ministers answerable only to the presidency (Rouher, Fould), from which Catholics are excluded (Ministry of Liberation). The new team, led by General d'Hautpoul, included several Bonapartist ministers. Tocqueville was no longer a minister, nor would he be again.
- November 9: By decree of Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, countersigned by d'Hautpoul, Gobineau is appointed<sup>1st</sup>

secretary to the French legation in Berne.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1849 page 12 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Summary pages 280 to 281



On October 7, General Herbillon arrived in Zaatcha with just over 4,000 men. It was the start of a siege that would last 53 days.



Honoré's coffee pot - Musée de Balzac

### Main historical events

- November 10: Inauguration of the section of line from Epernay to Châlons by the Compagnie du chemin de fer de Paris à Strasbourg.
- November 26: Battle of Zaatcha. The Zaatcha oasis, in southern Algeria between Biskra and Ouargla, the last island of resistance for the nomads led by Bou Ziam, Abd el-Kader's comrade-in-arms, falls to French troops after a 53-day siege. Of the 7,000 French soldiers involved, 1,500, including 30 officers, were killed or wounded, and 600 died of cholera.
- November 27: Law reiterating the ban on strikes.
- November 28: Gobineau leaves Paris to take up his post in Berne. In Berne, he first takes up residence at the Sommerleist near the old Morat Gate. In early January 1850, he moves to Rue des Gentilshommes (Junkerngasse).



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1850 p.1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

At the beginning of January, in Wierzchownia, Balzac suffers from a "terrible cold". Staying in Kiev, on the occasion of the "At the end of January-February, he is again seriously ill and stays in his room for 20 days. In Berditchev's Church of Saint Barbara, Abbot Victor Ozarowski blesses the marriage of Honoré de Balzac and Eve Rzewuska, widow of Wenceslas Hanski, on March 14. Balzac and his wife returned to Wierzchownia the same evening. At the end of March, during a final stay in Kiev to regularize passports, Balzac suffers from ophthalmia. On April 23, the Théâtre de la Gaîté revives *Vautrin* (without Balzac's authorization, who protests publicly; the play is withdrawn after 12 performances on May 12).



Saint Barbara's Church in Berditchev



### Main historical events

- January<sup>1</sup>: Inauguration of the Chauny-Tergnier section of the Creil-Saint-Quentin railroad (Cie du Nord).
- January 26: Adolphe Thiers presents the report of the Commission on Public Assistance and Welfare.
- February 4-8: Law on the organization of the tribunal des conflits.
- February 11: Creation of SACEM.
- March 10: Supplementary election to the Legislative Assembly. The far left wins 20 of the 30 seats up for grabs.
- March 15: Falloux Law on freedom of education, the Conseil supérieur de l'Instruction publique. Royal colleges revert to lycées. The University is placed under the control of the State and the Church via prefects and bishops; the Church is given free rein to create free universities. 257 free schools opened in France.
- April: Louis Désiré Blanquart-Evrard discovers the albumen photographic printing process.
- April 16: In Angers, the Basse-Chaîne bridge is destroyed by a violent storm as a regiment passes. 226 soldiers perish in the Maine River.
- April 28: New by-election in the Seine department, won by the democrat-socialist Eugène Sue against the conservative Alex. Leclerc.
- May 31: Law of May 31, 1850 restricting universal suffrage, which increases to 3 years the period of domicile attributing the right to vote, excluding 30% of voters, more than 3 million of poor voters..



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1850 page 2 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On April 24, Balzac and his wife left Wierzchownia to return to France and, with the thaw still in progress, found the roads in an appalling state. On April 30, they reached Austrian Galicia; on May 5, Krakow. They passed through Dresden (May 9-12), Frankfurt (May 16), Strasbourg (May 18 or 19), arriving in Paris on the 20th or 21st.



The Balzac couple

### Main historical events

- June 8: Restriction of press freedom and law on political deportation.
- July 2: Grammont Act, first law to protect domestic animals.
- July 10: Metz-Nancy line opens to passenger traffic, without official inauguration.
- July 16: New restrictive press law.
- August 18: Honoré de Balzac dies in Paris on rue Fortunée, now rue Balzac.
- August 21: Honoré de Balzac's funeral in the church of Saint Philippe-du-Roule in Paris.
- August 26: Louis-Philippe I dies in exile. The monarchists fail to unite between the Orleanists (Guizot, Thiers) and the Legitimists (Falloux, Berryer).
- October 10: Louis Napoléon Bonaparte is greeted by shouts of "Vive l'Empereur" at Satory.

Adolphe Gent forms the "Nouvelle Montagne" in Lyon, a secret society of left-wing deputies from 13 Mediterranean departments. Radical Republicans, excluded from parliamentary debate after the day of June 13, 1849, went underground.

Creation of the Société des auteurs, compositeurs et éditeurs de musique.

Mainland France: 3,083 kms of track, general and local railroads, industrial and commercial railroads street cars are in operation.

## BALZAC and his times

Year 1850 page 3 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

On May 30, Doctor Nacquart and three other doctors consult him. On June <sup>1</sup>, for the last time, Balzac writes a letter in full. On June 4, he and his wife made a notarized donation of their entire estate in the event of each other's death. On July 6, one of the May 30 consultants tells Victor Hugo that Balzac does not have "six weeks to live".

On July 9, Nacquart diagnosed peritonitis and had leeches put in. Around the 18th, Victor Hugo visits the patient: "They talked a lot and argued politically." On July 24, the punctures begin, "the water is pouring out", but Balzac remains optimistic.

On August 5, Eve de Balzac wrote to Auguste Fessart: "This poor thing is at the end of everything."

On Sunday August 18, Madame Victor Hugo arrived in rue Fortunée, but was not received because of the patient's condition; after dinner, Victor Hugo came to find him unconscious. At half past eleven in the evening, Balzac dies.

### Main historical events



August 18, 1850, 11:30 p.m., death of Honoré de Balzac by Eugène Giraud.

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, "Honoré de Balzac", written in a cursive script. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Signature of M. de Balzac.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1850 page 4 - Gregorian calendar

### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

His death certificate was drawn up on August 19 at the town hall of the 1st arrondissement (old) on the declaration of Eugène Surville and Laurent Jan.

On the 20th, Balzac's body is laid to rest in the chapel of Saint-Nicolas de Beaujon. The funeral took place on August 21, at 11 a.m., in the church of Saint-Philippe-du-Roule (3rd-class convoy). Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, Sainte-Beuve and Baroche, Minister of the Interior, held the funeral cords all the way to Père-Lachaise.

In his speech at Père-Lachaise, Victor Hugo paid tribute to Balzac's genius.



Burial of  
Honoré  
de Balzac  
at Père  
Lachaise



Père-Lachaise cemetery with  
69,000 perpetual concessions



Jules Baroche,  
Alexandre Dumas,  
Victor Hugo and  
Charles-Augustin  
Sainte-Beuve...



...come to pay their  
respects. They hold  
the stove's strings.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1854 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Posthumous publication in four volumes, by de Potter, of *Le Député d'Arcis* "by M. de Balzac (...) finished by M. Ch. Rabou".

Charles Félix Henri Rabou (born in Paris on September 6, 1803 - died in Paris on February 1, 1871) was a French lawyer, writer and journalist.

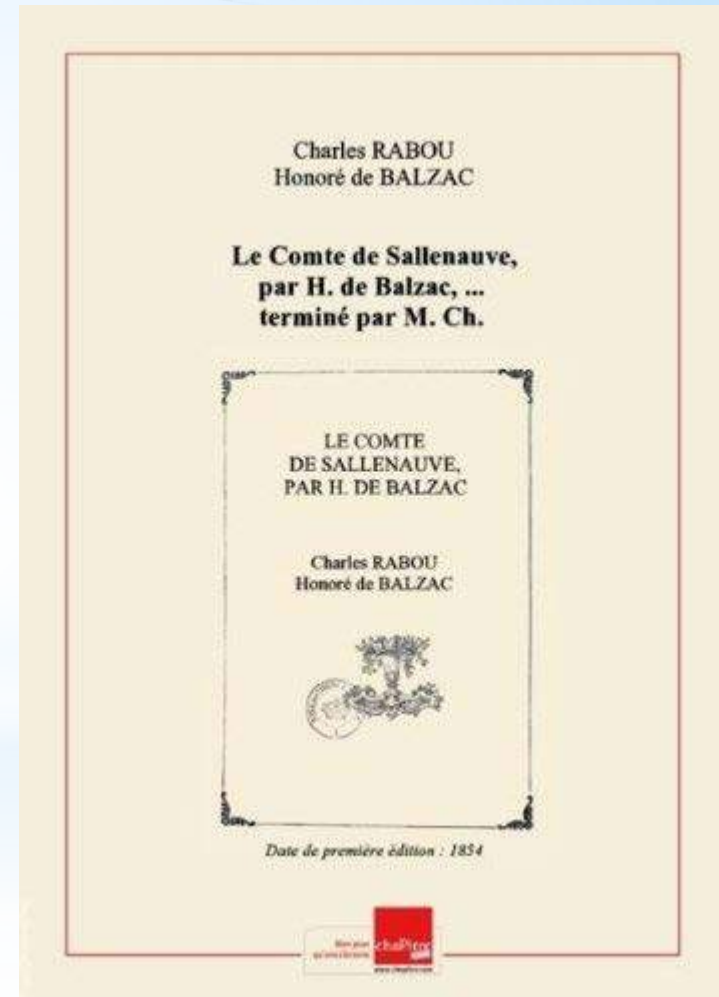
Director of the prestigious *Revue de Paris*, of which he was one of the founders, he befriended Honoré de Balzac, whom he published in the pages of his journal. Their mutual trust was such that Balzac entrusted him with the task of completing a number of unfinished novels after his death: *Le Député d'Arcis* (1854), *Le Comte de Salleneuve* (1855), *La Famille Beauvisage* (1855), *Les Petits Bourgeois* (1856); a task that Rabou carried out honestly, but which the critics greeted with coldness.

He was unfairly accused of being Balzac's negro. Yet Charles Rabou continued to produce works of fantasy literature that deserve to be rediscovered.



Le Député d'Arcis  
Part One

Novel published in 1855



# BALZAC and his times

Year 1855 page 1 - Gregorian calendar



## Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Posthumous publication, by A. Houssiaux, Furne's successor, of an eighteenth volume of *La Comédie humaine* containing *La Dernière Incarnation de Vautrin* (<sup>4th</sup> part of *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes*). *L'Initié* (part <sup>2</sup> of *L'Envers de l'histoire contemporaine*), *Les Paysans*, *Petites misères de la vie conjugale*.

The same year, a volume XIX of the *Théâtre de* H. de Balzac and in volume XX the *Contes drolatiques*.



*The images, photos, illustrations and texts used to create this literary, biographical and historical triptych are all taken from documents made available on the web. In particular, they have been taken from the Wikipedia encyclopedia, but also from many other sources. They are in no way the creation or property of the author of this site, who is passionate about Balzacian literature, history and 19th-century society, and wanted to bring these three aspects together in a collector's edition. The aim is to share and offer a visualization of Honoré de Balzac's life in a society battered by the economic crises engendered by the revolutions that swept through his era, to a public both in love with and curious about this period, the first part of the 19th century.*

*My personal thanks go to all those who have contributed to the transmission of knowledge and the preservation of the memory of our French cultural heritage.*

Knight of the Legion of Honour  
Founder and president of the Society of  
men of letters, he will assume, in turn, the  
activities of novelist, playwright,  
journalist, printer and critic  
literary.



## BALZAC and his times

Year 1856-1857 Gregorian calendar



### Biography of Honoré de Balzac

Posthumous publication of *Les Petits Bourgeois* in eight volumes by De Potter, under Balzac's signature alone, although the novel was completed by Charles Rabou.

Balzac's text goes no further than the first four, published as early as 1856.

The writings reported here in the biography of Honoré de Balzac are taken from the chronology of Balzac's life by :

**Roger PIERROT,**

Docteur es lettres, specialist in Honoré de Balzac

*(La pléiade edition n° :173172 - printed on 15.12.2009)*

This biography has also been enriched by some information taken from Balzac's chronology via the universal encyclopedia Wikipedia, and the geneanet.org website.



Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) was a writer who observed, analyzed and portrayed the mores of 19th-century society. His monumental work remains a highly topical caricature satirizing the vanities and possessions of our modern world contemporary society.