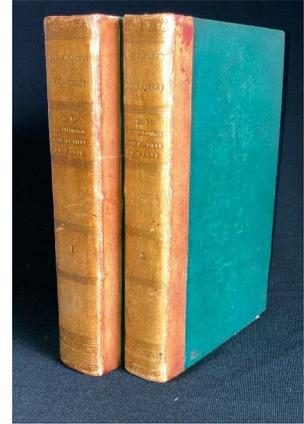


***The first edition of Parent-Duchâtelet's ground-breaking and influential study:
Prostitution in early 19th century Paris: read by Balzac, Dumas, and Sue.***

Alexandre Parent-Duchâtelet. *DE LA PROSTITUTION DANS LA VILLE DE PARIS: considérée sous le rapport de l'hygiène publique, de la morale et de l'administration: ouvrage appuyé de documens statistiques puisés dans les archives de la Préfecture de police / par A.-J.-B. Parent-Duchatelet ; précédé d'une notice historique sur la vie et les ouvrages de l'auteur, par Fr. Leuret.*

Paris: J.-B. Baillière, 1836. First edition.

\$875



2 volumes. 8°. Vol. 1: [i-v] vi-xxiv, [1] 2-624 pp. 2 folding maps and a folding chart; Vol. 2: [4], [1] 2-580 pp. Contemporary quarter leather over green paper covered boards, spine smooth with gilt rules and title, marbled endpapers, and exlibris of Serge Le Tellier on the front pastedown of vol. 1, and former ownership initials "L.B." on the half-titles. Scattered foxing on some leaves, minor edge wear to the boards, but otherwise a lovely contemporary copy.

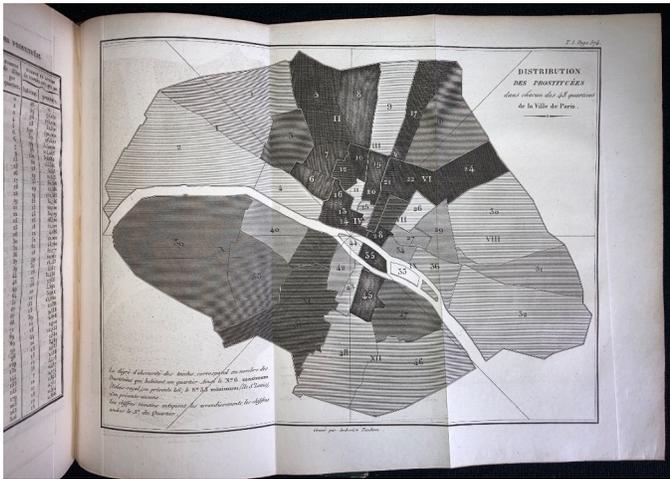
The comprehensive nature and scientific method of Parent-Duchâtelet's study has led scholars to refer to him as "*a veritable Linnaeus of prostitution.*" (Corbin) and "*the Newton of Harlotry*" (White).

"A portion of the materials which I used to write this article are taken from Parent-Duchâtelet's precious work; then for the things that Parent-Duchâtelet forgot, I appealed to some of my friends..."

Alexandre Dumas, *Filles, lorettes et courtisanes* (1843).

Parent-Duchâtelet's two volume study is significant both for the comprehensive documentation of early 19th century prostitution and for the empiricism of his socio-anthropological approach. The work drew its conclusions from direct investigation and evidence, discovered by the author through firsthand observation, interviews, and police records, to which he had official access. Prostitution was prominent in Paris in the post-Napoleonic period, especially in the Palais Royal, a district known to many readers through the work of Honoré de Balzac, Alexandre Dumas, Eugène Sue, to name three, all of whom drew on Parent-Duchâtelet's study (cf. Bernheimer, 1985; Corbin 1981, et al.).

Alexandre-Jean-Baptiste Parent-Duchâtelet (1790-1836) was a physician who dedicated eight years to this monumental and scientific study of all aspects of prostitutes and prostitution, down to the number of prostitutes located in each quartier of Paris, and the respective social class of their clients. The author believed that problem with prostitution was a medical one and not a moral one, whose ills could be cured by understanding its historical and practical aspects, and by methodically regulating the health and habits of prostitutes and brothels. He previously published another health-related study on the Paris sewers in *Essai sur les cloaques ou égouts de la ville de Paris* (1824), where he made various hygienic recommendations to improve the conditions of the city vast waste system.



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N°	QUARTIER	nombre de filles par quartier	nombre de femmes de terrain occupées par prostitution
1	St-Germain-l'Auxerrois	0	15
2	St-Germain-des-Près	4	24
3	St-Martin-des-Grands	5	13
4	St-Martin-des-Champs	6	25
5	St-Jacques	7	16
6	St-Etienne-Montfaucon	7	16
7	St-Etienne-du-Mont	8	17
8	St-André-des-Arts	8	17
9	St-André-des-Arts	9	18
10	St-André-des-Arts	10	19
11	St-André-des-Arts	11	20
12	St-André-des-Arts	12	21
13	St-André-des-Arts	13	22
14	St-André-des-Arts	14	23
15	St-André-des-Arts	15	24
16	St-André-des-Arts	16	25
17	St-André-des-Arts	17	26
18	St-André-des-Arts	18	27
19	St-André-des-Arts	19	28
20	St-André-des-Arts	20	29
21	St-André-des-Arts	21	30
22	St-André-des-Arts	22	31
23	St-André-des-Arts	23	32
24	St-André-des-Arts	24	33
25	St-André-des-Arts	25	34
26	St-André-des-Arts	26	35
27	St-André-des-Arts	27	36
28	St-André-des-Arts	28	37

The map of Paris by quartier with the distribution of prostitutes. The accompanying chart provides the count of prostitutes and an index number for each quartier on the map.

Working directly with the records and archive of the Paris police and direct observation, Parent-Duchâtelet produced a rational and empirically derived report; his report is a systematic and comprehensive investigation of his subject from all angles, beginning with a definition of prostitutes & prostitution (both legal and clandestine); the number of registered prostitutes in Paris by quartier (including a graph covering a 21 year period); a sociological study of their living conditions and family situation; the moral, religious, and social customs of prostitutes, including self-reflective interviews revealing their opinions of their profession and themselves; details concerning the management and administration of brothels; where they are found and where they are allowed to operate; and the details of clandestine prostitution operating out of cafes, wineshops, and other establishments. Volume two addresses the sanitary and medical aspects of prostitution, including frequency of, symptoms, treatment, and consequences of venereal disease among prostitutes, and an account of hospitals for treatment, prisons for the repression of, and other legal and administrative matters concerning prostitution.

Below: A map of France indicating the number of prostitutes by Department, 1816-1831

