



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

The French Department

Trinity College Dublin

requests the pleasure of your company at the

Fourth Annual Barbara Wright

Memorial Lecture in French Studies

to be delivered by

Professor Mary Orr

(Buchanan Chair of French, University of St Andrews)

on

Miscarriages of Critical Representation?

**Looking again at (mid-) Nineteenth-Century French and Francophone Travel
Writing**

at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 15 May 2024

in the Neill Lecture Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub,

followed by a reception in the Hoey Ideas Space

&

the launch of Professor Wright's edition

of Édouard de Tocqueville's

Voyage en Angleterre, en Écosse et en Irlande (Paris: Champion, 2022)



Augustus Leopold Egg, 'The Travelling Companions' (1862)

RSVP by Friday 10 May 2024 to Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, FTCD, salynsta@tcd.ie

Résumé

In French nineteenth-century artistic and intellectual circles, travels, time out and political exile inform the renewed productions of key figures such as Mme de Stael, Flaubert, Fromentin, Hugo and Sand. Travels also inform the periodisation of major oeuvres, and their critical understanding subsequently. But do major French nineteenth-century prose writers divide so neatly into those clearly on the move and those based firmly at home? In honour of the keen scholarly interests of the late Barbara Wright in artistic travel and its intermedial genres, this talk re-examines the importance of artist travelling companions as both formative and informative of transgressive literary styles in different genres. By starting and ending with Barbara's meticulous posthumous edition of Édouard de Tocqueville's *Voyage en Angleterre, en Écosse et en Irlande* (1824), the talk explores privileged travel and its companions by investigating among others the early and later works of Flaubert, Fromentin and Sand. The central critical question is the inherent paradox of travel genres: peregrination like pilgrimage only properly begins when the artist-traveller returns home.

About the lecture

The French Department of Trinity College Dublin is delighted to announce the fourth Annual Barbara Wright Memorial Lecture in French Studies. The series has been established to honour the memory of Professor Barbara Wright (1935-2019) and will be inspired by her broad scholarly interests and achievements. A renowned specialist primarily in nineteenth-century literature and textual and visual studies, Professor Wright's distinction was recognised by the French Government: she was made a Chevalier de l'ordre national du mérite in 1975 and a Chevalier de la légion d'honneur in 2019. A renowned expert on painter, writer and art critic Eugène Fromentin, Professor Wright's interests extended beyond literature to art and music. The *Barbara Wright Prize*, awarded annually to the Senior Sophister in the French Department who obtains the highest result (and not less than a First) in French literature, is an inspiring and enduring testimony to her scholarly rigour. For further details see <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/barbara-wright-obituary-acclaimed-scholar-who-broke-trinity-glass-ceiling-1.4142965>.