

The book was found

The Allure Of The Archives (The Lewis Walpole Series In Eighteenth-Century Culture And History)



Synopsis

Arlette Farge's *Le Goût de l'archive* is widely regarded as a historiographical classic. While combing through two-hundred-year-old judicial records from the Archives of the Bastille, historian Farge was struck by the extraordinarily intimate portrayal they provided of the lives of the poor in pre-Revolutionary France, especially women. She was seduced by the sensuality of old manuscripts and by the revelatory power of voices otherwise lost. In *The Allure of the Archives*, she conveys the exhilaration of uncovering hidden secrets and the thrill of venturing into new dimensions of the past. Originally published in 1989, Farge's classic work communicates the tactile, interpretive, and emotional experience of archival research while sharing astonishing details about life under the Old Regime in France. At once a practical guide to research methodology and an elegant literary reflection on the challenges of writing history, this uniquely rich volume demonstrates how surrendering to the archive's allure can forever change how we understand the past.

Book Information

File Size: 344 KB

Print Length: 150 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (September 24, 2013)

Publication Date: September 2, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00EZ22DHC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #183,980 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #37

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Historiography #118 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > France #152 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Authorship

Customer Reviews

First published in French in 1989, this book is now available to English readers thanks to translator

Thomas Scott-Railton, who appears to have produced a very fine rendering of the original work. As the "Forward" by Natalie Zemon Davis explains, author Arlette Farge is a social historian who has focused on eighteenth-century France. But this book of hers is not another historical monograph. It is, instead, a book about the experience, value, and proper uses of archival research. In other words, in *The Allure of the Archives*, Farge does not practice her craft so much as she elegantly describes and reflects on it. The author's approach is to toggle back and forth between descriptive, analytical chapters and brief, autobiographical sections--which tend to reveal how petty and annoying some people in the archives can be, and how one easily distinguishes between veterans and rookies. Along the way, Farge puts in a good word for the necessary task of transcribing old, handwritten documents. Though tedious, she insists that there is something essential and rewarding about such work (15-17). In a section titled "Her Presence," she notes that if traditional histories often omit women, the archives never do: "In every popular expression of emotion, in groups large and small, women were on the scene and dove in headfirst into the action" (39). Farge is convinced that the prime way of getting at social history is to focus on conflict: "Why not choose to take a deliberately provocative position on this, and assert that society's character manifests itself through antagonisms and conflicts? It is more important to say this than ever, because today there is a tendency to doubt the centrality of conflict" (43).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Allure of the Archives (The Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century Culture and History)
Eighteenth-Century Utopian Fiction (Studies In Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature Series)
Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives (Oxford Series on History and Archives)
Lewis' Practice of Surgery - Brain, Fractures of the Skull, Cranial Nerves, Spinal Column and Cord, Fractures of the Spine, Blood Vascular System, Skin, Syphilis, Electrosurgery (Lewis' Practice of Surgery, Volum XII)
Sovereign Power and the Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Literature and the Problem of the Political (Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850)
The Acadian Diaspora: An Eighteenth-Century History (Oxford Studies in International History)
Agriculture in Britain and America, 1660-1820: An Annotated Bibliography of the Eighteenth-Century Literature (Bibliographies and Indexes in World History)
Caste, Society and Politics in India from the Eighteenth Century to the Modern Age (The New Cambridge History of India)
Jews in Another Environment: Surinam in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century (Brill's Series in Jewish Studies, Vol 1)
The Enlightenment and the Book: Scottish Authors and Their Publishers in Eighteenth-Century Britain, Ireland, and America
Merchants of Canton and Macao: Politics and Strategies in Eighteenth-Century Chinese Trade
Sevres Porcelain: Makers and Marks

of the Eighteenth Century New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in
Eighteenth-Century Manhattan The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume C: The
Restoration and the Eighteenth Century Poetry and the Police: Communication Networks in
Eighteenth-Century Paris The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 1C: The Restoration
and the Eighteenth Century (4th Edition) Merchants and Luxury Markets: The Marchands Merciers
of Eighteenth-Century Paris Planets, Potions, and Parchments: Scientifica Hebraica from the Dead
Sea Scrolls to the Eighteenth Century Standard Catalog of World Coins 1701-1800 (Standard
Catalog of World Coins Eighteenth Century, 1701-1800) PERO: The Life of a Slave in
Eighteenth-Century Bristol

[Dmca](#)