

# Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

## About Collection 12

*Early European Books* Collection 12 gathers an exciting selection of titles from the prestigious Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris on the topics of **history** and **governance**, drawn from works published across France, from the earliest Incunabula to items dating from the late 17th century. Collection 12 is enhanced by the inclusion of item-by-item USTC subject categorizations throughout, an additional search feature enabling and enhancing navigation across the product.

The heart of Collection 12 covers **French history**, beginning with the times of ancient Gaul and continuing through the Middle Ages, up to and including the early modern period itself. The titles range from royal biographies and genealogy to provincial chronicles to memoirs of senior statesmen and to ecclesiastical history. Collection 12 also reaches beyond France's borders, covering classical times, histories of Europe, of the Middle East or Holy Land and accounts of the New World, as well as studies in **military history**, **antiquities** and **numismatics**.

Explore numerous editions of the works of major ancient Greek and Roman historians, often the only source of knowledge about the ancient world during the early modern period. Additionally, the *Histoire romaine* by Nicolas Coeffeteau (1574-1623), a Catholic theologian and historian heralded in his day as one of the finest living exponents of French prose, is contained in this collection. Coeffeteau's work spans the history of Rome from the time of the first emperor, Augustus, to that of the first Christian emperor, Constantine, who relocated the centre of the empire to Constantinople in 330 CE. Collection 12 builds from this end-point with a gathering of histories covering the later Roman Empire, and the beginning of the Byzantine Empire.

There is a swathe of titles within the collection concerned with the Ottoman Empire and the history of the Turks, as well as a handful of titles originally written in Arabic during the Middle Ages. These include a 1651 edition of the Latin version of the *Chronicon Oriental*, a tabulated history of the world that was originally composed in Egypt during the 13th century.

Researchers will find works by three noted historians from the medieval period, Gregory of Tours (538-594), Jean Froissart (1337-1405) and Enguerrand de Monstrelet (1400-1453). Gregory is included with copies of a Paris, 1561 edition of his best-known work, the *Historia Francorum* or *History of the Franks*., Froissart's most famous work, the *Chroniques* or *Chronicles* – an influential account of the Hundred Years' War – is represented in a multi-volume 16th-century Anthoine Verard edition. An eye witness to the English interrogation of the Maid of Orléans, Joan of Arc, Monstrelet's *Chroniques* covers the latter part of the Hundred Years' War and is presented in a selection of editions including that of Marc Orry from 1603.

Collection 12 contains an abundance of items related to the **histories of the cities and provinces that now make up modern France**. Selections reveal details about the **French monarchy**, either at the level of individual reigns or within the context of much broader chronicles. This collection also features a grouping of titles that reflect on the French Wars of Religion (1562-1598),

Selections throughout Collection 12 also touch on **political matters** and **governance**. Chief among the highlights from these titles are a multi-volume 1663 edition of the *Memoires, ou, Oeconomies royales d'estat, domestiques, politiques, et militaires de Henry le Grand* by Maximilien de Béthune, the 1st Duke of Sully (1589-1611) and an emblem-book riposte to Machiavelli by the Spanish diplomat Diego de Saavedra Fajardo (1584-1648), originally published in 1640 and translated here into French as *Le prince chretien et politique* (Paris, 1668).

