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Jean Meslier Papers

Collection ID ARCH00883
Creator Meslier, Jean
Period c.1864
Extent 0.1 m.
Language list English
Language of Material French

Context

Biographical Note
Born in Mazerny, France 1664, died in Étrépigny, France 1729 or 1733; priest in Étrépigny from 1689; in secret a very early atheist and socialist, which became known after his death through the discovery of his remarkable 'Le Testament', in which the peasants were defended and the church attacked, unheard of in those days; excerpts of his writings in particular concerning his antireligious opinions were published by Voltaire and others, and served later as a basis for anti-Christian writings; his 'Le Testament' was rediscovered in the 1960s.

Content and Structure

Content
Manuscript (copy) of the 'Mémoire', published in 1864 under the title 'Le Testament' with a preface by Rudolf Charles (pseudonym of R.C. d'Ablaing van Giessenburg).

Subjects

Geographic Names
France

Themes
Religious movements/Anti-clericalism/Atheism

Material Type
Archival material

Access and Use

Access
Not restricted

Preferred Citation

International Institute of Social History 3
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1. Manuscript (copy) of the 'Mémoire', published in 1864 under the title 'Le Testament' with a preface by Rudolf Charles (pseudonym of R.C. d'Ablaing van Giessenburg). 1864. 1 cover