



Aux sources de *La Fortune des Rougon*

Le dossier préparatoire

Publication type: Article from a collective work

Collective work: [Relire *La Fortune des Rougon*](#)

Author: Becker (Colette)

Abstract: Zola returned to the conception of the novel that, influenced by his masters (Émile Deschanel, Taine, and Balzac), he had sought to establish since 1864-1866. He wanted to differentiate himself from these models by drawing on recent research into heredity. He envisaged ten novels, of which the first, the novel of "origins", was *La Fortune des Rougon*. He interwove two plots: the taking of power by the Rougons and Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, and a loosely sketched idyll between two adolescents,

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