



How does one become a writer without a baccalauréat?

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Revue d'Histoire littéraire de la France](#)

3 – 2020, 120^e année, n° 3. Formations d'écrivains au XIX^e siècle. Écoles, sociabilités, autodidaxies

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Abstract: Coming from the generation of writers born around 1840, Daudet, Zola, and Coppée did not have a baccalauréat. With no material or intellectual heritage, they had to build their career as self-taught writers through the press and literary sociability. This article lends particular focus to their relationship with the Académie Française and how they later discussed the difficulties of their youth.

Pages: 537 to 548

Journal: [Journal of French Literary History](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406107446

ISBN: 978-2-406-10744-6

ISSN: 2105-2689

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-10744-6.p.0025

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 08-15-2020

Periodicity: Quarterly

Language: French

Keyword: Baccalauréat, Académie française, press, autodidact, poverty

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