

# **FIRST PRINCIPLES OF FRENCH PRONUNCIATION**

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First principles of French pronunciation by Émile Saillens & E. R. Holme

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BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION ON THE  
ORGANS OF SPEECH

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THIS LITTLE BOOK  
IS RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED  
TO  
PROFESSOR PAUL PASSY  
DOCTEUR EN LETTRES  
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AND  
DR. WILHELM VIËTOR  
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## PREFACE

THIS book is for English-speaking people. It has a three-fold object.

First, it should serve those general readers or speakers of French whose feeling for the language is such that they will not rest content with a mere rough-and-ready approximation to the way in which it is pronounced by Frenchmen. Secondly, its concern is with teachers and their pupils already devoted to the "direct" method of modern-language study, as also with those who are liberal enough to give that method a trial. Thirdly, it may furnish a handy epitome of its subject for academic students of French, whose needs must be met more in detail by the advanced investigations of the recognized specialists, and particularly those native to the language.

The educational principles of the book will be found in the list of *principes pédagogiques* formulated by the *Association Phonétique Internationale*, whose standard and system are here adopted :—

"Le premier soin du maître doit être de rendre parfaitement familiers aux élèves les sons de la langue étrangère. Dans ce but il se servira d'une transcription phonétique, qui sera employée à l'exclusion de l'orthographe traditionnelle pendant la première partie du cours."



and arduous labour of foreign pronunciation, as well as train the ear for nice discrimination between familiar and unfamiliar sounds. We know, further, both as learners and instructors, how greatly interest increases with increase of certainty and power of discernment.

In order to be of most practical use, we have avoided superfluous technicality and scientific minuteness. If, for example, we do not describe the position of the tongue, at the production of a certain sound, in the exactest detail, it is because we are not writing for those who require such perfection as matter of scientific record, or for those who have no skill at all in the use of the tongue for articulate speech.

Intelligent beings may do the same thing in less than precisely the same way. We prefer to neglect a tedious particularity, because we know it will be neglected in practice.

We gratefully acknowledge the advantage we have secured for our readers by our being able to include Professor Anderson Stuart's *INTRODUCTION ON THE ORGANS OF SPEECH*. It contains all the anatomical and physiological groundwork that can be required, and should be of unique value, as written by an eminent specialist of vocal physiology in the concise and cogent expression of a long-experienced teacher.

In conclusion, we wish to record our deep indebtedness to those from whose personal teachings or publications we have learnt and received stimulus to our task, whether individually or in common, and particularly to Professor Paul Passy (University of Paris), Professor Wilhelm