

CETHEFI corpus - 18th century French plays

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des Théâtres de la Foire et de la Comédie-Italienne

Literature and history lab dedicated to the study of fairground theaters and Italian Comedy in Paris during the 18th century

Founded by Françoise Rubellin in 1999



Multiple interdisciplinary approaches

- Edition and analysis of unpublished plays
- Musical studies ([Theaville](#))
- VR reconstructions of no longer existing theatres ([VESPACE](#))
- Analysis of accounting registers study ([RECITAL](#))

Theatre locations - 18th-century Paris



Theaters with privilege (monopoly)

L'Opéra (Académie royale de musique, 1669)

La Comédie-Française (1680)



Louis XIV

Theaters without privilege

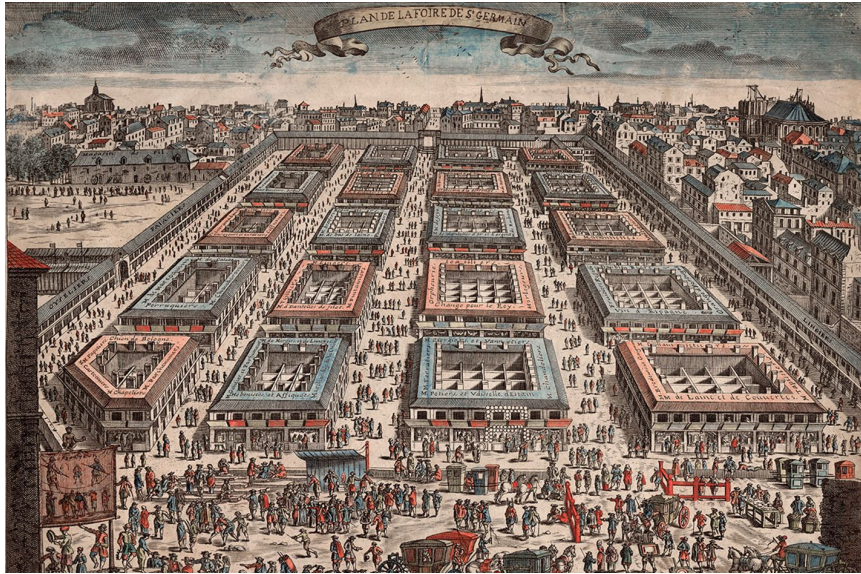
La **Comédie-Italienne** (closed from 1697 to 1716)



CETHEFI-DraCor corpus

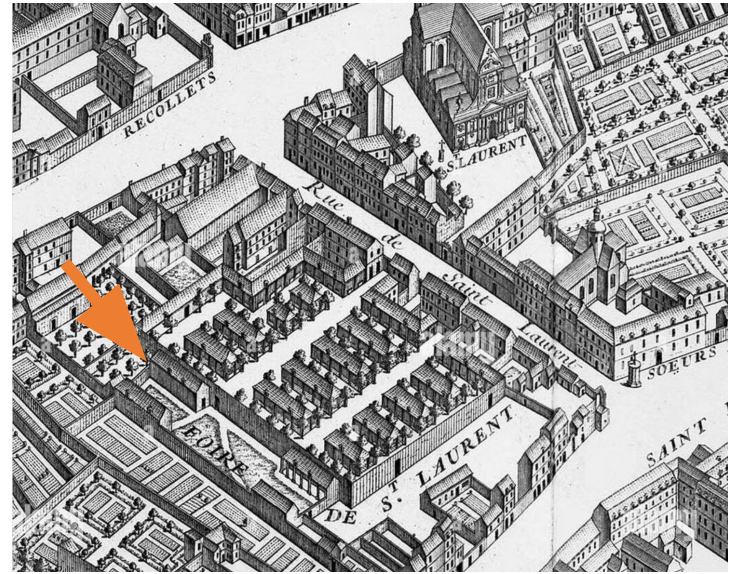
Theaters without privilege

Les Théâtres de la Foire



Foire Saint-Germain

February-March

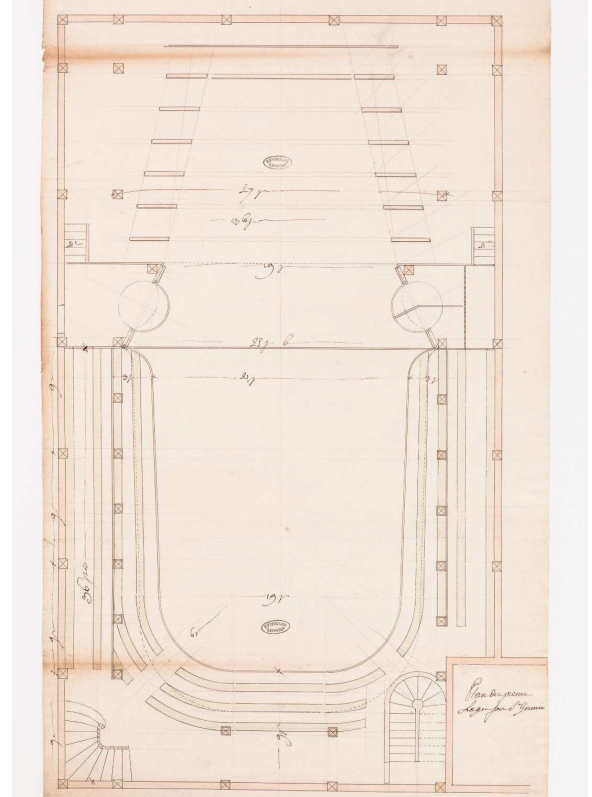


Foire Saint-Laurent

late July to late September

Misconceptions about fair theaters

- not performed outside (dedicated indoor venues, from 300 to 1000 spectators)
- not a low-cost production
- not only for lower classes ("le peuple"): the audience was similar to that of other established theaters — even the King attended in 1722
- about 4 troupes and 4 performance spaces active at each fair



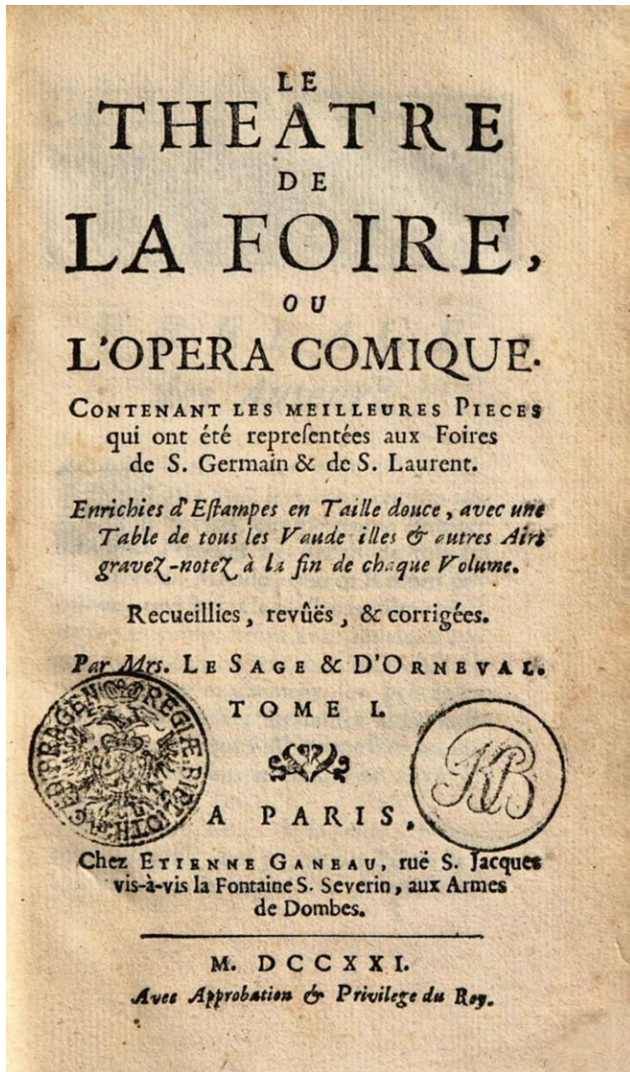
The theater wars (first half 18th c.)



Prohibitions	Solutions	
Comedy	Separate scenes	
Dialogue	Monologue with many tricks and devices	
Speaking French	Pieces in jargon and fanciful languages	
Speaking	Pantomime	
Singing	- Signs (placards) - Opéra-comique	CETHEFI-DraCor corpus
Actors on stage	Puppets	CETHEFI-DraCor corpus

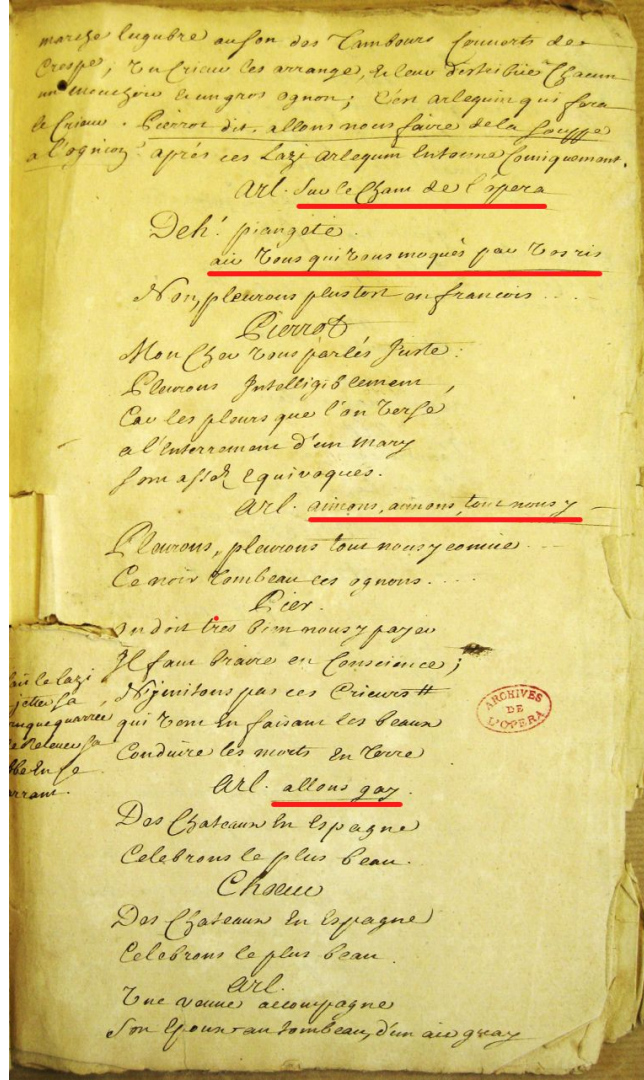
CETHEFI Corpus specificities

- Some plays have been edited (Le Sage et D'Orneval, Favart, Pannard...) but the selection remains partial and biased
- A vast handwritten, non-published corpus still exists
- Overlap with the current FreDracor: 13 parodies, 2 fairground plays, 1 puppet play



Corpus example

- Vaudevilles (well-known tunes, "sur l'air de") are a corpus specificity
- Theaville (started in 2012) database
<http://www.theaville.org/>



air : Vous qui vous
moquez par vos ris

air : Aimons, aimons, tout
nous y [convie]

air : Allons gai

Theaville

base de données théâtre & vaudevilles

Le projet

Les pièces

Les vaudevilles

Le lab

Liste



Compositeurs



Sources

♥ Top 50



Cotillon de Monsieur le Duc
Ah Monsieur le capitaine
Ah Ah Monsieur le magister
Monsieur le prévôt des marchands



Qu'il pleuve, qu'il vente, qu'il tonne
À boire à boire.



Au premier acte languissante
À la santé de la folie.



Achève ma vengeance Atys connais ton crime
Achève ma vengeance.



Arlequin Thétis, ed. 1721 and ed. Theaville.org

SCENE III.

THÉTIS, DORIS, NEPTUNE,
PELÉE.

NEPTUNE.

Il s'approche de Thétis. Il la salue, &
chante :

AIR 14. (*Vouslez-vous savoir qui des deux*)

Belle Thétis, je vous promets
Mes maquereaux, mes harangs frais.
Il est vrai que Jupin mon frere
A pris le gros lot, sans façon ;
Mais, je fais bien meilleure chere
Que lui, ma Déesse, en poisson.

THÉTIS.

AIR 5. (*Quand le peril est agreable*)

Neptune, avec reconnoissance
Je reçois vos soins empressez.

NEPTUNE.

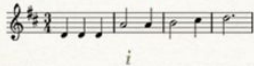
Oh, parbleu ! Ce n'est point assez.
Pour payer ma constance.

SCÈNE III

THÉTIS, DORIS, NEPTUNE, PELÉE

NEPTUNE. *il s'approche de Thétis. Il la salue, et chante*

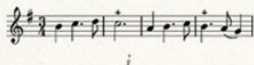
Air : *Vouslez-vous savoir qui des deux*



Belle Thétis, je vous promets
Mes maquereaux, mes harengs frais.
Il est vrai que Jupin mon frere
A pris le gros lot, sans façon ;
Mais, je fais bien meilleure chere
Que lui, ma Déesse, en poisson.

THÉTIS

Air : *Quand le péril est agreable*



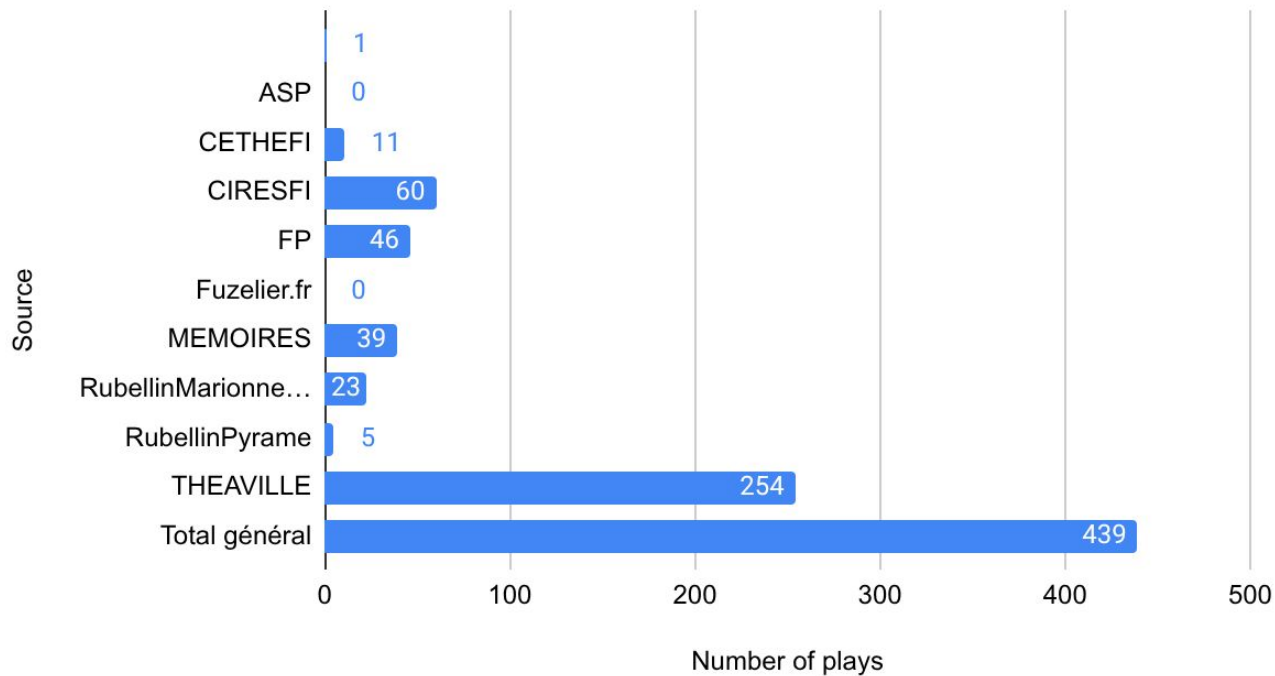
Neptune, avec reconnaissance
Je reçois vos soins empressez.

NEPTUNE

Oh, parbleu ! ce n'est point assez
Pour payer ma constance.

CETHEFI corpus size

Number of plays per origin



Heterogeneous digital sources

- Theaville (250 plays) + FP PhD (45 plays): custom **LaTeX format**
 - custom python script to convert to TEI 95% of the content
 - some manual tweaking required
- CIRESFI (60 plays): **TEI**
 - some duplicates with Theaville
- Student Master's thesis (39 plays) + books (28 plays): **Word (docx/odt) format**
 - usage of the Odette conversion tool <https://github.com/oeuvres/Odette> to convert from .odt to TEI
 - post-processing script in python
 - manual tweaking required



Thanks to **Camille MASSELOT**, **Laurine MENY** and **Eline TWOREK**

Issue: how to express metric and musical information ?

- Possible overlaps in different tunes/melodies
 - How to determine a **unique id** => usage of Theaville for now
- Tune information TEI encoding
 - How to properly express in TEI esp. the tune information? For the moment:

```
<stage type="metamelody"  
ana="#peril_agreable">Quand le péril est  
agréable</stage>
```
- Research in versification metrics
 - encoded in LaTeX
 - requires the [Verse](#) TEI module (not activated in DraCor) to define `<metDecl>` and `<l met="16">`



Open questions

248 plays converted for now

Available at <https://gitlab.univ-nantes.fr/cethefi/cethefi-tei>



Pending fixes for some conversion/encoding issues

1. Expression of **metric and musical information**
2. **Alignment with wikidata** in progress
3. Need to setup a **proofreading and editing environment**
 - For the moment visualisation (with TEI Boilerplate) at <https://cethefi.univ-nantes.io/cethefi-tei/>
 - Search for accessible (to researchers and students) environments (visualisation, edition)

The end - thank you for your attention

