

George Sand

Collected Works



Series Thirteen

The Collected Works of GEORGE SAND

(1804-1876)



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The Collected Works of GEORGE SAND



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Collected Works of George Sand



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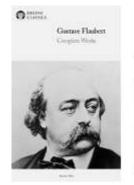




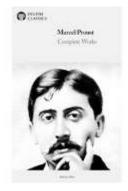




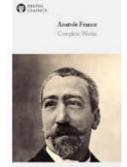
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The Novels



'Place du Chatelet and the new Fontaine du Palmier, Paris' by Etienne Bouhot, 1810 — Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin, best known by her pen name George Sand, was born in Paris on the 1 July 1804.



The birthplace, 15 rue Meslay, 3e arrondissement



Maurice Dupin de Francueil, the father of George Sand. He was the grandson of the Marshal General of France, Maurice, Comte de Saxe and a sixth cousin of Kings Louis XVI, Louis XVIII and Charles X of France.



Portrait of George Sand as a child by her grandmother Marie-Aurore de Saxe, 1810

Indiana (1832)



Translated by George Burnham Yves, 1900

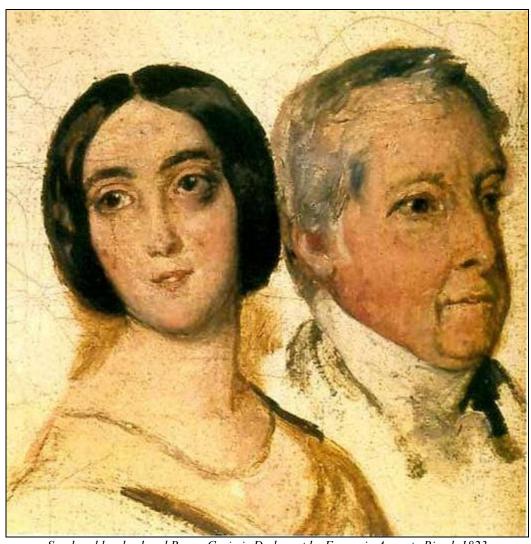
Indiana was first published in Paris, France in May 1832 by Roret and Dupuy. The novel was reprinted and revised many times over the course of the following ten to fifteen years. By the 1860's, the version of the novel printed was stylistically and substantively different from the original text. It was the author's first novel under the pseudonym George Sand, which she would use for all her subsequent works, rather than her legal name, Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin. She used a pseudonym because, at the time, male writers were far more respected than their female counterparts. Sand believed that her work wouldn't be taken seriously if she were to publish it under her birth name. Indiana was successful and Sand quickly became one of the best-known authors and novelists of the mid-nineteenth century. She was such a prolific writer that by the mid-1830's she had already published enough novels to warrant a collection of her works.

Her first novel centres on the eponymous heroine, a young noblewoman descended from French colonialists that settled on the French island colony of Réunion. Indiana is locked in a loveless and cold marriage to Colonel Delmare, an older man and exarmy officer. She is desperately unhappy in the relationship and yearns for desire and affection. She soon finds herself attracted to her handsome and charming young neighbour, Raymon de Ramière, who, unbeknownst to Indiana, has recently seduced her maid, Noun. The novel explores the issues of infidelity, desire and romantic love and the social constraints placed upon women.

The narrative is clearly inspired by Sand's own personal life. In 1822, at the age of eighteen, she had married Casimir Dudevant, an out-of-wedlock son of Baron Jean-François Dudevant. The author endured an unhappy marriage with this man that was nine years her senior and her subsequent difficulty in being able to dissolve their union strongly influenced her views on the position of women in society. Three years later, she had an intense affair with the young lawyer Aurélien de Sèze. By early 1831, the year before publishing her first novel, she had left her husband and entered upon a five-year period of 'romantic rebellion', having affairs with the novelist Jules

Sandeau (1831), the writer Prosper Mérimée, the dramatist Alfred de Musset, the actor Pierre-François Bocage, the writer Charles Didier, the novelist Félicien Mallefille, the actress Marie Dorval, the politician Louis Blanc and the composer Frédéric Chopin. In 1835 she was legally separated from Dudevant and took custody of their two children.

Indiana also draws attention to France's imperial position in the world and the role of slavery that underpins it. While critical of aspects of French imperialism, the novel is not a straightforwardly anti-colonialist work in any profound sense.



Sand and her husband Baron Casimir Dudevant by François-Auguste Biard, 1823



An illustration for an early French edition



End of Sample