

Under the Sponsorship of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France

The Orthodox Book Festival of France

Press release

On Friday the 17th and Saturday the 18th of February the first annual Orthodox Book Festival will be held in France. This event is organized by Orthodoxie.com in partnership with [Cerf](#) Publications, [Saint Christopher Mutual](#) Insurance and the News weekly [La Vie](#). It will take place at the headquarters of Saint Christopher Mutual Insurance in the 5th arrondissement of Paris, next to Val-de-Grâce ([277](#) street Saint-Jacques).

There will be book stands and reviews, book signing, round tables, conferences, concerts, film projections and many other activities; a demonstration of the active presence of Orthodoxy in France in all its richness and diversity. Publishing houses of other European countries will participate or be represented. We will also be honored by the presence of many distinguished members of the Orthodox community, authors, and hundreds of others expected to participate over the course of the weekend.

The Orthodox Church took root in France in the XIX century and its presence solidified over the course of the XX century. The great diversity of the communities that established themselves in France gave way to a privileged relationship between France and the mother countries of these communities, particularly those originating in Eastern Europe and the Near East.

Twentieth century France became an epicenter of Orthodox spiritual and intellectual life whose influence was to spread throughout the world. It remains to this day a center of critical importance for the whole of contemporary Orthodoxy. Vladimir Lossky, Paul Evdokimov, Georges Florovsky, Alexandre Schmemmann, Jean Meyendorff, et Olivier Clément, to site just a few names among many, together with St . Serguis Institute of Orthodox Theology in Paris, founded in 1925, gave birth to the “Paris school” whose renown would quickly spread beyond the frontiers of France, and whose influence would reach beyond the world of Orthodoxy itself.

The Paris school is also, with Leonid Ouspensky and Grégoire Krug, at the origin of a vast movement of the rediscovery of the Orthodox icon, and has contributed with equal force to a fruitful religious and cultural dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe. All this was accomplished most notably though an active editorial scene, which bears in

mind particularly the work of “L’Age d’Homme” publishers and the work of Nikita Struve within the YMCA Press. This editorial activity positioned France as a major intersection of international relations, as witnessed to this day by the “Orthodoxie” collection by CERF Publishers. Not least of all, France has played an active role in instigating and encouraging the growth of ecumenical relations.

Today, the Orthodox Church is solidly established in France, with more than a half million members. There exist in France over 250 places of worship, to which belong some twenty monasteries and hermitages. And their numbers are growing. The bishops of all canonical jurisdictions participate in the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France, serving as the representative body for all the Orthodox churches of France in all State and political matters.

For more information or for a detailed program of events, watch for updates from our organizers, Fr. Jivko Panev and Fr. Christophe Levalois, at Orthodoxie.com .

Or contact us directly for information or to get involved:

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