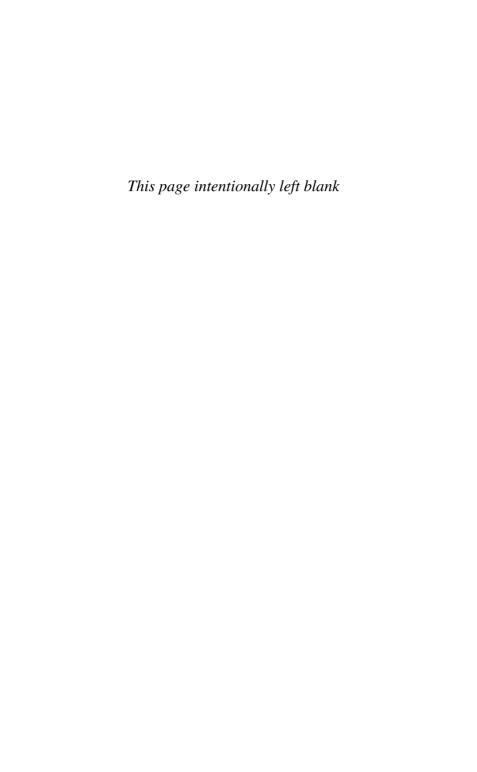
The Letter in Flora Tristan's Politics, 1835–1844



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Máire Fedelma Cross





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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2004 978-0-333-77264-5

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First published 2004 by PALGRAVE MACMILLAN Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010 Companies and representatives throughout the world

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ISBN 978-1-349-41567-0

ISBN 978-0-230-50925-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230509252

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Cross, Máire.

The letter in Flora Tristan's politics, 1835–1844/Máire Fedelma Cross.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-349-41567-0

1. Tristan, Flora, 1803–1844 – Correspondence. 2. Feminists – France – Correspondence. 3. France – Politics and government – 1830–1848. 4. Letters – Women authors. I. Title.

HO1615.T7C77 2003

305.42'092—dc22

2003062671

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05 04

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Acknowledgements

My interest in Flora Tristan's correspondence began over a decade ago. The completion of this book has been a long process as anyone in my entourage will testify. My list of thanks to those who helped bring my book to life by their kindness and understanding is therefore very long; I cannot include everyone but would particularly like to name the following.

Part of the research for my project was made possible by funding for research visits to France and international conferences from the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Board and most recently the Leverhulme Trust. I am grateful to the French department and the Humanities Research Institute in the University of Sheffield for technical and material support, particularly to Judith Brookes, Michael Pidd and Louise Lyle.

Thanks to Timothy Baycroft, Mario Longtin and Wendy Michallat for reading early drafts. I am indebted to my colleagues for their moral support that has sustained me in moments of high anxiety. I especially appreciate the energizing discussions with David Walker, Guy Austin and Renate Günther. My deepest gratitude goes to Conrad Smith for the proof-reading and word-processing of the final manuscript. Any remaining weakness in the book is entirely my own.

Archive and library staff in France have been particularly helpful and made me feel most welcome. I would also like to pay tribute to my friends in France for their marvellous company during my long stints in the library: Pierre and Malo Clerc in Castres and in Paris, Nigel Turner, Bernard and Marcia Scholl, Claude Duvivier, Catherine and Alain Collomp, Jacqueline and Michel Guillemain. Above all, to Claire Guichard whose generosity knows no bounds and whose networking skills are second to none, I wish to dedicate this book.

Finally to my long-suffering family who has lived through the consequences of another 'permanent' feature of an impossible deadline, what can I say but thanks. You make it all worth while.

Máire Fedelma Cross

Preface

The aim in this study has been to contextualize Flora Tristan's politics and to present a close reading of some of her letters. I have opted for a qualitative rather than quantitative methodological approach as it is impossible to incorporate the bulk of her letters in a collective overview just as it is impossible to extrapolate much about the correspondents, many of whom are completely unknown. Each letter has an individual context. The sample of letters chosen is therefore representative in style and content of the types of letters written to and by Flora Tristan during the mid-1840s. I have opted to cite some letters in full to provide a flavour of the source. These letters, which are quoted verbatim, are written according to the norms of mid-nineteenth-century France; custom and practice of punctuation and spelling were very different. For instance capitalization of nouns was not consistent, full stops were used rarely and accents were frequently omitted. I maintained the spelling and adhered to the punctuation of the writer wherever possible, thus giving the reader access to the original text preserved in the archives. Once published, the letters were 'tidied up' by Puech and Michaud, thereby removing a layer of authenticity of the epistolary voice. In my references I cite the archive source first and then the published version, where relevant, in order to give an indication of previous scholarly work on the correspondence.

Máire Fedelma Cross