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Taton, René

Le départ de Lagrange de Berlin et son installation à Paris en 1787. (French. English summary) [[Lagrange's move from Berlin to Paris in 1787]]

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In 1787 Lagrange left the position he had occupied for twenty years as director of the mathematics section of the Berlin Academy and travelled to France to become a pensioned member of the Paris Academy of Sciences. He remained in Paris until his death in 1813, doing research and teaching and assisting in several governmental commissions, including the one in the 1790s that established the metric system.

The article under review discusses the circumstances that led Lagrange to leave Berlin and examines his reception in Paris. It gathers together in one place texts of original documents and letters, including some from such published sources as Lagrange's collected works, Mirabeau's Histoire secrète de la cour de Berlin (Paris, 1789), A. Harnack's Geschichte der königlichpreussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften der Berlin, Bd. II (Berlin, 1900) and A. M. Vassali-Eandi's Notice abrégée de la vie et des écrits de Louis Lagrange (Torino, 1871), as well as unpublished material from the Lagrange dossier at the Paris Academy and from his unpublished correspondence at the archives of the École Polytechnique. Other important sources are the diplomatic archives (Foreign Ministry, Paris) and the Procès-verbaux of the Paris Academy.

The author notes that these documents "shed light on certain aspects of Lagrange's personality and provide useful information about Prussian political culture after Frederick II's death and the Paris Academy of Sciences on the eve of the Revolution".

Craig G. Fraser