

**Aline DEMAY, “The correspondence of pontifical diplomats in France 1740-1789”, (“La correspondance de la diplomatie pontificale et la France 1740-1789”), DEA in history directed by François Cadilhon, Bordeaux 3, 2005, 110 p.**

The subject of this DEA thesis directed by François CADILHON, professor at the university of Bordeaux, is the correspondence of the pontifical diplomacy in France 1740-1789.

The thesis is divided into three main parts, followed by a bibliography, a presentation of the main sources consulted, and a thetical synthesis, with an introduction and a conclusion.

Compiling the bibliography allowed us to collect works on politics and statesmen in France and Italy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, diplomatic history covering diplomatic relations between France and the Holy See for the period 1740-1789, the history of postal networks, but mainly the history of the networks of pontifical correspondence, the history of 18<sup>th</sup>-century religious figures in France and the pontifical states; the final part assembles several topics that are proper to the 18<sup>th</sup> century – the private life of public figures, the Enlightenment, politico-religious controversies, and Protestantism.

The presentation of the corpus of primary sources constitutes a large part of this DEA thesis. It reveals the richness of the material but also its complexity.

Furthermore, we have chosen to include a thetical synthesis that allows us to present the history of the nunciature in France in the modern period and introduce different problematics and approaches to the study of our subject, that are germane to diplomacy as well as correspondence. This material would be of critical interest when developed as study topics in the future.

