

ZACH BASTIK

**A TRIBUTE TO
PROFESSOR MARIE-MADELEINE MARTINET**

The years in academia that I have had the honor of sharing with Professor Marie-Madeleine Martinet have justified beyond limits the enormous reverence which our community of intellectuals holds towards her. She has impacted her students and colleagues in the most valuable of ways, but also impressed a quality of pensiveness on the unaffiliated public she has welcomed past the figurative walls of our academic institutions. Professor Martinet has warmed the glow of humanism in the sometimes cold stream of the digital humanities — rendering the ocean of digital theory and practice more accessible because of her endeavors.

Life at the Sorbonne is almost necessarily mediated and motivated by Professor Martinet. As her student — formally, at first (although for no less than a decade), and now in the spiritual sense of the term — I feel that the Sorbonne has become inseparable from her. This is striking if only from the consideration that she, as a ‘mere mortal’ (at least, this is what I am told of her), could make such an impact on a seemingly eternal institution.

She has brought to life those history-laden corridors of *la vieille Sorbonne* with the distinct modernity which so enthuses her; and, in counterpart, she has grounded the more impatient corridors of the young *Maison de la Recherche* with her profoundness, thought, and perspective.

With the most distinguished status of *emerita* — perhaps even *in spite* of it — there is no doubt that Professor Martinet will remain an active actor on the stage of French academia, will continue to enchant those who know her, and will continue to light the path of progress for her Sorbonne.

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Paris, November 2015

Palette pour Marie-Madeleine Martinet (2016)