

Topic Page: [Aragon, Louis, 1897–1982](#)

Definition: **Aragon, Louis (1897 - 1982)** from *The Macmillan Encyclopedia*

In 1919 he and André Breton founded the surrealist journal *Littérature*; his first books of poetry, *Feu de joie* (1920) and *Le Mouvement perpétuel* (1925), and his prose work *Le Paysan de Paris* (1926) are vigorously surrealist. He became a communist after a visit to the Soviet Union in 1930 and turned to social realism, especially in novels such as *Holy Week* (1958) and the series entitled *Le Monde réel* (1933-51). He was editor of the left-wing weekly *Les Lettres françaises*.



Image from: [Members of the U.S. expeditionary force to Russia... in Encyclopedia of Intelligence & Counterintelligence](#)

Summary Article: **Aragon, Louis**
From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(lwē äragôN'), 1897–1982, French writer. One of the founders of surrealism in literature, Aragon abandoned that philosophy for Marxism after a trip to the USSR in 1931. He was a leader of the Resistance during World War II, and he edited the radical Paris daily *Ce Soir* and later the Communist weekly *Les Lettres françaises*. Aragon's early works include the volume of poems *Feu de joie* (1920) and the surrealist novel *Le Paysan de Paris* (1926, tr. *Nightwalker*, 1970). His cycle of social novels concerning political responsibility are translated as *The Bells of Basel* (1934, tr. 1941), *Residential Quarter* (1936, tr. 1938), *The Century Was Young* (1941, tr. 1941), and *Aurelien* (1945, tr. 1947).

Les Communistes, the first of his five-volume cycle of realistic novels, appeared in 1949. His later works include a novel about the artist Jean Louis Géricault, *Holy Week* (1958, tr. 1961); a history of the USSR from 1917 to 1960, *Histoire parallèle* (1962, tr. 1964); the novel *La Mise à mort* (1965); and a two-volume memoir of Matisse (1972). His major works of poetry include *Le Crève-cœur* (1941), war poems; the series of love poems to his wife, the novelist Triolet: *Les Yeux d'Elsa* (1954), *Elsa* (1959), and *Le Fou d'Elsa* (1963); and *Les Chambres* (1969).

See Louis Aragon, *Poet of the French Resistance* (ed. by H. Josephson; M. Cowley, 1945); study by L. F. Becker (1971).

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Aragon, Louis. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/aragon_louis_1897_1982



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