Glossary of French terms used in Huguenot records

Common abbreviations in the Quarto Series

- **anc.** (ancien): elder
- **bap.par** (baptisé par): baptised by
- **deff.** (deffunt/deffunte): the late
- **dem. tous deux en la par.** (demeurant tous deux en la paroisse): both living in the parish of
- **f.de** (fils de): son of
- **ff.de** (fille de): daughter of
- **M.** (marraine): godmother
- **mar.par** (mariés par): married by
- **Min.** (ministre): minister
- **n. de** (natif/native de): native of
- **orig.de** (originaire de): native of
- **P.** (parrain): godfather
- **Past.** (Pasteur): Pastor
- **sig.** (signature): signature
- **tém.** (témoign): witness

Common vocabulary in the Quarto Series

- **à côté de** (next to)
- **abjuration, une** (conversion from R.C. to Protestant)
- **aveugle** (blind)
- **ayant perdu l’usage de ses membres** (to be paralysed)
- **ayant perdu la vue** (to be blind)
- **billet, le** (document certifying entitlement)
- **bourgeoisie, la** (middle class)
- **consistoire, le** (consistory)
- **de son etat** (by profession)
- **diacre, le** (deacon)
- **enterrement, un** (burial)
- **femme, épouse, une** (wife)
- **feu/feue** (the late)
- **gentilhommes, les** (aristocrats/well off)
- **ledit/ladite/lesdits/lesdites** (the aforesaid)
- **mari, le** (husband)
- **méreau, le** (Holy Communion token)
- **mort/e, décédé/e** (deceased)
- **mort-né/** (stillborn)
- **ne/nee** (born on *(followed by date)*)
The nobility
orphan
Easter
the poor
to be able to earn a living
betrothal, engagement
renewal of loyalty to the Protestant religion
thanked
undersigned
proof of Protestant allegiance
French Protestant/Huguenot church
widower/widow
opposite

**Trades and Professions (all masculine gender)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boulanger</td>
<td>baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boutonnier</td>
<td>button maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chapelier</td>
<td>hatter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chirugien</td>
<td>surgeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cordonnier</td>
<td>boot/shoe maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drapier</td>
<td>draper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homme de journée</td>
<td>day labourer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horloger</td>
<td>clock/watch maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maître d’école</td>
<td>schoolmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marchand</td>
<td>merchant/shopkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>médecin</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orfèvre</td>
<td>gold/silversmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ouvrier en soie</td>
<td>silk worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perruquier</td>
<td>wig maker/barber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tailleur</td>
<td>tailor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tapissier</td>
<td>tapestry worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tisserand en soie</td>
<td>silk weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verrier</td>
<td>glassmaker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Huguenot Institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Le Comité Français</td>
<td>The French Committee, which, overseen by an English Committee, distributed the Royal Bounty (money provided by the Crown for the relief of French Protestants in England, Edinburgh, the Channel Islands and Ireland).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Providence</td>
<td>The French Hospital, founded in 1718, now at its fourth home in Rochester, Kent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Soupe</td>
<td>Soup kitchens that operated in London in the 18th Century for poor Huguenots.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
Married women were often referred to by their maiden names.
Spelling of words and names is often inconsistent; other names are anglicised. Cross referencing is therefore essential.

*See the following page for examples of the usage of the above vocabulary.* Much more information can be gleaned from Huguenot church register entries than from English equivalents of the same period.
Baptism entries from the register of St Jean, Spitalfields


Note the variant spellings for Baurin, Prevost, and Colanpe.


Note the variant spellings of Magdeleine and l’Huiler, also the erratic spelling of Bishopsgate. Place names are often misspelled in the registers.

The surname of the father is often, as here, not repeated in the text.

Marriage entries from the register of the church of La Patente de Spitalfields


Note: Black Eagle Street was in 1710 still part of the parish of Stepney, since Spitalfields was not created as a parish until the 1720s.


Note the inconsistent/incorrect spellings. This example gives both the trade of the bridegroom and the Christian names of his first wife.
Marriage entry from the register of the church of the Artillery


Note the use of both feu and deffunt within the same entry for the late, and the inconsistent spelling. 'While Street' is probably 'White's Row'.

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