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 Modifier



Alain de Libera

Born on 27 September 1948, Alain de Libera passed the French national examination for certified teachers in philosophy in 1971, ranking first, and the *agrégation* in philosophy in 1972, ranking third. He pursued his higher education in the humanities preparatory classes known as *hypokhâgne* at the Lycée Louis-Pasteur, Neuilly-sur-Seine (1965–1966), and *khâgne* at the Lycée Henri-IV, Paris (1966–1967); at the University of Nanterre, where he obtained the *Certificat d'études littéraires générales* (CELG) and completed the *propédeutique* year (1965–1966); and subsequently at the Sorbonne, where he obtained the *Licence*, the *Maîtrise*—with a dissertation entitled *The Circle of Consciousness in Fichte's Early Philosophy*—and the *Diplôme d'études supérieures* (1966–1972).

From 1972 to 1975, he taught educational psychology at the École normale d'instituteurs in Quimper.

He joined the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in 1975, first as *attaché de recherche* and then as *chargé de recherche*, at the Centre d'études des religions du livre, a research centre of the École pratique des hautes études associated with the CNRS (LA 152, directed by Pierre Hadot), now the Laboratoire d'études sur les monothéismes (LEM, UMR 8584).

In 1985, he was elected *Directeur d'études* in the Religious Sciences Section of the École pratique des hautes études (EPHE), holding the Chair in the History of Christian Theologies in the Medieval West. The chair had previously been entitled History of Doctrines and Dogmas under Étienne Gilson, and History of Medieval Theologies under Paul Vignaux. He held this position until 2012.

In 1997, he was appointed and elected Full Professor at the University of Geneva, where he held the Chair in the History of

Medieval Philosophy until 2012. He is currently Professor Emeritus of the University of Geneva.

In 2012–2013, he was elected and appointed Professor at the Collège de France, where he held the Chair in the History of Medieval Philosophy until September 2019.

He has taught at numerous institutions. He has served as Lecturer at Paris Nanterre University; Lecturer at the École normale supérieure, Ulm–Sèvres; Visiting Professor at the University of Padua; Visiting Lecturer on several occasions at the Universities of Fribourg and Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Visiting Professor at the University of Lugano; Visiting Professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro; and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg within the framework of the Franco-Russian University College.

He has also held the Francqui Chair for Foreign Scholars at the University of Liège (1993–1994); the Cardinal Mercier Chair at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Catholic University of Louvain (1997); the Étienne Gilson Chair at the Institut catholique de Paris (2000); the Perelman Chair at the Université libre de Bruxelles (2010); and the Visiting Professorship in French Literature and Culture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich, 2012).

He has directed several research groups and projects in France and Switzerland, including the CNRS RCP 800, *Medieval Neoplatonism: Albert the Great and His School* (1985–1993); the CNRS GDR 0800, *History of Ancient and Medieval Psychology* (1993–1998); and the Swiss National Science Foundation projects *Meaning and Reference in the “Sophismata”* (University of Geneva, 2001–2005), *Translatio Studiorum: The Reception of Arabic-Islamic Philosophy in the Medieval Latin West* (2003–2007), and *Formal Semantics and Natural Language in the Thirteenth Century* (2010–2012).

He also co-directed the volume *Grundriss der Geschichte der Philosophie: Das 12. Jahrhundert* in the Ueberweg series, together with Ruedi Imbach, Paris-Sorbonne University; Thomas Ricklin (†), Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; and Laurent Cesalli, University of Geneva.

He has held a number of institutional and scholarly offices, including membership of the Philosophy Committee of the Centre national du livre (1988–1992); membership of the National Committee of the CNRS and of the executive committee of Section 35 (1991–1995); membership of the National Council for the Coordination of the Humanities and Social Sciences (2001–2002); Vice-President of the Société internationale pour l'étude de la philosophie médiévale (2002–2012); membership of the Committee for Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, and the Study of Religions at the Centre national du livre (2008–2010); and membership of the steering committee for UNESCO's Intercultural Vademecum project within its Division of Cultural Policies (2010).

He is co-editor of the series *Études de philosophie médiévale* published by Vrin; founder and general editor of the series *Sic et Non*, also published by Vrin; former co-editor of the series *Vestigia*, published by Éditions du Cerf; and editor of the series *Des travaux*, published by Seuil.

He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Archives d'histoire doctrinale et littéraire du Moyen Âge*, the *Revue de métaphysique et de morale*, and *Critique*. He is also a member of the advisory board of the *Bochumer Philosophisches Jahrbuch für Antike und Mittelalter*, and of the editorial boards of *Recherches de théologie et philosophie médiévales*, *Medioevo*, and the *Revue de théologie et de philosophie*.

He was a Corresponding Member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres from 2016 to 2023. On 17 February 2023, he was elected a full member, succeeding Philippe Contamine.

He was appointed Knight of the French National Order of Merit in 2004 and promoted to Officer in December 2020.

He was appointed Knight of the Order of Academic Palms in 2006 and promoted to Officer in July 2025.

In 2015, he was awarded the Grand Prix de Philosophie of the Académie française for his entire body of work.

He was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 2012.

In 2013, he received an honorary doctorate from Université Laval, Quebec.

He was awarded the Aquinas Medal by the University of Dallas in 2008.

In 2023, he received the Josef Dobrovský Honorary Medal for Merit in the Philological and Philosophical Sciences from the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

He was elected a foreign member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in 2026.

J'ai corrigé silencieusement quelques points manifestement fautifs ou incohérents dans le texte français, notamment le nom de la *Revue de métaphysique et de morale* et la période comme membre correspondant de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.