Louis Jacob de Saint-Charles offered a primary-source description of the libraries of France when Mazarin dominated 17th-century politics and France was the cultural capital of Europe. Here, for the first time, Jacob’s work is made available in English translation, with an introduction placing the book in the context of western intellectual history and accompanied by a detailed scholarly commentary. Both library historians and students of French culture in the early modern period will find this book indispensable.

**Professor John Warwick Montgomery** served in the Reference Department of the Library of the University of California at Berkeley before becoming Head Librarian of the Swift Library of Divinity and Philosophy at the University of Chicago. He holds three degrees in library science and bibliographical history: the B.L.S. and M.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and the Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is the editor/translator of *A Seventeenth Century View of European Libraries: Lomeier’s De Bibliothecis, Chapter X* (University of California Press).

Dr Montgomery’s parallel careers in theology and law are represented by his doctorates in Protestant Theology from the University of Strasbourg, France and his LL.D. from the University of Cardiff, Wales, and by his extensive publications in those fields. He is an avocat à la cour, barreau de Paris, an English barrister, and a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He is Professor Emeritus of Law and Humanities, University of Bedfordshire, England, and Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University Wisconsin, U.S.A.

**The Libraries of France at the Ascendancy of Mazarin**

**Louis Jacob’s**

**Traicté des plus Belles Bibliotheques**

Part Two in English Translation, with Introduction and Notes

---

**Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft**

(Culture and Science Publ.)

Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher