

Prix François Guizot-Institut de France
Address by Stéphane Coste
13 October 2016

Chancellor,
Mr. Perpetual Secretary,
Mr. President of the jury,
Ladies and Gentlemen, the jury members of the Prix François Guizot -
Institut de France,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,
Dear Laureate,

This second edition of the Prix François Guizot-Institut de France is a wonderful event for the descendants of François Guizot.

I would like to warmly thank Gabriel de Broglie, Chancellor of the Institute and Jean-Claude Casanova, President of the Jury, whose efforts have led to stronger ties between our ancestor François Guizot and the Institut de France.

I would particularly like to thank my mother Catherine Coste, who passed on the torch to me last year. Indeed, she was at the origin of our association that highlights the work of our ancestor François Guizot and has successfully led this work for more than 20 years. It is thanks to her and to the many historians like François Furet, Gabriel de Broglie and Laurent Theis that François Guizot is again recognized as a "great man".

I thank the President, Jean-Claude Casanova, who is very involved in the award and the members of the jury for their in-depth considerations. This year they have chosen Alain Besançon's book *Problèmes religieux contemporains*.

Alain Besançon, you are the second laureate of the François Guizot-Institut de France Prize for your book, *Problèmes religieux contemporains*. Guizot would certainly have appreciated your work because of his own intellectual achievements and his commitment throughout his life to the Reformed Church and more widely to Christendom in France.

Several problems that you mention in your book would never have been imagined during Guizot's lifetime.

This ceremony that brings us together around Alain Besançon tonight reflects the continuation of our family action in favor of the memory of Guizot.

Our family is proud to present Guizot to the outside world, whether here in the magnificent historical setting of the Institute or at Val Richer, the property in Calvados that Guizot acquired in 1836, or more widely through publications and our site guizot.com.

Our next project is to take up the publication of the letters exchanged between François Guizot and the Princess of Lieven by completing the missing periods. These letters will allow historians to have a better knowledge of diplomatic relations in Europe in the mid-nineteenth century while rediscovering the more intimate side of our ancestor.

The Prix François Guizot-Institut de France reflects the intellectual grandeur of our ancestor. But the task remains for us to make him better known both within our family and more widely outside of it. His exceptional character led to values being passed on to his descendants, values that are still fully present today in our family.