

Robert J. Knecht, M.A.(London), D.Litt. (Birm.), F.R.Hist.S., is Emeritus Professor of French History in the University of Birmingham. Born in London, he was educated at the Lycée français du Royaume Uni and at King's College, London, where he graduated with honours in history in 1948. He then spent five years on research into late medieval English ecclesiastical history. He was appointed as Assistant Lecturer in Early Modern History at Birmingham in 1956 and chose to spend the rest of his career there, moving up the academic ladder. He began to specialize in the history of sixteenth and seventeenth-century France in 1970 and retired in 1994. A member of the Société de l'Histoire de France, he has been Chairman of the Society for Renaissance Studies (1989-92) and also of the Society for the Study of French History (1994-97). His books include *Renaissance Warrior and Patron: the reign of Francis I* (Cambridge University Press, 1994) of which a French edition has been published (Fayard, 1998), *Richelieu* (Longman, 1991); *The Rise and Fall of Renaissance France* (2nd. Revised edn. Oxford 2001), *Catherine de' Medici* (Longman, 1998) *The French Civil Wars, 1562-98* (Pearson/Longman, 2000), *The French Religious Wars, 1562-98* (Osprey, 2002), *The Valois: Kings of France 1328-1589*(Hambledon and London, 2004), *The French Renaissance Court* (London & New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008). This book was awarded the Enid McLeod literary prize for 2009 by the Franco-British Society. He was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 2001 and promoted to Officier in August 2010. A recent, largely autobiographical, interview may be found on the website: <http://cour-de-france.fr/>