

57. For Méchain's arrival in Perpignan, see BML, Méchain to Calon, 13 fructidor III [30 August 1795]. For the story of the carriage, see Delambre, *Grandeur*, p. 216.

### Chapter 7 Convergence

1. William Blake, *Milton: Book the First*, in *The Portable Blake*, ed. Alfred Kazin (New York: Penguin Books, 1974), p. 433.
2. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 8 thermidor III [26 July 1795].
3. AOP MS1033c, Delambre to [Méchain], 13 fructidor III [3 September 1795].
4. AOP E2-19, Méchain (Perpignan, Estagel) to Delambre, 12-23 vendémiaire IV [4-15 October 1795].
5. For Méchain's horror of publication, see Delambre, *Notice historique sur M. Méchain*, p. 30.
6. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 12 frimaire IV [3 December 1795].
7. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 12 frimaire IV [3 December 1795].
8. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 12 frimaire IV [3 December 1795].
9. On Delambre's passage through Paris, see AAS 1J4, Lalande, 'Journal' (22 frimaire IV [13 December 1795]), p. 73; see also, AN F17 3702, Delambre to Min. Int., 28 frimaire IV [19 December 1795]. On the Academy elections, see *PVCIP*, 6, pp. 832-6. Méchain was appointed to the astronomy section, along with Lalande, in the first round, but only after some backroom jockeying; the four other places in astronomy, elected in a second round of voting by those appointed in the first round, were taken by Le Monnier, Pingré, Messier and Cassini IV. This meant that Delambre was elected to the mathematics section in the second round, though by his own admission this was not the appropriate section for him. See Delambre, 'Lui-même'.
10. CUS, Lalande to Delambre, 2 pluviôse IV [22 January 1796].
11. For Delambre's observations at Dunkerque, see Delambre, *Base*, 2, pp. 249-96. AOP E2-16, Delambre, 'Registre: Méridien de France, Partie du nord', vol. 2. AOP MS1033c, Delambre, 'Hauteur du pôle à Dunkerque', [1795-6]. Delambre to [Janvier?], 2 pluviôse IV [22 January 1796], in Adolphe Desboves, *Delambre et l'arpente* (Amiens: Hequet, 1881), pp. 32-3.
12. Delambre, *Grandeur*, pp. 239-40.
13. Delambre, *Grandeur*, p. 279.
14. AOP MS1033c, Delambre to Méchain, 17 fructidor III [3 September 1795].
15. AOP E2-1, Delambre, 'Reprise des opérations', 9 fructidor III [26 August 1795].
16. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 12 floréal IV [1 May 1796]. Méchain asked Lalande about Delambre's observations in March, especially for his data on other stars; see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 11 ventôse IV [1 March 1796].
17. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, floréal IV [mid-May 1796]. In this letter, Delambre admits to having received Méchain's letter of 12 floréal IV [1 May 1796].
18. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, floréal IV [mid-May 1796].
19. SHAT 3M4, Calon to Méchain, 26 thermidor III [13 August 1795]. For costs, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 12-23 vendémiaire IV [4-15 October 1795].
20. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 1 ventôse IV [1 March 1796]. On the delicate subject of Tranchot's pay, see SHAT 3M4, Calon to Méchain, 9 nivôse IV [30 December 1795]. On the inflated salaries, see BL, 'Procès-verbaux', 22 pluviôse IV [11 February 1796].
21. BML, Méchain to Calon, 13 fructidor III [30 August 1795].
22. Méchain got rid of Décuve first, and Bouvet that winter; see BA MS P2100, Méchain to Calon, 5 ventôse IV [24 February 1796].
23. For Forcéral, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 12-23 vendémiaire IV [4-15 October 1795].
24. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 3 brumaire IV [25 October 1795].
25. Gaston Jourdanne, *Contribution au folk-lore de l'Aude* (Paris: Maisonneuve, 1973), p. 28; for *sinagrie*, see p. 22. On modern local folklore, see ADAU D<sup>2</sup>2441, Roger Antoni, *Rennes-le-château ou la mystification biblique* (Montreal: Chez l'auteur, n.d.).
26. This description of typical French inns of the region and time comes from Young, *Travels*, 1, pp. 40-50. Original quote reads 'ridus' instead of 'nest'.
27. On mountain travel in the region in this period, see Serge Biffaud, *Naissance d'un paysage: La montagne pyrénéenne à la croisée des regards, XVIIe-XIXe siècle* (Tarbes: Mauraun, 1994).
28. For Alaric and Tauch, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 1 ventôse IV [1 March 1796].
29. For the preparations for the Perpignan baseline, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 1 frimaire IV [22 November 1795], 28 prairial IV [16 June 1796]. For permission to have the army engineers build the pyramids, see SHAT 3M4, Calon to Méchain, 26 messidor IV [14 July 1796]; 3M5, Calon to Méchain, 5 thermidor IV [23 July 1796]. Nor would his colleagues let Méchain conduct the pendulum measurements, as he still wished to do; see SHAT 3M4, Calon to Méchain, 28 fructidor III [14 September 1795]. On Tranchot's use of the chain and his role in setting up the pyramid markers, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 9 germinal VI [29 March 1798].
30. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 1 ventôse IV [1 March 1796].
31. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 12 floréal IV [1 May 1796].
32. For Méchain's plea to do extra work, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 21 frimaire V [11 December 1796].
33. On the intermediate latitudes, see AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 8 fructidor IV [25 August 1796]. AOP E2-19, Borda to Méchain, 14 messidor IV [2 July 1796].
34. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 3 ventôse V [21 February 1797].
35. AOP E2-19, Borda to Méchain, 14 messidor IV [2 July 1796].
36. AOP E2-19, Borda to Méchain, 12 frimaire V [2 December 1797].
37. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 17 floréal V [6 May 1797]. See also AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 5 nivôse V [25 December 1796].

38. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 12 frimaire IV [3 December 1795].
39. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Lalande, 12 floréal IV [1 May 1796].
40. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 8 fructidor IV [25 August 1796]. See also AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', p. 20. For the tower at Morlaix, see Delambre, *Base*, 1, p. 74; also ADC 1L629, Delambre, 'Morlaix', 26 fructidor IV [12 September 1796]; Baudat, 'Aux citoyens président' [1796-7]; Delambre to Baudat, 16 vendémiaire VI [7 October 1797]. ADC 1L646, 'Renseignements sur les édifices non aliénés servant à l'exercice des cultes', X [1801-2]; 'Cher: Morlaix', in *Cahiers de doléances, région Centre* (Dijon: Coloradoc, 1995), 3, pp. 32-3; BMR Tarbè XXU/137, Delambre, 'Etat de dépense pour la mesure du méridienne', 1 ventôse V [19 February 1797].
41. For Arpheuille, see Delambre, *Grandeur*, p. 236.
42. For Delambre's observations at Evaux, see AOP E2-19, Delambre to Borda, 4 pluviôse V [23 January 1797]; AOP MS1033c, Delambre, 'Evaux', V [winter 1796-7]; AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', pp. 55-98. Delambre, *Base*, 1, pp. 250-1.
43. On Cassini III's error, see DLSI MSS420A, Delambre to [Calon], 27 frimaire V [17 December 1796]. For Delambre's willingness to share data with Méchain, see AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 27 ventôse V [17 March 1797].
44. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 27 ventôse V [17 March 1797].
45. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Borda, 4 pluviôse V [23 January 1797].
46. SHAT 3M5, Calon to Méchain, 14 ventôse V [4 March 1797]. For Delambre's pleas for funds, see DLSI MSS420A, Delambre to [Calon], 27 frimaire V [17 December 1796]; SHAT 3M5, Calon to Delambre, 19 frimaire, 5 nivôse, 10, 17 pluviôse, 2 ventôse V [9, 25 December 1796, 29 January, 5, 20 February 1797]. Granting military rank to the expedition team had not eased their burden. Officers could only collect army rations when operating near the frontiers, and Delambre had been obliged to admit that he was as far from the frontiers as it was to be possible to be. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 5 nivôse V [25 December 1796]. CUS, Raynal Roubly to Delambre, 25 ventôse V [13 March 1797].
47. CUS, Lalande to Delambre, 17 March 1797. See also CUS, Lalande to Delambre, 1 March 1797.
48. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Méchain, 5 nivôse V [25 December 1796]. For Delambre's use of his own funds, see AOP E2-19, Delambre to Borda, 4 pluviôse V [23 January 1797].
49. On theories of geology in this period regarding the Auvergne, see Harladur Sigurdsson, *Melting the Earth: The History of Ideas on Volcanic Eruptions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999); Carl Gustaf Bernhard, *Through France with Berzelius: Live Scholars and Dead Volcanoes* (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1985); G. Poulet Scrope, *Memoir on the Geology of Central France* (London: Longman, 1827), pp. 120-3.
50. Johannel (Commissionnaire de pouvoir exécutif du canton d'Herment) to Boutarel, 9 messidor V [27 June 1797], in Philippe Bourdin, *Le*

- Puy-de-Dôme sous le Directoire: Vie politique et esprit public* (Clermont-Ferrand: Mémoires de l'Académie des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Clermont-Ferrand, 1990), p. 268. On Delambre's stay in Herment, see Delambre, *Base*, 1, p. 79; AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', pp. 115-17; Ambroise Tardieu, *Histoire de la ville, du pays et de la baronnie d'Herment* (Marseille: Laffitte, [1866]).
51. Frances Gostling, *Auvergne and Its People* (New York: Macmillan, 1911), pp. 112-14. On the debate over Delambre's signals in Bort, see AOP E2-19, Delambre to CPM, 8 messidor V [26 June 1797]; Delambre, *Base*, 1, pp. 79-80; Bort-les-Orgues, *Histoire et tourisme* (Bort-les-Orgues: OTSI, 1985), pp. 46, 85-97.
  52. Delambre to Lalande [thermidor V; August 1797], in Lalande, *Bibliographie astronomique*, pp. 780-1.
  53. On farming in the Cantal region in the eighteenth century, see Albert Rigaudière, *Etudes d'histoire économique rurale au XVIIIe siècle* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1965), pp. 12-14; Jonathan R. Dalby, *Les paysans catalans et la Révolution française, 1789-1794* (Clermont-Ferrand: Université de Clermont-Ferrand, 1989), p. 74.
  54. On mistaking Delambre for a sorcerer, see Lakanie, 'Mémoires', 22 floréal V [11 May 1797], from Archives Départementales du Cantal, Aurillac, reprinted on the website of Gilbert Coudon, <http://perso.infonie.fr/gilbert.coudon/delambre.htm>. For general views of sorcery in the region, see Gostling, *Auvergne*, pp. 239-47. Cit. Legrand, *Voyage fait en 1787 et 1788 dans la ci-devant haute et basse Auvergne* (Paris: Imprimerie des Sciences et Arts, III [1795]), 1, pp. 30-6.
  55. Legrand, *Voyage*, 1, p. 100. On the request that Delambre report on provincial views of the metric system, see AN F12\* 2103, ATPM to Delambre, 3 fructidor III [20 August 1795]. Delambre could not supply receipts to Calon because the workmen were illiterate: see DLSI MSS420A, Delambre to [Calon], 27 frimaire V [17 December 1796].
  56. On Delambre in the rain storm, see Delambre, *Base*, 1, p. 86. On the roads of the Auvergne, see Franck Imberdis, *Le réseau routier de l'Auvergne au XVIIIe siècle* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1967).
  57. On lizards in the region, see Young, *Travel*, 1, p. 28.
  58. On Delambre's sighting of 'Méchain's' signal, see Delambre, *Base*, 1, p. 82. Delambre said he had not heard from Méchain since spring: see AOP E2-19, Delambre to CPM, 8 messidor V [26 June 1797]. For Méchain's instructions to Tranchot, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Tranchot, 21 messidor V [9 July 1797].
  59. AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', p. 157, quoting from Virgil, *Aeneid*, 3, line 714.
  60. On the tower of Rodez, see Louis Bousquet, 'Contribution à l'histoire du clocher de la cathédrale de Rodez', *Procès-verbaux de la Société des Lettres, Sciences, et Arts de l'Aveyron* 29 (1924), pp. 146-50; Jacques Bousquet, 'La cathédrale de Rodez sous la Révolution: Philosophie du vandalisme', *Revue du Rouergue* (1989), pp. 177-205.

61. On Delambre's departure for Paris, see BL, 'Procès-verbaux', 4 jour comp. V, 9 vendémiaire VI [20, 30 September 1797]. Tranchot left Rodez for Paris one day after Delambre.

### Chapter 8 Triangulation

1. Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*, ed. Graham Petrie (London, Penguin Books [1759], 1987), p. 161.
2. For the history of Mme Méchain's move into the Observatory apartments, see Méchain to Jeaurat, 17 floréal VIII [7 May 1800], in Bigourdan, 'Bureau des Longitudes' (1930), pp. A86-8, A96-7. See also BL, 'Procès-verbaux', 27 messidor III [15 July 1795], 17 nivôse IV [7 January 1796], 2 floréal IV [6 April 1796].
3. For Mme Méchain's surprise that her husband had not written to his colleagues, see AOP E2-19, Mme Méchain to Delambre, 20 thermidor V [7 August 1797].
4. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 25 germinal V [14 April 1797].
5. AOP E2-19, Méchain (Pradelles) to Delambre, 20 brumaire IV [10 November 1797].
6. AOP E2-19, Delambre to Borda, 4 frimaire VI [24 November 1797].
7. On the amateur astronomers of Carcassonne, see ADAu 3K3, Anon., 'Eloge pour Fabre', *Mémorial du département de l'Aude* 58 (1810), pp. 37-45. [Isidore] Dougados, *Le dernier Juge-Mage . . . de Carcassonne: Raymond de Rolland* (Carcassonne: Pomiès, 1856). Gilbert Larguier et al., *Cahiers de doléances audois* (Carcassonne: Association des Amis des Archives de l'Aude [1989]). On the Saint-Vincent church, see Juliette Costeplan, 'L'église Saint-Vincent de Carcassonne au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle', *Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes Scientifiques de l'Aude* 81 (1981), pp. 95-102. Swindburne, *Travel*, 2, pp. 367-72.
8. For Méchain's mixed recollection of this period of his life, see Méchain to Rolland, 9 nivôse X [30 December 1801], in [Isidore] Dougados, 'Lettres de l'astronome Méchain à M. Rolland', *Mémoires de la Société des Arts et des Sciences de Carcassonne* 2 (1856), pp. 74-130, especially p. 123. Méchain lodged with 'Cit. Comelander, traiteur, près la Comédie ou la porte des Cazernes'; see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 13 vendémiaire VII [4 October 1798].
9. For Méchain's request to extend his portion, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 27 ventôse V [17 March 1797].
10. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 25 germinal V [14 April 1797].
11. For Calon's promise not to show the data to anyone else, see SHAT 3M4, Calon to Méchain, 28 thermidor III [16 August 1796]. For Méchain's plea for more time to work on his data, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 3 ventôse V [21 February 1797].
12. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 3 ventôse V [21 February 1797].
13. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 27 ventôse V [17 March 1797].
14. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 3 ventôse V [21 February 1797].
15. Larguier, *Cahiers audois*, pp. 185-9. Jean-Louis Bonnet, 'Le Cabardes: Population et ressources aux XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles', *Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes Scientifiques de l'Aude* 79 (1979), pp. 89-96; André David, *Les Montagnes Noires* (Carcassonne: Bonnafous, 1924).
16. Méchain to Rolland, 2 brumaire VI [23 October 1797], in Dougados 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 74.
17. Méchain to Rolland, 4 frimaire VI [24 November 1797], in Dougados, 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 78. On the storm, see Claude-Joseph Trouvé, *Description générale et statistique du Département de l'Aude* (Paris: Didot, 1818), p. 148.
18. Dr Astruc, in Claude Ignace Barante, *Essai sur le département de l'Aude* (Carcassonne: Gareng, brumaire XI [October-November 1802]), 100-2.
19. For the preparations for the northern baseline, see AN F17 1135, CIP, 23 thermidor III [10 August 1795]; CIP to Commission des Travaux Publics, 10 vendémiaire IV [2 October 1795]. Also ENPC MS724, ATPM to Prony, 27 thermidor III [14 August 1795]. CUS, Lalande to [CPM], 4 fructidor III [21 August 1795]. For the tree pruning, see Delambre, *Base*, 1, pp. 84-5; AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', 2, pp. 168-92. For Delambre's final measurements, see AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', 2, pp. 168-92; E2-19, Delambre to Buache, 29 pluviôse VI [17 February 1798]. See the write-up of the baseline measurement in *Décade philosophique* 27 (30 prairial VI [18 June 1798]).
20. For the new rulers, see Borda, 'Expériences sur les règles qui ont servi à la mesure des bases', in Delambre, *Base*, 3, pp. 313-36. For the various logbooks of the baseline measurement, see AOP E2-3, Tranchot, 'Base de Melun', floréal-prairial VI [May-June 1798]; AOP E2-2, Pommard, 'Base de Melun', floréal-prairial VI [May-June 1798]. Anon., 'Method Employed Between Melun and Lieusaint in France', *Philosophical Magazine* 1 (1798), pp. 269-74.
21. Humboldt to Zach, 3 June 1798, in E.-T. Hamy, ed., *Lettres américaines d'Alexandre de Humboldt, 1798-1807* (Paris: Guilmoto [1905]), pp. 2-4.
22. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 9 germinal VI [29 March 1798].
23. For Mme Méchain's promise to Delambre, see AOP E2-19, Mme Méchain to Delambre, 12 floréal VI [1 May 1798].
24. AOP E2-19, Mme Méchain to Delambre, 11 prairial VI [30 May 1798].
25. Note appended by Delambre to AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 7 brumaire VII [28 October 1798]. Delambre confessed that he never understood the enmity Méchain had for Tranchot; although he noted that Tranchot had admitted to once having uttered a few *invectives* to Méchain.
26. For Delambre's claim that the Méchain family finances had improved with the Revolution, see Delambre, *Notice historique sur M. Méchain*, p. 31.
27. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798].
28. AOP E2-19, Mme Méchain to Delambre, 15 fructidor VI [1 September 1798].
29. Méchain did not leave Carcassonne for Rodez until early messidor [mid-June], well after he would have heard of his wife's plans to come and fetch him; see AOP E2-19, Fabre to Delambre, 3 thermidor VI [21

- July 1798]. Mme Méchain met her husband in Rodez on 7 July, and left him on 18 August in Rieupeyroux, during which interval he conducted his observations at those two stations. Méchain was also accompanied by Agouste for these stations. See Méchain's logbook in AOP E2-10.
30. Méchain to Rolland, 5 jour comp. VI [21 September 1798], in Dougados, 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 85.
31. For Delambre's promise to bring Méchain back to Paris, see Delambre, 'Méchain', *Astronomie au dix-huitième*, p. 761.
32. Méchain to Rolland, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798], in Dougados, 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 82.
33. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798]. On the mistaking of a signal for a guillotine, see AOP E2-19, Fabre to Delambre, 15 frimaire VI [1 September 1798]. For the suspicions of local administrators about the signals, see AN F17 1135, Commissaire de Directoire de Lacauze to Admin. du dépt. du Tarn, 2 fructidor V [19 August 1797]; Commissaire de Directoire de Montredon to Admin. du dépt. du Tarn, 5 fructidor V [22 August 1797]. Méchain in Delambre, *Base*, 1, pp. 306-7.
34. Jeanne Bardou (p. 18), in Remy Cazals, *Autour de la Montagne Noire au temps de la Révolution, 1774-1799* (Carcassonne: CLEF 1989), pp. 11-20. Bardou was recounting what her two servants had told her about the surveyor Pierre de Lalande (no known relation to Jérôme Lalande).
35. Méchain to Rolland, 5 jour comp. VI [21 September 1798], in Dougados, 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 87. On the militia to guard at the Montalet site, see ADT L210, Commissaire de Lacauze, 29 thermidor VI [16 August 1798]; L266, idem, 11, 14, 17, fructidor 2 jour comp. VI [28, 31 August, 3, 18 September 1798].
36. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798].
37. On the Perpignan road, see ADPO L1105, Saussine, 'Dépt. de Pyrénées-Orientales, Ponts et Chaussées', 18 nivôse VI [7 January 1798]; Jacques Freixe, 'Tracé de la voie Domitienne de Narbonne à Gerona', *Revue d'histoire et d'archéologie du Roussillon* 2 (1901), pp. 387-405; 3 (1902), pp. 202-16, 285-317; Pierre Ponsich, 'Les voies antiques du Roussillon et de la Cerdagne', in *Les routes du sud de la France: De l'antiquité à l'époque contemporaine*, Colloque Montpellier, 1985 (Paris: CTHS, 1985), pp. 91-105.
38. Swindburne, *Travels*, 1, p. 2.
39. For the Perpignan baseline, see AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', pp. 255-318; AOP E2-4, Pommard, 'Base de Perpignan', thermidor-fructidor VI [August-September 1798]; AOP E2-5, Tranchot, 'Base de Perpignan', thermidor-fructidor VI [August-September 1798]. For the results, see *ASPV* 21 (21 brumaire VII [11 November 1798]), p. 492. The match of the two measurements was mostly due to compensating errors; see Levallois, *Mesurer la terre*, p. 64.
40. ENPC MS724, Delambre to Prony, 4 jour comp. VI [20 September 1798].

41. CUS, Lalande (Gotha) to Delambre, 19 August 1798.
42. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798].
43. For the mountain road to Saint-Pons, described as 'extremely difficult' in the eighteenth century, see J. Sahuc, *Saint-Pons: Dictionnaire topographique et historique* (Paris: Res Universis, 1993), pp. 12-13. But Méchain admitted he was located only a three-hour ride up from town; see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 29 fructidor VI [15 September 1798].
44. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 9 vendémiaire VII [30 September 1798].
45. While Delambre waited for Méchain's answer, he worked with Bellet and Tranchot to take geodetic measurements of the angle between Mont Alaric and Saint-Pons from Narbonne on 17-18 vendémiaire VI [8-9 October 1798]; see AOP E2-6, Delambre, 'Registre', p. 319.
46. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 13 vendémiaire VII [4 October 1798].
47. For Méchain's procrastinations, see AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19, 29 fructidor, 4 jour comp. VI, 9, 11, 13, 15, 22, 28 vendémiaire, 1, 7 brumaire VII [5, 15, 20, 30 September, 2, 4, 6, 13, 19, 22, 28 October 1798].
48. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798].
49. AOP E2-19, Fabre to Delambre, 15 fructidor VI [1 September 1798].
50. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 29 fructidor VI [15 September 1798].
51. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 4 jour comp. VI [20 September 1798].
52. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798].
53. Méchain to Rolland, 19 fructidor VI [5 September 1798], in Dougados, 'Lettres de Méchain', p. 83.
54. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 4 jour comp. VI [20 September 1798].
55. AOP E2-19, Méchain to Delambre, 11 vendémiaire VII [2 October 1798].
56. For the offer of the directorship of the Observatory, see Delambre, 'Méchain', *Astronomie au dix-huitième*, p. 763.
57. Though Lalande expected their arrival on 15 November, they did not in fact arrive in Paris until 17 November; see BL, 'Procès-verbaux', 24 brumaire VI [14 November 1798].

### Chapter 9 The Empire of Science

1. Louis-Sébastien Mercier, *Satires contre les astronomes* (Paris: Terrelongue, XI, 1803), pp. 16-17. 'On réserve sur-tout des cadeaux magnifiques / Pour ceux qui s'embrouillent dans les mathématiques, / Aux triangles liés avec d'énormes frais, / Qu'ils soient faux ou trompeurs, ne renoncent