

## Words and Phrases from the French<sup>1</sup>

à la mode (á lá mōd'), in fashion

à propos (ăprō pō'), to the point

attaché (át tá shă'), an official

au revoir (ō rū vwär'), till we meet again

beau monde (bō mōnd'), the fashionable world

belles-lettres (bĕl-lĕt'r), polite literature

blasé (blá ză'), surfeited

bonmot (bōnmō), a jest

bon ton (bōn tōn), good style

carte blanche (kärt blānsh'), full permission

comme il faut (kōm ěl fō'), as it should be

connoisseur (kōnnĭssŭr'), a critical and skillful person

coup d'état (kōō dă tā'), a stroke of policy

débris (dă brĭ'), fragments

début (dă bū'), first appearance

éclat (ĕklă'), splendor

élite (ă lĕt'), chosen; select

en avant (ăn á vān'), forward

en masse (ăn mās'), in a body

en route (ăn rōōt'), on the way

en suite (ăn swĕt'), in succession

ennui (ăn nwĕ'), languor

entrée (ăn tră'), entrance

façade (fásád'), front view

faux pas (fō pá'), a false step

fête (fāt), a festival

gens d'armes (jăn d'ärm'), policemen

laissez faire (lā sâ fâr'), let alone

liaison (lĕ á zōn'), an improper intimacy

madame (má dām'), my lady

mal de mer (mál dĕ mĕr), seasickness

mauve (mōv), a purplish color

monsieur (mō sŷ ě'), mister

naïve (nă'ĕv), ingenuous

nom de plume (nōn dĕ plŭm'), a literary title

on dit (ōn dĭ'), they say

outré (ōō tră'), extreme

protégé (prō tá zhă'), one protected

qui vive (kĕ vĕv'), on the alert

régime (rá zhĕm'), administration

répertoire (rá pâr twär'), a treasury; a list of musical or dramatic pieces

résumé (rá zŭ mă'), a summing up

roué (rōō á'), a debauchee

sang-froid (sán frwă'), coolness

savant (sá vān'), a learned man

séance (să äns'), a sitting

sobriquet (sō brĕ kă'), a nickname

soirée (swä rä'), an evening party

souvenir (sōō vĕ nĕēr'), a keepsake

tête-à-tête (tât á tât'), a private conversation

trousseau (trōō sō'), a bridal outfit

vis-à-vis (vĕ zá vĕ'), face to face

<sup>1</sup> The nasal sound of the *n* is indicated here by *n*.