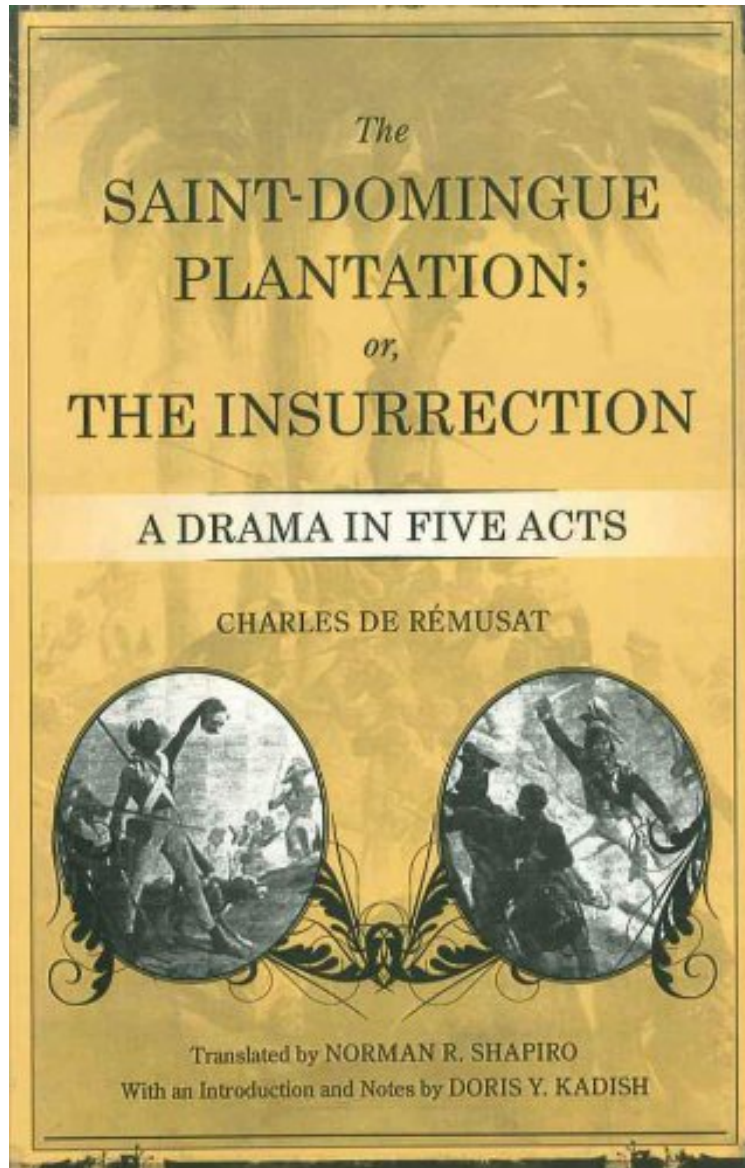


[Download] The Saint-Domingue Plantation; or, The Insurrection: A Drama in Five Acts

The Saint-Domingue Plantation; or, The Insurrection: A Drama in Five Acts

Charles de Rémusat
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Charles de Rémusat : The Saint-Domingue Plantation; or, The Insurrection: A Drama in Five Acts
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Saint-Domingue Plantation; or, The Insurrection: A Drama in Five Acts:

Based on events that began in Saint-Domingue on August 21, 1791, *The Saint-Domingue Plantation*; or, *The Insurrection* vividly dramatizes the genesis and outbreak of a slave revolt. When a representative of the French Assemblée nationale, Monsieur de Tendale, arrives at the Valombre family plantation to examine the condition of slaves in Saint-Domingue and to preach their liberation, he sparks a debate among the local cure and the Valombres—Monsieur, Madame, son Leon, and daughter Celestin—who disagree about how slaves should be treated and whether they should be freed. Meanwhile, rebellion brews on the plantation. As the slave revolt unfolds, the play's white hero, Leon, realizes the discrepancy between his liberal political and philosophical ideas and the reality of his family's economic interests. The black hero, Timur, confronts the slaves' bloodthirsty desire to kill the masters, their resistance to his leadership, and the realization that freedom places heavy demands on him and the other insurgents. Translated into English by Norman R. Shapiro for the first time since its publication in 1825, *The Saint-Domingue Plantation* addresses a wide range of topics that antislavery activists raised during Charles de Musat's time, including antitorture measures, slaves' access to the sacrament of marriage, and religious education. An informative introduction by Doris Y. Kadish places the play in its historic and literary contexts, inviting further discussion and interpretation of this important work.

About the Author Charles de Musat (1797--1875) was a leading force in the opposition to the Restoration government in the 1820s and to the Second Empire in 1851. He served as an elected member of the Chambre des députés from 1830 to 1848 and again in 1873, as minister of foreign affairs in 1871, and was inducted into the Académie française in 1846. Norman R. Shapiro is professor of romance languages and literatures at Wesleyan University. He has published over two dozen translations from the French, including *Creole Echoes: The Francophone Poetry of Nineteenth-Century Louisiana* and *The Complete Fables of Jean de La Fontaine*. Doris Y. Kadish is Distinguished Research Professor of French and Women's Studies at the University of Georgia. Her books include *Politicizing Gender: Narrative Strategies in the Aftermath of the French Revolution* and *Slavery in the Caribbean Francophone World: Distant Voices, Forgotten Acts, Forged Identities*.