

## La psychologie de Marcel Sembat: le «violon d'Ingres» d'un homme politique?\*

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### Summary

The socialist politician Marcel Sembat's unpublished manuscripts reveal the unexpected figure of a diarist with a passion for his own intimate, bodily, sexual and affective economy, and of an autodidact and sometimes polemical reader of psychology (for instance Pierre Janet's). Sembat was recognized nonetheless as a potentially publishable author by Georges Dumas, the editor of the *Journal de psychologie normale et pathologique*, who asked him to contribute an article – which was never published – on dreaming. Sembat was also particularly receptive to Freud's early conceptions of sexuality. Was Marcel Sembat an amateur, like the painter Ingres playing the violin? Could he be characterized as a “psychologist from below”? As a dilettante? Or simply as a cultivated man according to the meaning this period ascribed to the term?

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