

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE INTRODUCTION TO THE RADIO SHOW
RENDEZ-VOUS À 5 HEURES, BROADCAST ON 10 FEBRUARY 1951.

You know, Saint-Germain-des-Prés is two very different things.

There's what you might call the 'existentialist' Saint-Germain-des-Prés, with its literary gatherings in cafés and its cellars. Thirty years ago, this aspect, this side of Saint-Germain-des-Prés could be found in Montparnasse – and before that, in Montmartre. In a while, since the Saint-Germain of cellars is dying out, it will change name again.

And then there's the Saint-Germain-des-Prés that will last for as long as Paris, the Académie française and literary awards. The Saint-Germain-des-Prés of old streets, the Place Fürstenberg, and the antique and art dealers. One of the 80 quartiers of Paris, a village in itself.

This evening, we are in that village, in the rue Jacob, at a small bar that was named – without much difficulty! – L'Échelle de Jacob [Jacob's Ladder].

It's still a very tight space, despite the sort of balcony that's just been added.

There's barely enough room for the people who are here, along with the bar, the piano and a tiny stage. Every time the door opens, people look at each other, slightly worried, wondering where the new arrivals will find a space. But there's always space, just as there is always great pleasure in listening to Cora Vaucaire, Suzon Nonni, Robert Marcy, Éric Amado and Raymond Devos – all the people being introduced by Pierre Arvay.

This evening will open with Éric Amado. We're delighted to be able to listen to him singing some new songs, such as *Cœur en cage*.

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