The Oxford Book Of Letters

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Montesquieu was born Charles-Louis de Secondat in 1689 at the château of La Brébissonnière, the son of a Roman equestrian from Arpajon. He was educated in the Jesuit tradition and later studied law and philosophy in Paris. His travels in North Africa and Iran greatly influenced his views on the different political and social systems he encountered.

Montesquieu is best known for his work *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), in which he argued that the political and social institutions of a society should reflect its geographical, historical, and cultural characteristics. He also wrote *Persian Letters* (1721), a novel in which aPersian couple travel through France, observing and commenting on French society.

Selected Letters (Oxford World's Classics).