

FRENCH HONOUR LOUIS BRAILLE

From the cemetery of Coupvray, in the village where he was born and forty-three years later buried, they remove the body of the blind man who gave the sightless vision through their fingers ... Louis Braille, inventor of the alphabet for the blind. His body is to be re-interred with the illustrious of France. It was here in Paris, at the Institute for the young blind that (first as pupil and then as instructor) he worked. Now, a hundred years later, France honours his remains - and the blind mount guard. It was not till after his death that his work received official recognition.

Those without sight - young and old - from all over the world, follow the coffin to its final resting place.

Now they approach the Pantheon, where lie so many great Frenchmen who have worked for the good of mankind. Louis Braille became blind at the age of three and devoted his life to piercing the veil of darkness. Today President Auriol and Ministers stand in silent homage as France honours Louis Braille the simple man who lightened the darkness for countless thousands.