

## HISTORY OF SERICICULTURE IN FRANCE

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### ABSTRACT

The research carried out on French sericulture enabled us to know and understand the old techniques of this activity. In the past, silkworm rearing was exclusively reserved for women because they possessed the best breeding and hatching techniques of the butterfly eggs (*bombyx moris*) through the use of their chest. The spinning wheel, a wooden instrument, was used for a long time to spin the silk thread. From the 19th century, sericulture was widespread, the number of silk culture and educators increased considerably. Progressively, we have gone from small-scale production to mechanized production with high production costs. During this century, sanitary problems appeared in the silk culture, resulting in considerable losses which led to the disappearance of a large number of silkworm breeders. In the 20th century, sericulture activities proved to be good; the silk culture resume life and the textile industries are developing. In the 20th century, sericulture activities proved to be good; the silk culture resume life and the textile industries are developing. France sells silkworms and silkworm eggs in Europe, the United States of America and other countries around the world.

**Key words:** Sericulture, silkworm, cocoon, textile industry, France.