

Nostradamus

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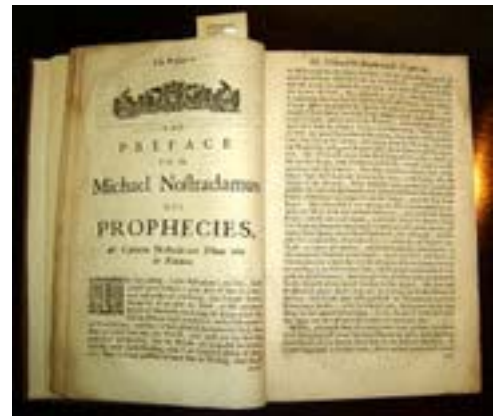


Nostradamus, (December 14, 1503 – July 1, 1566) born **Michel de Nostredame**, is one of the world's most famous authors of prophecies. He is most famous for his book *Les Propheties*, which consists of rhymed quatrains (4-line poems) grouped into sets of 100, called Centuries.

Nostradamus enthusiasts have credited him with predicting a copious number of events in world history, including the French Revolution, the atom bomb, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the September

11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Detractors, however, see such predictions as examples of vaticinium ex eventu, retroactive clairvoyance and selective thinking, which find non-existent patterns in ambiguous statements. Because of this, it has been claimed that Nostradamus is "100% accurate at predicting events *after* they happen".

The Prophecies - In this book he collected his major, long-term divinations. The first edition was published in 1555. The second, with 289 further prophetic verses, was printed in 1557. The third edition, with three hundred new quatrains, was reportedly printed in 1558, but nowadays only survives as part of the omnibus edition that was published after his death in 1568. Thanks to printing practices at the time, no two editions turned out to be identical, and it is relatively rare to find even two *copies* exactly the same.



A copy of his *Prophecies* dated 1672, located at The P.I. Nixon Medical History Library of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

The Almanacs - By far the most popular of his works, these were published annually from 1550 until his death. Often he published two or even three in a single year, entitled either *Almanachs* (detailed predictions), *Prognostications* or *Presages* (more generalised predictions).

Nostradamus was not only a diviner, but a professional healer, too. We know that he wrote at least two books on medical science. One contained an alleged "translation" of Galen, and in his so-called *Traité des fardemens* (basically, a medical cookbook containing, once again, materials borrowed mainly from others) he included a description of the methods he used to treat the plague - none of which (not even the blood-letting) apparently worked. The same book also describes the preparation of cosmetics.

A manuscript normally known as the "Orus Apollo" also exists in the Lyon municipal library, where upwards of 2000 original documents relating to Nostradamus are stored under the aegis of Michel Chomarat. It is a purported translation of an ancient Greek work on Egyptian hieroglyphs based on later, Latin versions, all of them unfortunately ignorant of the true meanings of the ancient Egyptian script, which was not in fact deciphered until the advent of Champollion in the 19th century.

Nostradamus is also the subject of many films and videos, including:

- [Nostradamus: The Man Who Saw Tomorrow](#) at the Internet Movie Database (1981)
- [Nostradamus](#) at the Internet Movie Database (2000)
- [Nostradamus](#) at the Internet Movie Database (1994) Depicts Nostradamus' rise in influence, because of success in treating plague and his predictions, culminating in his appointment as court physician to Charles IX of France.

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Although Nostradamus died in 1566, he is still studied and proclaimed to be one of the most important prophets in history. Afraid of being accused of witchcraft, Nostradamus wrote his predictions in vague quatrains. Since the quatrains of Nostradamus were vague, many believe that people read what they want to read in his prophesies. Many quatrains can be used for different events throughout time and are always subject to interpretation. There is also the problem of correctly translating the quatrains, which were originally written in ancient French.

Here are some interesting links to learn more about Nostradamus:

[The Nostradamus Society of America](#)

[Nostradamus Predictions--Past, Present and Future](#)

[Nostradamus Quatrains](#)