

French Woman Colette BOURLIER Awarded Aged in 91. Got PhD After 30 Years



Colette BOURLIER, who awarded a high distinction for her thesis on immigrant workers, said it took so long because she 'took breaks'. A woman aged 91 has become one of the oldest people in France to gain a PhD after she completed a thesis that she had begun three decades earlier.

Colette Bourlier was awarded the mark of "high distinction" for her work, which she successfully defended on Tuesday before a jury of the University of Franche-Comte in Besancon, eastern France. Paris auction porters go on trial for alleged 'pilfering' of thousands of items

Self-governing 'red collars' at Hôtel Drouot accused of stealing diamonds, furniture and art over period of many years.

"I. took a bit of time to write because I took breaks," Bourlier said, explaining the decades it took her to complete her work.

The thesis was entitled "Immigrant workers in Besancon in the second half of the 20th century."

It drew on her own experience as a teacher in literacy programmes for immigrants in the eastern French city.

She became interested in a PhD after she retired in 1983. Normally, a PhD in France is written in three years, but Bourlier was "an extremely atypical" student, said her professor, Serge Ormaux.

"She is probably the only person who knew all the aspects in such detail and who was able to weave everything together. She backed it up with statistical analyses."



**16 March 2016 03.09 GMT Last modified
on Wednesday 16 March 2016 03.11 GMT, France**