

Essay concerning the understanding, knowledge, opinion, and assent

Harvard University Press - John Locke



Description: -

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Knowledge, Theory of. essay concerning the understanding, knowledge, opinion, and assent

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Notes: The hitherto unpublished draft dated 1671, of Lockes Essay concerning human understanding first published in 1690, printed from a photostat copy of the original, with strict adherence to the text, save that the spelling, capitals and punctuation have been modernized. cf. Editors pref.

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Knowledge and Probability

The Grounds of Probability are two: Conformity with our own Experience, or the Testimony of others. Primary qualities are inherent within the object and remain fixed and not subject to perception. Now, Locke realizes that the Cartesian will not leave things at that; he will insist that minds think even during sleep, though they do not remember it.

Published Works of John Locke

Till that was done I suspected we began at the wrong end, and in vain sought for satisfaction in a quiet and sure possession of truths that most concerned us, whilst we let loose our thoughts into the vast ocean of Being: as if all that boundless extent were the natural and undoubted possession of our understandings, wherein there was nothing exempt from its decisions, or that escaped its comprehension.

Published Works of John Locke

But since all of these matters are formally irrelevant to the truth of the proposition in question, Locke supposed, they should have no bearing on my assent.

John Locke

By the operation of insensible particles on our senses. But, before I proceed on to what I have thought on this subject, I must here in the entrance beg pardon of my reader for the frequent use of the word idea, which he will find in the following treatise.

Early Drafts of Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding

First, essence may be taken for the very being of anything, whereby it is what it is.

An Essay Concerning Human Understanding

Strahan, 1777 ; new edition, corrected, 10 volumes London, T. But whatever be the difficulties that lie in the way of this inquiry; whatever it be that keeps us so much in the dark to ourselves; sure I am that all the light we can let in upon our minds, all the acquaintance we can make with our own understandings, will not only be very pleasant, but bring us great advantage, in directing our thoughts in the search of other things. A Vindication of the Reasonableness of Christianity, etc.

Knowledge and Probability

Since it is the UNDERSTANDING that sets man above the rest of sensible beings, and gives him all the advantage and dominion which he has over them; it is certainly a subject, even for its nobleness, worth our labour to inquire into. Can any one think any real alterations are made in the porphyry by the presence or absence of light; and that those ideas of whiteness and redness are really in porphyry in the light, when it is plain it has no colour in the dark? And so extension is an idea belonging to body only; but space may, as is evident, be considered without it. In ...his most important philosophical work, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* 1689 , began at a meeting with friends in his rooms, probably in February 1671.

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