

Studies on Voltaire and the eighteenth century.

Voltaire Foundation - 18th century



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Voltaire

The most original borrowed from one another. It also included figures such as Samuel Clarke and other self-proclaimed Newtonians.

Gulliver's Travels Part IV, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms," Chapters I

Voltaire was a man of paradoxes: the bourgeois who as de Voltaire gave himself aristocratic pretensions, but who as plain Voltaire later became a hero of the Revolution; the conservative in aesthetic matters who appeared as a radical in religious and political issues. The examples to which he applies his aesthetic ideas are not exclusively artistic: he includes activities like flirting, gambling, and social dancing, alongside more conventional topics such as architecture, to describe how the mind perceives pleasure. Je crois pourtant que le mariage est de quelques semaines plus ancien.

Gulliver's Travels Part IV, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms," Chapters I

Voltaire adopted a stance in this text somewhere between the strict determinism of rationalist materialists and the transcendent spiritualism and voluntarism of contemporary Christian natural theologians. In order to accomplish this, Gulliver does small things daily like using his best manners, eating with a knife and fork, keeping his clothes on, and being as clean as possible.

Theorists: Jean

The British Museum had opened in 1759 and the Uffizi in 1765, but France was behind its neighbors, even if royal collections were more accessible than before.

Voltaire and Enlightenment

Dans la contrainte point de vertu, et sans vertu point de religion. Aside from the exceptional painters that Diderot admired, such as Greuze and Chardin, the eighteenth century saw a rivalry between two predominant styles, rococo and neoclassicism. When wrote his Representatives of Humanity, he forgot Voltaire.

Theorists: Jean

Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Transparency and Obstruction. To describe what objects please our minds, Montesquieu lists six qualities: order, variety, symmetry, contrasts, the ability to provoke curiosity, and the ability to provoke surprise.

Voltaire

Part of the deep cultural tie that joins Voltaire to this dictum is the fact that even while he did not write these precise words, they do capture, however imprecisely, the spirit of his philosophy of liberty. Even in terms of manners, the Moderns claimed that the newly developed French courtly politeness was an improvement on the rough, though heroic, behavior of the Ancient Romans and Greeks. Gulliver walks inland until he comes across a field of strange creatures.

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