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Edited by Daniel Brewer
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT

The Enlightenment has long been seen as synonymous with the beginnings of modern Western intellectual and political culture. As a set of ideas and a social movement, this historical moment, the ‘age of reason’ of the seventeenth and eighteenth century, is marked by attempts to place knowledge on new foundations. *The Cambridge Companion to the French Enlightenment* brings together essays by leading scholars representing disciplines ranging from philosophy, religion and literature, to art, medicine, anthropology and architecture, to analyse the French Enlightenment. Each essay presents a concise view of an important aspect of the French Enlightenment, discussing its defining characteristics, internal dynamics and historical transformations. The *Companion* discusses the most influential reinterpretations of the Enlightenment that have taken place during the last two decades, reinterpretations that both reflect and have contributed to important re-evaluations of received ideas about the Enlightenment and the early modern period more generally.

Daniel Brewer, Department of French and Italian, University of Minnesota, has published widely in the area of eighteenth-century French literature and culture. He is author of *The Enlightenment Past: Reconstructing Eighteenth-Century French Thought* (Cambridge, 2008) and co-editor of *L'Esprit Créateur*, an international journal of French and Francophone literature and culture.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Notes on contributors</i>	page vii
	<i>Chronology</i>	xi
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvi
1	The Enlightenment today? DANIEL BREWER	I
2	Private lives, public space: a new social history of the Enlightenment ANTOINE LILTI	14
3	Anthropology ANDREW CURRAN	29
4	Commerce PAUL CHENEY	44
5	Science J. B. SHANK	60
6	Political thought DAN EDELSTEIN	78
7	Sex and gender, feeling and thinking: imagining women as intellectuals JULIE CANDLER HAYES	91
8	Religion CHARLY COLEMAN	105

CONTENTS

9	Art and aesthetic theory: claiming Enlightenment as viewers and critics JENNIFER MILAM	122
10	Enlightenment literature THOMAS DIPIERO	137
11	<i>Philosophe</i> /philosopher STÉPHANE VAN DAMME	153
12	Music DOWNING A. THOMAS	167
13	Architecture and the Enlightenment ANTHONY VIDLER	184
14	Medicine and the body in the French Enlightenment ANNE VILA	199
15	Space, geography and the global French Enlightenment CHARLES W. J. WITHERS	214
	<i>Guide to further reading</i>	233
	<i>Index</i>	240

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STÉPHANE VAN DAMME, Professor of the History of Science at the European University Institute, examines the origins of early modern scientific knowledge and European culture between 1650 and 1850 by looking at essential elements overlooked by historians of science, such as scientific centres, founding fathers, paradigmatic disciplines and imperial projects. His publications include *Descartes: essai d'histoire culturelle d'une grandeur philosophique (XVIIe–XXe siècle)*, *Paris, capitale philosophique de la Fronde à la Révolution*, *Le Temple de la sagesse: savoirs, écriture et sociabilité urbaine (Lyon, 17–18e siècles)*, *L'Épreuve libertine: morale, soupçon et pouvoirs dans la France baroque* and *Métropole de papiers: naissance de l'archéologie urbaine à Paris et à Londres*. His latest book, *À toutes voiles vers la vérité: une autre histoire de la philosophie au temps des Lumières*, is an attempt to produce a cultural history of early modern philosophy.

ANTHONY VIDLER is a historian and critic of modern and contemporary architecture specializing in the Enlightenment and the present. He is Professor of Architecture at The Cooper Union. As designer and curator, he installed the permanent exhibition of the work of Claude-Nicolas Ledoux in the Royal Salt Works of Arc-et-Senans (Franche-Comté, France). He has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His publications include *The Writing of the Walls: Architectural Theory in the Late Enlightenment*, *Claude-Nicolas Ledoux: Architecture and Social Reform at the End of the Ancien Régime*, *The Architectural Uncanny: Essays in the Modern Unhomely*, *Warped Space: Architecture and Anxiety in Modern Culture*, *Histories of the Immediate Present: The Invention of Architectural Modernism* and *The Scenes of the Street and Other Essays*.

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ANNE VILA is Professor of French at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her publications include *Enlightenment and Pathology: Sensibility in the Literature and Medicine of Eighteenth-Century France* (1998) and the edited volume *The Cultural History of the Senses in the Enlightenment* (2014). She is completing a book entitled *Singular Beings: Passions and Pathologies of the Scholar in France, 1720–1840* and a re-edition (with Ronan Chalmin) of Tissot's *De la santé des gens de lettres*. Her current research explores the cultural history of 'extraordinary' psychic states such as ecstasy, catalepsy and magnetic somnambulism during and after the eighteenth century.

CHARLES W. J. WITHERS is Ogilvie Chair of Geography at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the British Academy. His books include *Placing the Enlightenment: Thinking Geographically about the Age of Reason, Geography and Science in Britain, 1831–1939* and, as co-editor, *Geographies of Nineteenth-Century Science*. He has research interests in the historical geographies of science, travel and the Enlightenment. Forthcoming works include a study of the travel imprint of John Murray publishers, 1773–1857, and a book on the historical geography of the prime meridian.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1637 René Descartes, *Discours de la méthode (Discourse on the Method)*
- 1685 Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which guaranteed freedom of religion to Protestants
- 1697 Pierre Bayle, *Dictionnaire historique et critique (Critical and Historical Dictionary)*
- 1715 Death of Louis XIV, ascension of Louis XV, regency of Philippe, duc d'Orléans
- 1717 Jean-Antoine Watteau, *L'Embarquement pour Cythère (The Pilgrimage to the Island of Cythera)*
- 1719 Jean-Baptiste du Bos, *Réflexions critiques sur la poésie et sur la peinture (Critical Reflections on Poetry and Painting)*
- 1721 Charles-Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu, *Lettres persanes (Persian Letters)*
- 1727 Anne-Thérèse de Marguenat de Courcelles, marquise de Lambert, *Réflexions nouvelles sur les femmes (New Reflections on Women)*
- 1731 Antoine-François Prévost, *Histoire du chevalier Des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut (Manon Lescaut)*
- 1731 Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux, *La Vie de Marianne (Marianne)*
- 1733 Louis XV commissions Jacques Cassini to produce a map of France, completed in 1744

CHRONOLOGY

- 1734 Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet), *Lettres philosophiques* or *Lettres anglaises* (*Philosophical Letters*)
- 1736–8 Claude Prosper Jolyot de Cr billon *fils*, * garements du c ur et de l'esprit* (*Strayings of the Heart and Mind*)
- 1737 Salon exhibitions instituted as regular events in Paris and reviewed biennially by Denis Diderot from 1759 to 1781
- 1747 Julien Offray de La Mettrie, *L'Homme machine* (*Man a Machine*)
- 1747 Fran oise de Graffigny, *Lettres d'une P ruvienne* (*Lettres from a Peruvian Woman*)
- 1748 Jean-Baptiste de Boyer, marquis d'Argens, *Th r se philosophe*, one of the eighteenth century's best-selling libertine works
- 1748 Charles-Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu, *De l'esprit des lois* (*The Spirit of the Laws*)
- 1749–88 George-Louis Leclerc, comte de Buffon, *Histoire naturelle, g n rale et particuli re* (37 vols.) (*Natural History*)
- 1750 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discours sur les sciences et les arts* (*Discourse on the Sciences and Arts*)
- 1751–72 Publication of *Encyclop die, ou dictionnaire raisonn  des sciences, des arts et des m tiers* (*Encyclopedia; or, A Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts and Crafts*) (17 vols. of articles, 11 vols. of plates), edited by Denis Diderot and Jean-Baptiste le Rond d'Alembert
- 1752–4 The *Querelle des bouffons* opposing partisans of French music and of Italian music
- 1753 Translation with commentary of Isaac Newton's *Philosophi  naturalis principia mathematica* (*Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*) by Gabrielle  milie Le Tonnelier de Breteuil, marquise du Ch telet
- 1755 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discours sur l'origine et les fondements de l'in galit  parmi les hommes* (*On the Origin of Inequality*)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1756 Victor de Riqueti, marquis de Mirabeau, *L'Ami des hommes* (*Friend of Man*)
- 1756 Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet), *Essai sur les mœurs et l'esprit des nations* (*An Essay on Universal History, the Morals and Manners of Nations*)
- 1758 Claude Adrien Helvétius, *De l'esprit* (*Essays on the Mind*)
- 1759 Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet), *Candide*
- 1760–3 Critics and playwrights produce pamphlets and plays critical of the *philosophes*
- 1761 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* (*Julie; or, The New Heloise*)
- 1763 End of the Seven Years' War, with France regaining Guadeloupe and Martinique in the Caribbean and ceding Canada and land east of the Mississippi to Britain
- 1764 Jeanne Julie Éléonore de Lespinasse opens her salon
- 1765 Jean-Baptiste Greuze, *La Bonne Mère* (*The Good Mother*), *Le Mauvais Fils puni* (*The Bad Son Punished*) and *La Malediction paternelle* (*The Father's Curse*)
- 1766 Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot, *Réflexions sur la formation et la distribution des richesses* (*Reflections on the Formation and Distribution of Wealth*)
- 1766 Louis Antoine de Bougainville sets sail from France on a voyage to circumnavigate the world
- 1767 Jean-Honoré Fragonard, *L'Escarpolette* (*The Swing*)
- 1769 Denis Diderot, *Le Rêve de d'Alembert* (*D'Alembert's Dream*)
- 1770 Paul Henri Thiry, baron d'Holbach, *Système de la nature* (*System of Nature*)
- 1770 Guillaume Thomas François Raynal, *Histoire des deux Indes* (*A History of the Two Indies*)
- 1772 Denis Diderot, *Supplément au voyage de Bougainville* (*Supplement to Bougainville's Voyage*)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1775–8 Claude-Nicolas Ledoux designs the Royal Saltworks at Arc-et-Senans
- 1778 Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, *Le Mariage de Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*)
- 1782 Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, *Liaisons dangereuses* (*Dangerous Liaisons*)
- 1784 Immanuel Kant, *Was ist Aufklärung?* (*What Is Enlightenment?*)
- 1785 Jacques-Louis David, *Le Serment des Horaces* (*The Oath of the Horatii*)
- 1785–9 Thomas Jefferson succeeds Benjamin Franklin as US Minister to France
- 1789 Beginning of the French Revolution (convocation of the Estates-General, Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, assault on the Bastille, march on Versailles forcing the court back to Paris)
- 1791 Constantin-François de Chassebœuf, comte de Volney, *Les Ruines, ou méditations sur les révolutions des empires* (*Ruins; or, Meditations on the Revolutions of Empires*).
- 1791–1804 Slave revolt in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (Haiti)
- 1791 Donatien Alphonse François, marquis de Sade, *Justine, ou, les malheurs de la vertu* (*Justine; or, the Misfortunes of Virtue*)
- 1792 Proclamation of the French republic
- 1793 Execution of Louis XVI
- 1793–4 Reign of Terror under Maximilien Robespierre and the Jacobin party
- 1795 Nicolas de Caritat, marquis de Condorcet, *Esquisse d'un tableau historique des progrès de l'esprit humain* (*Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*)
- 1799 Anne Louise Germaine de Staël-Holstein, *De la littérature considérée dans ses rapports avec les institutions sociales* (*The Influence of Literature on Society*)

CHRONOLOGY

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|------|---|
| 1804 | Proclamation of the First Empire under Napoleon Bonaparte |
| 1815 | Bourbon restoration |

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