The second edition of this Companion presents a philosophical perspective on an eighteenth-century phenomenon that has had a profound influence on Western culture. A distinguished team of contributors examines the writings of David Hume, Adam Smith, Thomas Reid, Adam Ferguson and other Scottish thinkers. Their subjects range across philosophy, natural theology, economics, anthropology, natural science, and law and the arts, and in addition, they relate the Scottish Enlightenment to its historical context and assess its impact and legacy. The result is a comprehensive and accessible volume that illuminates the richness, the intellectual variety and the underlying unity of this important movement. This volume contains five entirely new chapters on morality, the human mind, aesthetics, sentimentalism and political economy, and eleven other chapters have been significantly revised and updated. The book will be of interest to a wide range of readers in philosophy, theology, literature and the history of ideas.


Craig Smith is the Adam Smith Senior Lecturer in the Scottish Enlightenment in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow. He is the author of Adam Smith’s Political Philosophy: The Invisible Hand and Spontaneous Order (2006) and Adam Ferguson and the Idea of Civil Society: Moral Science in the Scottish Enlightenment (2019), and he is a co-editor of The Oxford Handbook of Adam Smith (2013).
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THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT
SECOND EDITION
Edited by
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Acknowledgements

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Thanks are due to Cambridge University Press, in particular, to Hilary Gaskin, who provided invaluable guidance on the production of a second edition, and to Sophie Taylor, for guiding the project through to publication.
Chronology of Events Relating to the Scottish Enlightenment

1681 Viscount Stair’s *The Institutions of the Laws of Scotland* (rev. edn. 1691)
Royal College of Physicians chartered by Charles II
1684–1758 Allan Ramsay (poet)
1685–9 Reign of James VII and II
1687 Sir Isaac Newton’s *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (the Principia)
1689 William and Mary ascended the throne
1689 Advocates’ Library opened
1690 John Locke’s *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
1694–1746 Francis Hutcheson
1695–1768 John Erskine of Carnock
1696–1782 Henry Home, raised to the Bench as Lord Kames in 1752
1698–1746 Colin MacLaurin
1698–1748 George Turnbull
1702–14 Reign of Queen Anne
1704 Death of John Locke
Sir Isaac Newton’s *Opticks*
1707 Treaty of Union of England and Scotland
1710–96 Thomas Reid
1710 Bishop Berkeley’s *Principles of Human Knowledge*
Hutcheson matriculated at Glasgow
1710–90 William Cullen
1711–76 David Hume
1711 Lord Shaftesbury’s *Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times*
First year of Joseph Addison and Richard Steele’s *Spectator*
Chronology

1713–84 Allan Ramsay (painter)
1713–80 Sir James Steuart
1714–27 Reign of George I
1714 Bernard Mandeville’s *Fable of the Bees*
1715 Jacobite Rising
1718 Carmichael’s commentary on Pufendorf’s *De officio hominis et civis*

1718–1800 Hugh Blair
1719–96 George Campbell
1721–93 William Robertson
1721–71 Tobias Smollett
1722 Reid enters Marischal College, Aberdeen
1723–90 Adam Smith
1723–1816 Adam Ferguson
1723 Hume enters Edinburgh University
1725 Hutcheson’s *An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue*
MacLaurin elected Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh
1725–6 Hutcheson’s *Reflections upon Laughter and Remarks upon the Fable of the Bees*
1726–97 James Hutton
1728 Hutcheson’s *Essay on the Nature and Conduct of the Passions, with Illustrations on the Moral Sense*
1729 Death of Gershom Carmichael, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow
Hutcheson appointed Professor at Glasgow, becoming Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1730
1728–99 Joseph Black
1735–1801 John Millar
1736–1819 James Watt
1736/8–96 James Macpherson
1737 Foundation of Philosophical Society of Edinburgh
1739–40 Hume’s *A Treatise of Human Nature*
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<td>Charles-Louis Montesquieu’s <em>L’Esprit des Lois</em></td>
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1759  
Adam Smith’s *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*
William Robertson’s *History of Scotland*

1759–96  
Robert Burns

1761  
John Millar appointed Professor of Civil Law at Glasgow
Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *Du Contrat social*

1762  
George Campbell’s *Dissertation on Miracles*
Hugh Blair appointed first Regius Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres at Edinburgh

1764  
Thomas Reid’s *Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense*
Reid appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow
Adam Ferguson appointed Professor of Pneumatics and Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh

1767  
Adam Ferguson’s *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*
Sir James Steuart’s *Principles of Political Oeconomy*

1768–71  
First edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, edited by William Smellie

1771  
John Millar’s *The Origin of the Distinction of Ranks*  
(republished with extensive revision in 1779)

1771–1832  
Sir Walter Scott

1773  
*An Institute of the Law of Scotland* by John Erskine of Carnock

1774  
Lord Kames’s *Sketches of the History of Man*

1776  
Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations*
George Campbell’s *Philosophy of Rhetoric*
American Declaration of Independence

1779  
Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

1780  
James Dunbar’s *Essays on the History of Mankind*

1781  
Immanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*

1783  
Founding of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

1785  
Reid’s *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*
Dugald Stewart appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh
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