THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT

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 Cambridge Companion to
THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT
SECOND EDITION
Edited by
Alexander Broadie
University of Glasgow
Craig Smith
University of Glasgow
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viii  LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS


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Murray G. H. Pittock, FRSE, is Bradley Professor of English Literature at the University of Glasgow. His recent publications include Material Culture and Sedition (2013) and Culloden (2016). His Enlightenment in a Smart City: Edinburgh’s Civic Development 1660–1750 is forthcoming.

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Paul Wood is Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, University of Victoria, Canada. He has published widely on the natural and human sciences in the Scottish Enlightenment and has edited or co-edited four volumes in the Edinburgh Edition of Thomas Reid.
Acknowledgements

The editors would like to thank the returning contributors for agreeing to update, and in many cases substantially re-write, their contributions to the original edition of this Companion. They also wish to thank the new contributors whose chapters have further extended the range of material covered by the Companion.

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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

1698–1748 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*
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1740 George Turnbull’s *Treatise on Ancient Painting and Principles of Moral and Christian Philosophy*
1740–95 William Smellie
1740–95 James Boswell
1743–86 Gilbert Stuart
1745–46 Jacobite Rising under Charles Edward Stuart
1747 William Cullen appointed Professor of Chemistry at Glasgow
1748 Hume’s *Philosophical Essays Concerning Human Understanding* [later titled *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*]
Colin MacLaurin’s *Account of Sir Isaac Newton’s Philosophical Discoveries*
Reid’s ‘Essay on Quantity’ in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*
Charles-Louis Montesquieu’s *L’Esprit des Lois*
1749 First volume of comte de Buffon’s *Histoire Naturelle*
1750–74 Robert Fergusson
1751 Adam Smith appointed Professor of Logic and Rhetoric at Glasgow, becoming Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1752
Reid appointed regent at King’s College, Aberdeen
Hume’s *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*
1752–7 Hume Keeper of the Advocates’ Library, Edinburgh
1752 Foundation of Glasgow Literary Society
1753–1828 Dugald Stewart
1754–62 Hume’s *History of England*
1754–1835 Sir John Sinclair
1754 Foundation of Select Society
1755 Hutcheson’s *A System of Moral Philosophy*
1757 Hume’s *The Natural History of Religion*
1758 Founding of the Aberdeen Philosophical Society, the ‘Wise Club’
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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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| 1789 | French Revolution |
| 1790 | William Smellie’s *Philosophy of Natural History*, vols. 1 and 2, 1799 |
| 1791–99 | John Sinclair’s *Statistical Account of Scotland* |
| 1792 | Adam Ferguson’s *Principles of Moral and Political Science* |
| 1795 | James Hutton’s *Theory of the Earth with Proofs and Illustrations*  
Adam Smith’s *Essays on Philosophical Subjects* |