

## **Œuvres de 1753-1757 (II)**

Mélanges de 1756

**Series:**

Œuvres complètes de Voltaire

**Volume:**

45B

**VolumeEditors:**

Michel Mervaud, Jean Dagen, et al.

**Author:**

Voltaire

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The new edition of Voltaire's works produced by Cramer in 1756 in close collaboration with the author contained, in volumes 4 and 5, 'Mélanges de littérature, d'histoire et de philosophie'. Alongside significant works previously published were a number of new texts, some related, some standing alone, that reflect not only Voltaire's perennial interests, but a new way of presenting them in short articles or 'petits chapitres', as he referred to them. These new texts form the major part of this volume 45B of the *Œuvres complètes de Voltaire*.

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French Studies

Readers are undoubtedly familiar with the Voltaire Foundation's ever-expanding critical edition of Voltaire's collected works, which has changed the landscape of eighteenth-century scholarship. [...] Coming on the heels of Voltaire's two great historical works, *Le Siècle de Louis XIV* (1751) and *L'Histoire universelle* (1753), this collection might give the impression of a writer capitalizing on his success by recycling unused work. Nicholas Cronk, however, makes a compelling case for considering the *mélanges* as a bona fide genre in which Voltaire exercised his taste for 'de petits chapitres', short variations on themes that enabled maximum flexibility in tone, approach, and subject matter. [...] 'De petits chapitres' these may be but, as this volume convincingly shows, Voltaire's brevity — his conspicuous silence on certain issues as much as his polemics — set the agenda of international debate for much of the eighteenth century.

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