

Mandeville and Hume

anatomists of civil society

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The Fable of the bees and the *Treatise of human nature* were written to define and dissect the essential components of a 'civil society'. How have early readings of the *Fable* skewed our understanding of the work and its author? To what extent did Mandeville's celebrated work influence that of Hume? In this pioneering book, Mikko Tolonen extends current research at the intersection of philosophy and book history by analysing the two parts of the *Fable* in relation to the development of the *Treatise*.

Focussing on the key themes of selfishness, pride, justice and politeness, Tolonen traces the evolution of Mandeville's thinking on human nature and the origins of political society to explore the relationship between his *Fable* and Hume's *Treatise*. Through a close examination of the publishing history of the *Fable* and F. B. Kaye's seminal edition, Tolonen uncovers hitherto overlooked differences between Parts I and II to open up new approaches in Mandeville scholarship. As the question of social responsibility dominates the political agenda, the legacy of these key Enlightenment philosophers is as pertinent today as it was to our predecessors.

1. Introduction: Sociability and sceptical sentimentalism
2. Intellectual change in Bernard Mandeville
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 - ii. The critique of Hobbism in the 1720s

ii. *Part II* and the history of civil society

3. The publishing history of *The Fable of the bees*

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ii. Jacob Tonson the younger and *The Fable of the bees*

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