

From 'Encyclopédie' to 'Encyclopédie méthodique'

revision and expansion

Series:

SVEC

Volume:

2013:11

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Publication Date:

2013

ISBN:

978-0-7294-1077-9

The last of the great Enlightenment encyclopedias, Charles Joseph Panckoucke's *Encyclopédie méthodique* was originally conceived as an innovative revision of the *Encyclopédie* and the *Supplément*. Arranged in a series of subject-specific dictionaries, it began to appear in 1782 and was completed 50 years later, boasting 203 volumes of text and plates produced by many eminent editors and contributors. Kathleen Hardesty Doig's book is the first to compare the genealogy of the *Méthodique* with its predecessors as a means to understanding Panckoucke's original vision for his work. Through careful examination of each volume of the *Méthodique*, the author explores for instance:

- how Diderot's materialist, anti-clerical articles were scrupulously preserved;
- how new contributions on religious topics, written by a renowned French theologian, provided a counter-balancing apology of Catholicism;
- how subjects were augmented or radically transformed, particularly in the sciences where articles reflect groundbreaking research in chemistry and medicine;
- how these changes illuminate the editors' original goal of an encyclopedia designed to present information in an accessible format to specialists and amateurs alike.

Introduction

1. Mathematics and physics
2. Medicine, anatomy and chemistry

3. Agriculture and the natural sciences
4. History and geography
5. Theology, philosophy, grammar and literature
6. Law and political economy
7. The military arts
8. The fine arts, architecture and music
9. The mechanical arts
10. Miscellaneous subjects

Conclusion

List of dictionaries of the *Encyclopédie méthodique*

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'This deeply researched work explores the construction of Panckoucke's innovative enterprise. It sheds new light on the emergence and development of the disciplines as well as their respective boundaries and interrelations. The breadth of Kathleen Doig's scholarship is remarkable.'

Robert J. Morrissey, University of Chicago

Pages:

330

Price Sterling (£):

65

French studies

This book represents an important contribution to a growing body of scholarship comparing Diderot and d'Alembert's *Encyclopédie* and its successor, Charles-Joseph Panckoucke's *Encyclopédie methodique*.

SHARP News

Doig has captured in this book the very spirit of Panckoucke's massive encyclopedia [...]. She demonstrates with perspicacity and depth not only how the great *Méthodique* was written, but

more importantly, how it should be read and, in turn, understood.

The British journal for the history of science

Kathleen Hardesty Doig has produced the first monograph studying the *Encyclopédie méthodique* in its entirety. [...] applying qualitative and quantitative comparisons of content, [she] is more concerned with the *Méthodique*'s textuality than with its materiality.

New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century

'Doig has produced an imposing empirical study whose large amount of detail makes it an indispensable tool for future studies of the *Encyclopédie méthodique*'.
