

## **Lettres sur les Anglais (I-III)**

**Series:**

Œuvres complètes de Voltaire

**Volume:**

6A:6C

**VolumeEditors:**

Critical edition by Nicholas Cronk

**Author:**

Voltaire

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The *Lettres sur les Anglais* (also known as the *Lettres philosophiques*) is one of the key masterpieces of the European eighteenth century, a manifesto of Enlightenment thinking that helped to shape a way of understanding the world which remains influential to this day. It also marked a turning-point in Voltaire's career when the poet and dramatist established himself as a prose writer of the first rank.

Drawing on the experiences of his stay in England (1726-1728), the *Lettres* are made up of a series of short articles, covering a range of themes, from religion and politics to literature, and they aim to present an overall view of contemporary English culture. Voltaire experiments with a new type of cultural history, suggesting the interconnection of religious tolerance, political freedom and a dynamic literary culture.

This edition is the most complete ever produced, and takes as its base text the *Lettres philosophiques* of 1734, giving full variants from all the other versions published during Voltaire's lifetime. It includes the original English version, the *Letters concerning the English nation*, as well as an edition and critical study of the clandestine *Lettre sur M. Locke* in which Voltaire's materialist thinking received its fullest expression.

Contributors: Geneviève Artigas-Menant, Nicholas Cronk, Nicolas Fréry, Antony McKenna, Gianluca Mori, Ruggero Sciuto, Nick Treuherz

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