DIDEROT'S ENCYCLOPEDIA
1751 -- 1780

An Exhibit Commemorating
the 200th Anniversary of Its Publication

Princeton University Library
Main Exhibition Gallery

March 19 -- May 10, 1951

[Notes on the Exhibit, by H. G. Rice, Jr.]
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I

Introduction

ENCYCLOPÉDIE ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts, et des Métiers. Edited by DIDEROT, D'ALEMBERT & others.

"Diderot's Encyclopedia", as it is often called, was one of the great editorial and publishing achievements of the 18th century. It was both a summation of the thought of the time, and a detailed description of the state of knowledge in different branches of learning, theoretical as well as practical. Although it has been superseded as a reference tool by other encyclopedias, it still stands as a landmark in the history of human thought, and remains an invaluable source-book for historical research.

The French publisher LE BRETON first conceived of the new Encyclopedia as a simple translation of the Cyclopaedia that had been published in England by Ephraim CHAMBERS. Among the collaborators whose support was enlisted for the enterprise were the eminent mathematician, D'ALEMBERT, and a then relatively unknown hack-writer and translator called Denis DIDEROT. The original plan was soon enlarged and foundations were laid for a wholly new and comprehensive work. Many eminent writers contributed to the Encyclopédie, but it was Diderot who carried on the main burden of the editorial work throughout the quarter of a century required to bring it to completion.

A Prospectus was published in...................... 1750.

Volumes I and II were published in.................. 1751.

followed by:

Volumes III through XVII, published.............. 1753-1765.

Four supplementary volumes of text................. 1776-1777.

Plates, Volumes I-XI.................................. 1762-1772.

A supplementary volume of Plates.................... 1777.

Two volumes of Tables............................... 1780.

A total of 35 volumes
Bibliographical Note

In preparing this exhibit the following works -- in addition to those actually shown and to such standard reference works as Lessen, Bédier & Hazard, etc. -- were particularly useful:

L'Encyclopédie et les Encyclopédistes. Exposition organisée par le Centre International de Synthèse. Bibliothèque Nationale. 1932. [Includes, pp. 25-30, a useful list of contributors to the encyclopedia, arranged both alphabetically by name, and by subject.]


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DIDEROT, Denis, Correspondance inédite, publiée d'après les manuscrits originaux, avec des introductions et des notes par André Michel. 2 vols. Paris, 1931. [3246.2, 1951]

DIDEROT, Denis, Lettres à Sophie Volland....notes par André Michel. 3 vols. Paris, 1930. [3246.2.646]


LÉ GRAS, Joseph, Diderot et l'Encyclopédie, in series "Les Grands Evénements littéraires", Malére, Amiens, 1928. [3246.2.783] [Good account of the external circumstances of the publication, based on unc. sources.]


NAVES, Raymond, Voltaire et l'Encyclopédie, Paris, 1938. [3293.832.2]


PAGE, Ira C., The "Philosophe" in the French Drama of the Eighteenth Century, Princeton Univ. Press, 1926. [Sidelights on Talissement's play, etc.] [3226.949.11.]

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II

The Publication of the Encyclopédie

[Case 1]

1. **ENCYCLOPÉDIE.** Volume I (1751). Title-page.
   [Ex0984.325].

2. **PROSPECTUS DE L'ENCYCLOPÉDIE.**

   This Prospectus was first published as a pamphlet in 1750 [opening paragraph shorn in a later reprint]. It immediately attracted attention in the magazines of the time, such as the *Mercure de France* and the *Journal des Scavans*.

   The announcement that the work would include "at least eight volumes and six hundred plates" proved to be a gross underestimate.


3. **PURPOSE OF THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.**

   The best statement of the ideals which inspired the Encyclopaedists is found in the article "Encyclopédie," which Diderot himself wrote for the work. The purpose of an encyclopedia, he states:

   "...is to assemble the knowledge scattered over the surface of the earth; to explain its general plan to the men with whom we live and to transmit it to the men who come after us; in order that the labors of centuries past may not be in vain during the centuries to come; that our descendants, by becoming better instructed, may as a consequence be more virtuous and happier and that we may not die without having deserved well of the human race...."


The first edition of Chambers' *Cyclopaedia* was published in London in 1728 [the 7th edition, 1752, shown]. It was the chief predecessor of the French *encyclopédie.*

[0984.322]

5. **REPRINTS OF THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.**

In spite of its size, the *encyclopédie* was reprinted several times — at Lucca, Leghorn, Geneva, Yverdon and Lausanne. Shown in the exhibit were several volumes from the octavo set issued at Lausanne and Berne "chez les Sociétés Typographiques," 1769-1782.

[SH 0984.325.11. 36 vols.]

6. **ENCYCLOPÉDIE MÉTHODIQUE.**

The work known as the *encyclopédie méthodique,* published by the firm of Panckoucke, was an outgrowth of Diderot's *encyclopédie,* but not a simple reprint. Whereas the articles in the "Diderot work," were arranged in a single alphabetical sequence with cross-references to bring related material together, — the new work was arranged according to subject. It consisted of a series of smaller encyclopedias devoted to a single subject within the broad framework of the whole. For example there are several volumes devoted to Agriculture, others to Political Economy, to Natural History, to Finance, etc. The contributions are for the most part entirely new. This *encyclopédie méthodique,* begun in 1782, eventually extended to 166 volumes, the last of which appeared in 1842.

The *encyclopédie méthodique* re-produced in reduced format the plates from the "Diderot work," often re-arranging them and adding many new ones.

[0984.322]

7. **ENCYCLOPÉDIE MÉTHODIQUE. NOUVELLE ÉDITION CONTINUE DE 1783, DÉDIÉE À LA BÉNÉFICIE REPUBLIQUE**
This is a reprint of the portion of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* devoted to "Grammaire et Littérature." The "avertissement" of this edition is the same as in the edition published at Paris, Panckoucke, 1782. [I do not know whether or not the entire *Encyclopédie Méthodique* was reprinted at Padua, or only the "Grammar and Literature" section. I think only the latter. H.C.R.]

[0984.322.11q (3 vols. in 5 parts)]
III

The Encyclopédie as a Synthesis of Human Knowledge

One of the expressed purposes of the Encyclopédie was "to set forth, as far as possible, the order and the interrelationship of human knowledge."

This organization of knowledge into a general scheme, which is explained in the "Preliminary Discourse," is also graphically set forth in an allegorical frontispiece, in a Table of human knowledge -- all three of which were shown.

The scheme used by the Encyclopédie for classifying the different branches of learning derives in part from the one used by Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) in his Partitiones Scientiarum.

Human understanding perceives the physical world through the faculties of Memory, Reason, and Imagination. Thus: history and related sciences derive from Memory; moral and natural Philosophy derive from Reason; and Poetry and related arts derive from Imagination.

The Encyclopédie fits all branches of human knowledge into this scheme.

[Case 2]

1. SYSTEME FIGURE DES CONNAISSANCES HUMAINES.


[SH 0984.325.11]

2. ALLEGORICAL FRONTISPICE OF THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.

Engraved from a drawing by Jochin the younger.

The central figure -- TRUTH -- radiates light and disperses the clouds of darkness.

To the right, the figures of REASON and PHILOSOPHY are lifting the draperies that enveil TRUTH.
At the feet of TRUTH kneels THEOLOGY, with raised hand, awaiting the light of divine revelation.

The other arts and sciences all find their place in the ensemble.

This frontispiece sums up — in the fashionable allegorical language of the time — the basic assumptions of the 18th century Encyclopédistes or "Philosophers." The period was often called the Age of Enlightenment — in French, "Le Siècle des Lumières," — in German, "Die Aufklärung."

[Frontispiece is missing from P.U.L. copy of the Encyclopédie. Photostat shown. Note: this frontispiece is present, smaller format, in P.U.L. copy of Atlas encyclopédique...Paris, 1787, included as one volume in P.U.L. set of Encyclopédie méthodique (0984.322)].

3. GENEALOGICAL TREE OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.

Following the same scheme set forth elsewhere in the Encyclopédie, this "genealogical distribution of the principal arts and sciences" was drawn up by Chrétien Frédéric Guillaume Roth, of Weimar, in 1769. It was engraved and published as the frontispiece of the two volumes of Tables which concluded the Encyclopédie.

[Encyclopédie, Tables, vol. I. Ex0984.325]
IV

The mechanical arts in the Encyclopedia.

One of the most original and influential features of the Encyclopedia was the importance given to the "mechanical arts."

Diderot points out (in the "Preliminary Discourse") that although much had been written about the liberal arts, very little had been written about the mechanical arts. To accomplish this part of the editors' task it became necessary to consult the workers themselves:

"...we have consulted the most skilful workmen of Paris and of the kingdom; we have taken the trouble to go into their workshops, to question them, to write down what they had to say, to develop their thoughts, to obtain from them the terms peculiar to their trades, to draw up tables, to define them, to converse with those who had supplied information, and (as an almost indispensable precaution) to rectify in long and frequent conversations with certain persons that errors had imperfectly, obscurely, and sometimes inaccurately explained...."

The articles devoted to the arts and crafts includes descriptions of raw materials, of tools, of the processes involved, the vocabulary used, as well as detailed figures & diagrams to supplement the printed text.

[Case 4]


Plates shown: "Couvreur" (unnumbered), forming part of section on Architecture. The vignet shows a street scene with workmen covering a roof and two gentlemen watching. [The latter might be "re enter" from the editorial staff of the Encyclopedia!]

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF MECHANICAL ARTS.

In the article: "ARTS, the importance of the "mechanical arts" is affirmed in these words:
"...Bacon regarded the history of the mechanical arts as the most important branch of true philosophy; he therefore took care not to scorn the practice of them. Colbert regarded the industry of nations and the establishment of manufactures, as the surest wealth of the kingdom. In the judgment of those who today have some ideas about things, the men who peopled France with engravers, painters, sculptors, and artisans of all sorts, who snatched the stocking-making machines from the English, velvet from the Genoese, mirrors from the Venetians — did no less for the state than those who conquered its enemies and captured their fortresses; and in the eye of the philosopher there is perhaps more real merit in having produced LeBrun, Le Sueurs and Jourdan, to paint and engrave the battles of Alexander and to execute in tapestries the victories of our generals than there was in winning them.

Put on one side of the scales the real advantages of the most sublime and most honored arts, and on the other side the advantages of the mechanical arts, and you will find that the esteem bestowed on each has not been distributed in a fair proportion, and that there has been more praise given to men concerned with making us believe that we were happy, than to men who have been concerned with making us happy in fact. That strange judgments we make! — we demand that men be usefully occupied, yet we scorn useful men...."


3. FROM LEXI TO ENCYCLOPEDIA.

In a famous anecdote (probably apocryphal) "about the Encyclopedia," Voltaire describes a supper party which took place at the Tuileries palace, with King Louis XV, Madame de Pompadour and several other courtiers present. Conversation turned to gunpowder and to hunting, and it was discovered that none of those present knew how gunpowder was made. Madame de Pompadour protested that she did not know how face powder and rouge, or silk stockings, were made... "That a shame," remarked the Duke of V., "that your Majesty has confided our encyclopedias, which cost us each a hundred 'pistoles', for then we would find the answers to our questions...."

Louis XV defended his banning of this dangerous work, but added that he had wished to see a copy before taking action. Thereupon he sent three servants to fetch the
heavy folio volumes.... The assembled company found answers to all their questions about gunpowder, rouge, and silk stockings, and even about the laws of the kingdom.

"Sire," remarked the Count of C., as he looked at the Encyclopédie, "you are fortunate in having among your subjects men capable of knowing all the arts and of transmitting them to posterity. Everything is here, from the art of making a pin to that of casting and aiming your cannon; from the infinitely small to the infinitely great. You may thank God that there have been born in your kingdom men who have thus served the whole universe. Other nations must either buy the Encyclopédie, or pirate it. So, take all my property, if you wish, but give me back my Encyclopédie...."

a. Voltaire's anecdote "De l'Encyclopédie" first appeared in print in 1775 along with other fugitive pieces appended to an edition of the play Don Pedro. [3293.1736. Vol. 5, p. 115-119.]


c. Gunpowder. Plate "Poudre à canon (7)" in Encyclopédie Méthodique, Planches, vol. 4, which reproduces in reduced format the plate from folio edition of Encyclopédie.
V

Arts and Crafts of the 18th Century as illustrated by the Plates of the ENCYCLOPÉDIE.

The eleven volumes (plus one supplementary volume) of engraved plates remain one of the most interesting and valuable parts of the work. They provide, among other things, fine documents on arts and crafts in the 18th century.

Commenting on these plates, the editors state (in the Preliminary Discourse):

"...Since people are little accustomed to write and read about arts and crafts, it is difficult to explain them in intelligible terms. Hence the need of figures... A dictionary composed only of written definitions, regardless of its excellence, cannot do without figures without falling into obscure and vague definitions... A single glance at an object or at a picture of it, tells more than a whole page of explanations...."

"...We have sent draughtsmen into the workshops. We have drawn machines and tools. We have omitted nothing that might bring them clearly before the eye...."

[Case 5]

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR PLATES.

This table of contents gives some idea of the range of subjects included in the engraved illustrations of the ENCYCLOPÉDIE. There is usually a whole series of plates for each of the subjects mentioned.

Plates on the subjects marked were shown in the exhibit.

2. SAMPLE PLATES FROM THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.

[Detached plates shown -- lent by H. C. Rice].
TABLE ALPHABÉTIQUE
DES MATIÈRES
Contenues dans les onze Volumes du Recueil de Planches sur les Sciences
& les Arts Libéraux & Mécaniques.

A.
AGRICULTURE & ÉCONOMIE RUSTIQUE, Tome I.
AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIE PÉLÉNIÈRE, Tome II.
ALGÈBRE, Ronds Mathématiques, Tome III.
ALPHABETS, PETIT CHARACTÈRE, Tome IV.
ALPHABETS, PETIT CHARACTÈRE, Tome V.
ALPHABETS, PETIT CHARACTÈRE, Tome VI.
ALPHABETS, PETIT CHARACTÈRE, Tome VII.
ALPHABETS, PETIT CHARACTÈRE, Tome VIII.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome I.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome II.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome III.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome IV.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome V.
ARCHITECTURE, Tome VI.
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<td>Histoire Naturelle dans ses différentes Parties, sous les régnes végétal, mineral &amp; animal,</td>
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| Machines des Théà
DES MATIERES.

O.
Optique, Poyez Mathematiques, Tome V. Or, Mine et Travail, Poyez Metallurgie.

Observe en tous genres.

P.
Panachier, Poyez Plumasier.
Papeterie.
Papier marbre.
Parcheminier.
Passimentier.
Patinotier.
Patissier.

Pauquier, Raquetier.
Pêche de Mer et en tous genres.
Peinture a l'huile et en miniature.

Peinture en Email.
Perruquier-Baigneur-Étuviste.
Perspective, Poyez Mathematiques.
Physique, Poyez Mathematiques.
Plombier et travaux.
Plombier.

Pouletier.
Pulquier.

Pneumatique, Poyez Mathematiques.
Fontaines (Machine).

Poteau, Jardin, Poyez Agriculture.

Potier de Terre et Bimboletier.

Poudre a tirer (Moutis et préparation).

Potier a scoumir les cheveux, Poyez Aubier.
Poulets (Art de faire éclore les Poulets).

Presoirs a vin et a cidre, Poyez Agriculture.

R.

RAquetier-Pauquier.
Relieur de Livres.

Rubans, Fabrique de Rubans.

S.
Salines, Fontaines salantes, Marais salants et Saunerie.

Sauveterre, Poyez Minéralogie.

Saunerie, Poyez Minéralogie.

Savon, Manufacture de Savon.

Semoir, Poyez Agriculture.

Sculpture en tous genres.

Sculpture et statues.

Sections coniques, Poyez Mathematiques.

Selleur-Carrossier.

Sells, Poyez Minéralogie.

Serrurier.

Soieries, Soifs; tissage et emploi, Fabrication des Etoffes & autres parties, velours, &c. XI.

Sonate de Terre, Poyez Minéralogie.

Sourire, Poyez Minéralogie.

Spectacles, Salles, Poyez Theatres.

Saucerrie, Poyez Agriculture.

T.

Théâtre, Poyez Théâtres.

Tabac, Poyez Agriculture.

Tabathiere, Ficheur, Incrusteur, &c.

Tabletier.

Tailandier & Etaux.

Tailleur en tous genres.

Tanneur.

Tapis de pe fur, concier.

Tapisserie de haute et basse lisse des Gobelins.

Tapisserie de différents genres.

Teintures des Gobelets.

Theatres divers, Salles de Spectacles.

Tissier & filer d'or.

Tisserand.

Tonneau.

Toilerie, Poyez Tissage.

V.

Vannier.

Verrier de toute espec.

Vernis.

Vers a soif, Poyez Agriculture.

Vigne, Culture, Récolte & instruments.

Voyez Agriculture.

Vitrier.

Vithiol, Poyez Minéralogie.

Z.

Zinc, Poyez Minéralogie.
3. **ENGRAVING.**

The plates showing techniques of engraving -- including this one on the intaglio process -- are still valuable for an understanding of the different methods used. The plates are accompanied by detailed explanations.

"Gravure" -- Explanatory text to accompany plates. [Detached pages, separately bound. Graphic Arts Division].


4. **PENMANSHIP.**

This illustrated treatise on penmanship was composed by Paillusion, "expert penman."

"Art decrire". Pl. II of series of this name (vol. II). [Detached plates, bound separately. Graphic Arts Division].

5. **ALPHABETS, ANCIENT & MODERN.**

25 plates -- like this one showing Arabic, Persian, and Turkish -- give the chief alphabets used in ancient and modern times.

"Alphabet arabe, turc, persan." Pl. IV of series "Caractères et Alphabets" (vol. II). [Detached plates, bound separately. Graphic Arts Division].

[Case 7]

6. **PAPER MAKING.**

The upper half of the plate shows the building of the royal paper factory at Langlé, near Montargis, southeast of Paris, with the Montargis Canal in the foreground.

The lower half shows one of the machines used there.

7. MINING.

A salt mine at Wieliczka, near Cracov, in Poland. The plates on mineralogy and metallurgy take their place under the general classification "Natural History."

"Histoire Naturelle, Vue générale de la Mine de Sel de Wieliczka en Pologne près Cracovie." Pl. XII, of series "Histoire Naturelle, Minéralogie" (vol. VI).

[Case 8]

8. NAVAL PLATES.

The large plate shows cross-sections of vessels. The smaller plate shows profiles and elevations of the ship-yards at the port of Rochefort. This section of the Encyclopédie deals with all aspects of ship-building, naval tactics, etc.

"Marine. Fig. 1: Coupe d'un vaisseau dans toute sa longueur. Fig. 2: Coupe d'une Galère dans toute sa longueur (Dessins de M. Belin)." Plate IV of series, "Marine" (vol. VII). [Detached plates bound separately. 9993.325q]

"Marine, Élévations et Profils des Formes de Rochefort..." suite de la Planche IX (vol. VII). [Plate shown was same plate, reduced format, in Encyclopédie Méthodique, where it is "Marine, suite de la Planc. 83." Note the Naval plates in the Encyclopédie Méthodique are more numerous than in original edition.]

9. CASTING OF CANNON.

Molten metal is being poured into the molds.

The smaller plate gives comparative diagrams of different caliber cannon.


"Fontes des Canons, Epures des cinq calibres de
10. HORSEMANSHIP.

The section on équitation also includes related material such as the blacksmith's craft.


11. HUNTING.

The plate shown depicts the hunting of wild boar. The track of the boar, as well as the music sounded at appropriate moments during the pursuit, are included.


12. CASTING OF AN EQUESTRIAN STATUE.

The 5 plates and accompanying explanations describing the processes involved in casting an equestrian statue, included in the Encyclopédie, were taken from a previously published work by Boffrand, entitled Description de ce qui s'est pratiqué pour fendre en bronze d'un seul jet la figure équestre de Louis XIV, élevée par la ville de Paris dans la Place Louis le Grand (1743).

A copy of Boffrand's work [from the Marquand Art Library NA 1053.B7A3f (SAX)] was also shown. The statue of Louis XIV, described, was erected in the Place Louis le Grand in Paris -- now known as the Place Vendôme. The statue was pulled down and melted during the French Revolution. In its place the Vendôme column, commemorating Napoleon's victories, was erected in the course of the 19th century.

b. "Figure equestre de Louis XV" -- Pl. I of Boffrand.
(Princeton copy has this plate in duplicate).

[Case 11]

13. MAJOLICA MAKING.

The making of fine furniture was a highly-skilled craft in the 18th century, involving numerous sharply defined processes. Shown in the exhibit were plates from the Encyclopédie devoted to woodwork, gilding and upholstery.


b. "Doreur, sur bois." Pl. IV of series "Doreur" (vol. III).

c. "Tapissier, lit à double tombeau... etc." Pl. VII of series "Tapissier" (vol. IX).

[All of above: detached plates lent by H. C. Rice].

[Case 12]

14. CANDLES MAKING.

Candles were still the chief source of household illumination at the time the Encyclopédie was published.

Pl. 1 of series "Chandelier" (vol. II).

15. PEWTER MAKING.

The upper half of the plate shows a pewter shop with workmen engaged in the various operations -- the lower part shows a "mold set," with its component parts, and the molds used in casting them.

Pl. 1 of series "Potier d'étain" (vol. VIII). Detached plates, bound separately [NK 8404.E56q (SA)].

Also shown: Pewter candle-stick and cups.
16. MAKING OF PORCELAIN.

The view of the workshop includes: (A) firing of the colors; (C) preparation of colors; (B) work of the sculptors; and (D) painting on the designs. The lower part of the plate shows the kilns.

Pl. 3 of series "Porcelaine" (Supplementary volume of plates: "Suite").

Also shown: Porcelain snuff-box: white background with rose-colored "fête champêtre" scene. [Lent by the Art Museum, No. 956].

17. TEXTILE MANUFACTURING.

A loom for the making of velvet: "velours ciselé" [cut velvet].


Also shown: piece of "cut velvet" [Lent by the Art Museum].

18. TAPESTRY.

One of the workshops at the Royal Gobelins Tapestry works in Paris. The patterns, or cartoons, are behind the workers, who follow them by a system of mirrors. Gobelins tapestries are still woven today by similar methods.


19. GLASS MAKING.

Taking the sheets of glass from the oven.

"Prises, l'opération de sortir les plaques des carcaise", pl. XXVI, of series "Manufacture des Glaces" (vol. IV).
20. THEATRE.

a. The plates devoted to the theatre include plans of different types of theatres, and a series of some 75 plates showing theatrical machinery. In the one shown in the exhibit: Fig. 2 depicts a "rich prison with the mist and clouds preceding the arrival of the God..." while Fig. 3 shows the apparition of Medea's Chariot. Fig. 1 explains the machinery used to achieve these effects.

"Machines de Théâtres...", pl. XV of series (vol. X).

b. Musical Instruments.

Plates from the Encyclopédie Méthodique.

"Instruments de musique de différentes sortes", pl. 17 of series, in "Recueil de Planches", vol. III.

c. Diderot as a Dramatist.

Diderot, the chief editor of the Encyclopédie, was also a prolific writer in various fields, including the theatre. Among his plays which achieved success were Le Fils Naturel (1757) and Le Père de Famille (1758). In these plays Diderot introduced contemporary problems and middle-class characters, thus breaking with the heroic classical tradition. His plays were widely translated throughout Europe.

1. Le Fils Naturel, ou les Épreuves de la Vertu, comédie en cinq actes et en prose. Par M. Diderot. Amsterdam, Erialed. 1767. [3246.2.1767. V. 1 (1).]


5. El Padre de familias, Comedia en prosa por Monsieur Diderot, y en verso por Don Lorenzo María de Villarroel, Marqués de Palacios...Madrid. 1785. [31661.999. V. 28 (1)].

6. Pair of porcelain figurines, representing man and woman in mid-eighteenth century costume.

The Campaign Against the Encyclopédie.

The Encyclopédie stirred up much opposition and encountered many obstacles in the course of its publication. In conservative circles it was considered a subversive enterprise, designed to undermine Church and State — the twin pillars of society. In spite of the diversity of the collaborators and of the views expressed in the different articles, something of a common doctrine emerged from the work. This may be summed up as a belief in reason as opposed to authority, in tolerance, and in the progress of the human mind. Thus, in the minds of their enemies, the "Philosophers" or "Encyclopedists" came to be thought of as "dangerous radicals" and conspirators.

One of the first serious incidents occurred in 1752 centering around an article on "Certitude" contributed to the second volume of the Encyclopédie by the Abbé de Trades. This same year he had presented at the Sorbonne a thesis in which he had explained the critical method as applied to history. Both the thesis and the article were judged heretical by the Archbishop of Paris — whereupon the King's Council forbade the printing and distribution of the two volumes of the Encyclopédie which had then been published and ordered the seizure of the manuscripts. Thanks to the support of榭歇尔伯，the newly-appointed Director of Publications, these measures were softened and the publication was resumed — a first victory for the encyclopedists.

In 1757-1758 there was renewed opposition to the Encyclopédie, due in part to the witch-hunting spirit generated by the attempted assassination of Louis XV by one Damiens. In February 1759 the Encyclopédie was included by the King's Council in a condemnation of dangerous books; in March the publisher's license was revoked. That same year Pope Clement VIII pronounced a condemnation of the Encyclopédie. Diderot, however, persisted in his editorial labors — and in 1765, volumes VIII-XVII of the text were published — all under the false imprint of a "Swiss" publisher, "Samuel Foulche."

The Encyclopédie thus became the center of a great controversy — involving fundamental problems of society and government. It can be considered part of the intellectual revolution which foreshadowed such political and social changes as the American Revolution and the French Revolution.
Several of the publications related to the controversy of the *Encyclopédie* — which produced a voluminous pamphlet literature — were shown in this case.

**[Case 15]**

1. **JOURNAL DE TRÉVOUX.**

The *Journal de Trévoux*, edited by the Jesuits, was one of the consistent enemies of the *Encyclopédie*.

"But we soon noticed in the body of the *Dictionary* certain propositions which were reprehensible in respect to religion, and certain borrowings made too readily from other books, especially from a multitude of dictionaries. Here, we confess, our anger was aroused, both to point out the Articles in which Religion was injured, and to set up a barrier against indiscriminate copying and transcribing without quotation marks...."

"*Journal de Trévoux,*" or *Mémoires pour l'Histoire des sciences et des beaux-arts, commencées d'être imprimées l'an 1701 à Trévoux*, 1753, p. 2664. [0914.63. (1753)].

2. **ANNÉE LITTÉRAIRE.**

The *Année Littéraire*, edited by Fréron, also engaged in a running warfare against "Philosophers" and "Encyclopedists."

"It is astonishing, Sir, how many letters I receive from all quarters against the great *Encyclopedic Dictionary*. Warriors, Magistrates, Politicians, Poets, Orators, Philosophers, Doctors, Surgeons, Artists, and even Artisans, send me criticisms against the different articles concerning their professions, studies and work. Even Cooks complain to me about certain stews and sauces described in this *Compendium of our Knowledge*...."

*Année Littéraire*, 1758, "Lettre à M. Fréron," p. 109. [0904.12137 (1758)]

3. **THE "GAGUACÉ."**

In its October 1757 issue the *Mercure de France* printed under the title "Avis utile", a little fable in which the Encyclopedists and Philosophers were
represented as a new tribe of creatures called "CACOUACS" — "whose arms consist of venom concealed beneath the tongue; with every word they utter, even in the most gentle and merry tones, this poison flows, spills forth and spreads afar..."

The term "CACOUACS" was picked up by all the enemies of the encyclopédistes, and was used by other pamphleteers, including J. N. Moreau, in his "Nouveaux Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire des Cacouacs" (Amsterdam, 1757).

Mercure de France, October 1757, p. 15. [0904.6345. (Sept. 1757)].


Palissot's comedy, first performed in 1760, at the height of the campaign against the Encyclopédie, attempted to demonstrate the pernicious influence of the "Philosophers". Under the corrupting influence of their doctrines, an impressionable youth becomes a common thief.

In a little pamphlet* published as a preface to the play, Palissot was even more explicit. He states, for example:

"The Encyclopedia, that work which was to have been the Book of the Nation, became its shame; and from its very ashes there sprang proselytes who, under the name of free-thinkers, inspired women with ideas ofarchy and materialism..."

* a. Lettre de l'auteur de la Comédie des Philosophes, au public, pour servir de préface à la Pièce. 1760. 23 pages. [3226.399. V. I (1)]

b. The frontispiece of this edition of Palissot's Les Philosophes (1777) shows the famous scene in which a philosopher gets down "on all fours" to demonstrate his theory of "man in the state of nature."

The allusion is to Jean-Jacques Rousseau and to Voltaire's comment on Rousseau's "Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men" (1754): "Never has so much wit been used to make dumb animals of us: it makes you want to walk on all fours, when you read the book..." ["On n'a jamais employé tant d'esprit à vouloir nous rendre bêtes: il prend envie de marcher..."
LETTRE
DE L'AUTEUR
DE LA COMÉDIE
DES PHILOSOPHES,
AU PUBLIC,
POURCE SERVIR DE PRÉFACE
à la Pièce.

M. DCC. LX.
à quatre pattes, quand on lit votre ouvrage..."


Helvétius's treatise on the mind set forth theories of materialistic behaviourism and utilitarianism which were judged heretical by ecclesiastical authorities. It was publicly torn up and burned by the public executioner. As Helvétius was considered to be allied with the encyclopedists, the condemnation of his work also implicated the Encyclopédie, which was promptly "investigated" and condemned by the Royal authorities.

[Ex6131.14.328. Also a cleaner copy lent by Prof. Gilbert Chinard].

6. VOLUME VIII OF THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE, SHOWING IMPRINT OF "SAMUEL FAULCHE."
VII

The Publisher's Unauthorized Censorship of the Encyclopédie.

One of the unexpected obstacles that Diderot had to contend with in the publication of the Encyclopédie was the unauthorized "censorship" of the work, when it was in page-proofs, by his own publisher, Le Breton, the publisher, was apparently alarmed by the official disapproval that the Encyclopédie was encountering, and so, in order to avoid difficulties with the Royal Senate, he took it upon himself, without consulting Diderot, to modify "dangerous" passages.

Diderot eventually began to suspect Le Breton of tampering with his text and finally realized the truth. But, having neither the original manuscript nor the proofs — which Le Breton kept — he could not know the exact extent of the mutilations. Furthermore — although Diderot accused the publisher of treachery in a bitter letter — he was powerless to make a public issue of the matter, for this would have in turn brought even more serious repressive measures upon himself.

A volume of proof-sheets with Le Breton's mutilations — apparently the publisher's own set — has recently come to light and is the property of Mr. Durles H. Gordon. This volume has formed the basis of a study by Mr. Gordon and Professor Norman L. Torrey, entitled "The Censoring of Diderot's Encyclopédie and the Re-established Text."

[Case 16]

1. THE PUBLISHER'S DELETION OF "SUBVERSIVE" PASSAGES IN THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE. Volume XIV — article on the "Philosophy of the Director of Arabs."

In his discussion of the Mohammedan rulers, Diderot had inserted a bold denunciation to sovereigns in general, but which was in fact a scarcely-veiled reference to contemporary French affairs. The paragraph deleted by Le Breton warned rulers in the name of tolerance and social welfare to free themselves from all subjection to religious bodies, and to separate throne from altar, lest both collapse in a common ruin. Among the censored matter in the following:

"The wise and prudent sovereign will isolate his own dwelling from that of the gods. If these two edifices are too close together, they will obstruct each other, and it will come to pass that the throne
will be hampered by the altar, and that brought together in a violent collision, they will both finally crash down together..."

a. *Encyclopédie*, vol. XIV, pp. 665-668 (showing where deleted passages would have gone).


2. THE PUBLISHER'S DELETION OF "SUBJECTIVE" PASSAGES IN THE *ENCYCLOPÉDIE*. Volume XIII — article on "Pyrrhonic or Skeptic Philosophy."

In the course of his discussion of the skeptic tradition in human thought, Diderot had occasion to dwell at some length upon the writings of Pierre Bayle and upon the latter's championship of tolerance and freedom of speech. Among the passages deleted by Le Breton is the one reading in translation:

"...He alternately presented an apology for reason against authority, and for authority against reason, certain that men would not exchange their birthright and their liberty, for a yoke which hindered them and that they sought only to shake off. He knew too much to believe everything, and too much to doubt everything...."

a. *Encyclopédie*, vol. XIII, pp. 612-613 (showing where deleted passages would have gone).

b. Photograph of same page from Le Breton's volume of proof-sheets, showing deletions (page detached from catalogue of exhibit, "L'Encyclopédie...", New York, 1951).


Open to p. 36 and plate facing, showing "Page of proof showing surcharged marginal note (p. 331, "Menace")." [0084.325.41].
VIII

The Encyclopædia Crosses the Atlantic

[Case 17]

1. **THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE FOR SALE: CASH OR TOBACCO.**

   The *Virginia Gazette*, December 9, 1780, carried this advertisement:

   Alexandria, Nov. 30, 1780

   To be sold, the ENCYCLOPÉDIE or DICTIONARY of ARTS and SCIENCES, printed in French, with all the cuts belonging to the said work. Cash or tobacco will be admitted in payment, by applying to the subscribers.

   AMABLE & ALEXANDER LORY.


   Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia, read the advertisement and wrote to Messrs. Lory for further information.

   In reply to Jefferson (December 16, 1780), they inform him that "the complete set consist in 28 volumes, whose eight are plates, all unbounded, Second Edition, printed at Louvres in Italia by Cotavain Diodati, all the work collected and put in Order, by Mr. Diderot, member of the French academy and the Mathematical part by Mr. D'Alembert, the price fifteen Hds. Tobacco or £90000 this Edition having been payed 50 guineas in Europa...."

   Jefferson thereupon instructed Major Fitzgerald of Alexandria to purchase this set of the *Encyclopædia* from Messrs. Lory: "I take the liberty, under sanction of the readiness you have ever shown to aid us, of inclosing to you the notes of 15066 lbs. of Tobo. and of asking the favor of you to make the purchase for us. As the Tobo. is some of it old, it is just that we should make good the weights, which you will be pleased to undertake shall be done...."

   Fitzgerald carried out Jefferson's instructions, and on April 1, 1781 informed him: "Your Excellency's Letter by Mr. Custis covering Tobo. Notes for the Purchase of the Encyclopædia I received. I have made
the Purchase agreeable to your Directions. I have
engaged that the weights of the Toco. of 1777 shall be
made good; The box I will have made in a few days &
will then take the first opportunity of forwarding them
to Mr. Hunter...."

[Information supplied by the Editors of "The Papers
of Thomas Jefferson". See Appendix, below, for tran-
scripts of the letters.]


Jefferson's Account Book, kept while he was American
Minister to France, shows that in 1786 he purchased from
Goldsmith, a bookseller, at least two sets of the
"Encyclopédie ancienne", one of which was "for myself."

He also subscribed to the Encyclopédie Méthodique,
which was then being issued in parts or "livraisons".
He ordered this work for Franklin, F. Hopkinson, James
Madison, James Monroe and Dr. Currie.

Photostat pages from Jefferson's Account Book show-
ing these entries:

Feb. 3 1786: "Pd. Goldsmith for Encyclopédie ancienne
for myself 380f 39 vols 4to"

39 vols 8vo 260 f."

March 2 1786: "Pd. Goldsmith for copies of the Encyclo-
pédie méthodique as follows:

17th livraison for Doct. Franklin................... 36-10
60 - - - - for F. Hopkinson.................. 36-10
8. - - - - for James Madison (Orange)..... 36-10
17 first livraisons for Col. Monroe........... 439-10
17 first livraisons for Doct. Currier........ 439-10

988-10*

[Lent by H. C. Rice]

3. Benjamin Franklin Confronts a Would-be Inventor with
The Encyclopédie.

In a letter to "Benjamin Chambers, and the other
gentlemen of Chambersburgh," written from Philadelphia
September 20, 1788:
"Gentlemen: - I received the Letter you did me the honour of writing to me, respecting what was supposed a new Invention, the blowing of Furnaces by a Fall of Water. When Mr. Zantzinger deliver'd me your Letter, I told him that I had several Books in my Library which describ'd the same Contrivance, and I have since shown them to him. They are the "French Encyclopédie or Dictionary of Arts and Sciences"; Swedenborg's Latin Treatise of Iron Works; and the French work "Des Arts et des Métiers," in the Article of Forges. These Descriptions are all accompanied with Figures in Copper Plate, which demonstrate the Invention to be the same precisely in all its essential parts; and in the Accounts of it, it is said to have been first practised in Italy about 100 Years since; whence it was brought into France, where it is now much us'd....etc."

Printed from original letter in Library of Congress
Volume IX (1906), pp. 664-665. [1081.36.001]

4. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION BASED ON THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.

The first printed catalogue of the Library of Congress (1815) is arranged according to the scheme for the classification of knowledge set forth in the Encyclopédie. This was the scheme used by Thomas Jefferson in classifying his personal library -- which was purchased by Congress to replace the embryonic national library which had been destroyed during the War of 1812.

Washington, 1815 [Ex0618.9548.02]. Double-page table, after table of contents, shown: "Books may be classed according to the faculties of the mind employed on them....etc."


[This 5 volume set of Diderot's collected writings, lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard, once belonged to William Short of Virginia, Jefferson's secretary and American chargé d'affaires in France from 1789 to 1792, and contains his bookplate.]
CATALOGUE

OF THE

LIBRARY OF THE UNITED STATES,

once that of Thomas Jefferson,

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED.

A COPIOUS INDEX.

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED.

WASHINGTON,

PRINTED BY JONATHAN ELLIOT.

1815.
5. "ONE OF THE MOST PERNICIOUS WORKS THAT EVER ISSUED FROM THE PRESS".

In his *A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century*, Samuel Miller, although granting the *Encyclopédie* some value for its scientific information, nevertheless considers it an encouragement to the most impious infidelity.

Miller, a Presbyterian minister of New York, later became a professor at the Princeton Theological Seminary of which he was one of the founders.

([Samuel Miller, A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century... containing a sketch of the revolutions and improvements in science, arts, and literature, during that period. New York, 1803. 2 vols. [196.6463.04]

Vol. II, p. 266: "The next in order was a Dictionary of Arts and Trades, published by a society in France, and embracing an amount of information on all mechanical subjects, more extensive and curious than had ever before been collected. This was followed by the celebrated French *Encyclopédie*, of which Moreau, Diderot and Voltaire were the principal conductors, aided by a number of their learned countrymen. It is probable that they were prompted to this undertaking by the fame and success of Mr. Chamber's work; and also by a premeditated and systematic design to throw all possible odium on revealed religion. This great compilation was begun in 1752, and brought to a close about fifteen or twenty years afterwards, in thirty-three folio volumes. A leading feature of the *Encyclopédie* is the encouragement which it artfully gives throughout to the most impious infidelity; and though much valuable science is undoubtedly diffused through its pages, yet it is so contaminated with the mixture of licentious principles in morals and religion, that nothing but its great voluminoseness prevents it from being one of the most pernicious works that ever issued from the press."
IX

Some Diderot First Editions: An original D'Alembert letter.

[Case 18]

1. DICTIONNAIRE UNIVERSEL DE MEDECINE. Translated by Diderot & others. Paris, 1746.

This was one of Diderot's first important writing and editorial jobs -- which gave the publishers, Briasson and Le Breton, the idea of entrusting Diderot with the translation of Chambers' Cyclopaedia, an undertaking which later developed into the great Encyclopédie.

[Lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard]

2. PRINCIPES DE LA PHILOSOPHIE MORALE [DENIS DIDEROT]. Chatelain, Amsterdam, 1745.

This is the first edition of Diderot's first original work.

[Lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard]


The first edition of one of Diderot's early works. Even before embarking upon the editorship of the Encyclopédie, Diderot's writings had touched upon a wide variety of subjects: medicine, mathematics, philosophy. They were later to include novels, plays, and art criticism.

[Lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard]

4. AN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT LETTER BY J. DE R. D'ALEMBERT, CO-EDITOR OF THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE.

The letter is written from Paris, January 15 [1767] and addressed to [J. M. A.] SERVAN, a lawyer of Grenoble. D'ALEMBERT thanks his correspondent for the gift of his book, which he praises highly as being "very courageous and very good, full of philosophy and sensibility". D'ALEMBERT adds that his own health has made it necessary for him to reduce his labors, but that he has nevertheless
Just had printed a 5th volume of his "Élances d'histoire, de littérature et de philosophie.

[See also above, V, 26-c, "Diderot as a Broamatist."]
Famous "Philosophers,"

[Case 19]

1. **HARON D'HOLBACH.** *Système social ou Principes Naturels de la Morale et de la Politique.* London, 1779.

D'Holbach contributed articles to the *Encyclopédie* on chemistry and mineralogy.

This treatise on society is one of his most important works. In it he sets forth a doctrine of liberal utilitarianism: "The authority of a nation over the citizens composing it can only be founded on the benefits it procures them...."

[Lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard]


Rousseau's famous treatise on the Social Contract was first published in 1762. Shown in the exhibit was a pirated reprint of the first edition (Dufour, no. 135; J. Sénélier, no. 561).

Rousseau, although often associated with them, was not strictly speaking one of the Encyclopedists. He did, however, contribute articles on music to the great *Encyclopédie*.

[Ex3288.598 (2); also another copy lent by Professor Gilbert Chinard]

3. a. **J. J. ROUSSEAU.** *À M. D'Alembert...sur son article Genève.* Amsterdam, 1758. [Ex3288.1758 copy 2].

b. **J. L'.R. D'ALEMBERT.** *Réponse à la lettre de M. Rousseau.* Amsterdam, 1759. [3288.555]

D'Alembert's article on "Geneva" published in the *Encyclopédie* (written with some suggestions from Voltaire) — which implied that the Genevese pastors were deists and Socinians, and also suggested that a theatre would be desirable in the Calvinist capital — caused considerable excitement in Geneva, and provoked
numerous pamphlets. The most famous of these is Rousseau's "Letter to M. D'Alembert", which, incidentally, marked Rousseau's break with the Encyclopédie.

4. VOLTAIRE, Questions sur l'Encyclopédie par des Amateurs. 9 volumes. 1770-1772.

Voltaire's connection with the Encyclopédie was a somewhat personal and temperamental one. The editors of the Encyclopédie were glad to benefit from the publicity value of Voltaire's name, while Voltaire in turn was not adverse to using the Encyclopédie to grind some of his own axes. He contributed some 43 articles to the work, including those on "Histoire", "Imagination", "Eloquence", "Esprit", "Goût", and "Idole".

The Questions sur l'Encyclopédie [shown in a first edition] was a continuation of Voltaire's own "Philosophical Dictionary". These brief essays were ostensibly reflections and comments inspired by the articles in the Encyclopédie, but were often quite unrelated original impressions.

In the preface to volume I, page 1, Voltaire pays his tribute to the Encyclopédie:

"The Encyclopédia is a monument which honors France; therefore it was persecuted as soon as it was begun....etc."

Also shown, the article on "Quakers" (vol. IX, pp. 200-201), where Voltaire remarks:

"...I may say once for all that I love the Quakers. Yes, if the sea did not make me insufferably sick, it would be in thy bosom, O Pennsylvania! that I would go to finish the remainder of my career, if there is any remainder...."

[3296.1765, vol. 30-32 of Voltaire Œuvres]
XI

Paintings and Prints.

[Case 20]


Chardin's paintings of modest interiors and of still life, in which he has truly rendered everyday life, make him closely akin to his contemporaries, the editors of the Encyclopédie.

Among his multifarious activities Diderot himself wrote reviews of the art exhibitions held every other year in the "Salon Carré" of the Louvre. In these reports -- generally referred to as Diderot's "Salons" -- he often had occasion to comment upon Chardin's paintings. Writing in 1765 of Chardin paintings similar to the one on display in the exhibit, Diderot used words which may appropriately be applied to this one:

"Here are books lying flat, drawings, compasses. It is nature itself, for the truth of forms and colors; the objects are separated from one another, they advance and recede, as if they were real; nothing could be more harmonious; and there is no confusion, in spite of their number and the restricted space...."

[Lent by the Princeton Art Museum]

2. FRANKLIN JOINING D'ALEMBERT, THE ENCYCLOPEDIST.

The figures grouped in the center of the engraving "Le Tombeau de Voltaire", drawn by L. N., engraved by C. M., France, Ca. 178-, represent the four parts of the world, personified as follows:

Europe by "the illustrious D'ALEMBERT"
Asia by "Catherine II, Empress of the Russias"
Africa by "the learned Prince Grunoko"
America by "the learned liberator, FRANKLIN"

As these "sovereigns and geniuses" are about to lay laurels on the tomb of Voltaire, "father of the fine arts", they are driven away by the bold and pitiless spirit of Prejudice and Ignorance.

In the distance can be seen the tomb of Rousseau, on its poplar-planted islet. Nearby, numerous figures express by their actions the philosophy of "Emile" [Rousseau's
Dessin de Carmontelle, conservé au musée Condé, à Chantilly.
3. DENIS DIDEROT, PORTRAIT BY J. H. FRAGONARD.

[Reproduction from file of "Photographs & Slides," Art Museum].

4. DIDEROT AND HIS FRIEND, MARCHE SULZER.

Drawing by Carmontelle (original in the Musée Condé, Chantilly). [Photostat of a reproduction].

5. VOLTAIRE AMONG THE PHILOSOPHERS.

Around VOLTAIRE [no. 1, with raised hand] are grouped such notable figures as: DIDEROT [6], D’ALEMBERT [4], and Condorcet [5, back towards the artist] -- all of whom were contributors to the *Encyclopédie*.


[Colored reproduction from files of "Photographs & Slides", Art Museum].

7. THE OLD THREE-GRINDER (UN VIEUX RÉMUADEUR). Drawing by A. Patteau.


8. THE PUPPET SHOWMAN (LE NANTREUR DE MARIQUETTES).

Wax drawing by J. B. Graure.
[Reproduction from M. Fitte, La Vie populaire à Paris au XIIe siècle. Paris, 1949, plate XXIII, fig. 97, Lent by R. E. Rice].
Appendix

Letter from Jean Le Rond D'Alembert to J.-L. de La Rive of France, written from Paris, January 15, 1767.

À Paris le 15 Janvier

J'ai reçu, monsieur, j'ai lu avec un plaisir inexprimable, le discours que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'envoyer. Je l'ai trouvé tel qu'il est, très beau et très bon, plein de philosophie, et de sensibilité. vous pouvez être bien sûr que je lui rendrai hautement la justice qu'il mérite. Je l'ai fait voir à quelques amis qui en sont aussi enchantés que moi, entre autres à l'abbé Torellet, traducteur du livre de Hacquard, très bon jure, qui se prit de vous soulever de son estime et de son respect pour vous. J'aurais désiré dans un très petit nombre d'endroits un peu moins le recherche dans l'expression, et un peu moins d'élévation de métaphysique et d'éloquence. Medical ces légèretés toutes (qui, même si c'est un endroit de tâches) sont bien amoindries par les beautés sans nombre de votre ouvrage, qui doit certainement vous faire un honneur égal auprès de tous ceux qui savent lire et penser. Continuez, monsieur, à donner de si beaux leçons à vos confrères, et surtout à vos confrères de Paris, qui sont bien loin de vous en arrière, et qui devroient au moins être à votre niveau.
s'ils n'étoient pas des fanatiques imbéciles. Recevez tous mes remerciements de l'intérêt que vous voulez bien prendre à ma santé, elle est assez bonne; mon estomac se soutient à force de régimes mais le sommeil est médiocre, ce qui m'oblige, à mon grand regret, à me relâcher sur le travail. Je viens pourtant d'achever l'impression d'un 5e volume de mes mélanges qui paroîtra incessamment, et que peut-être vous aurez déjà à Grenoble; car l'ouvrage est

imprimé à Lyon chez Braschot, et l'impression est finie il y a plus de deux mois. Cet ouvrage ne vaut pas celui que vous m'avez envoyé; je vous demande votre indulgence, vous trouverez à la page 79 quelques réflexions analogues aux vôtres, mais moins heureusement rendues.

Adieu, Monsieur, recevez de nouveau mes compliments, mes remerciements, & les assurances de l'attachement et du respect avec lequel je suis

Monsieur

votre très humble
& très obéissant serviteur

d'Alembert

[addressed to:]

À Monsieur
Monsieur Servan, avocat
 général au parlement de dauphiné
& Grenoble.

[Note: This letter was written after D'Alembert had ceased his active participation in the work of editing the Encyclopédie. The recipient of the letter, J. M. Antoine Servan (1737-1807), a lawyer of Grenoble, later played an active role in the early years of the French Revolution. See the catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale for a list]
of his writings. Servan's work, which D'Alembert acknowledged in the above letter, was his Discours sur l'administration de la justice criminelle, prononcé au Parlement de Genève en 1766 (printed at Genève, n.d., but presumably the same year). In this Servan examines the duties of the magistrate in matters of criminal justice, urging reforms in the existing code—a subject which had also been discussed two years earlier by Baccaria in a famous treatise.

D'Alembert refers to his own Mélanges de littérature, d'histoire et de philosophie, first published in 1759. A new edition in four volumes was published in Amsterdam in 1763; a fifth volume was added in 1767. D'Alembert mentions that this 5th volume was printed in Lyon by Brachot; the editions listed in the Bibliothèque Nationale and British Museum catalogues mention no Lyon imprint, only Amsterdam. It is possible, however, that there was such an edition—or again, the printing may have been done in Lyon, although the imprint was given as Amsterdam.

From these references in the letter, it is possible to assign 1767 as a probable date. The letter has been partially published (with the erroneous date "15 juin") in Oeuvres choisies de Servan, nouvelle édition par X., de Portete, Paris, 1823, vol. I, pp. mxxii — oxxxiii.

H.C.R.]
From Amable and Alexander Lory

Alexandria 16. Dec. 1780

Sir

Answering to your Excellency's letter, concerning our advertisement of the Encyclopedie inserted in the Virginia papers, we take leave to give you the following informations on the said work: the complete set consists in 28 volumes, whose eight are plates, all unbound, second edition, printed at Lucces in Italia by Octavian Diodati, all the work collected and put in order, by Mr. Diderot member of the French academy and the mathematical part by Mr. D'Alembert, the price fifteen hundred pounds. Tobacco or 290000 this Edition having been payed 50 guineas in Europa.

We remain the most Respectfully of your Excellency's the most Obedient humble servants,

Amable & Alexander Lory

Advertisement in Va. Gaz. 9 Dec. 1780:

"Alexandria. Nov. 30, 1780. To be sold, the Encyclopedie or Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, printed in French, with all the othe belonging to the said work. Cash or tobacco will be admitted in payment, by applying to the subscribers, Amable & Alexander Lory."

[ Letters relating to the purchase of a set of the Encyclopedie, 1780-1781. Transcribed from photocopies of originals on file in office of "The Papers of Thomas Jefferson". ]
To Major Fitzgerald

In Council Febry. 27. 1781.

Sir,

Messrs Amable & Alex. Lory of Alexandria advertised a copy of the Encyclopedie for sale I wrote to enquire as to the condition & price of the work, and received for an answer of which the inclosed is a copy. I take the liberty, under sanction of the readiness you have ever shewn to aid us, of inclosing to you the notes of 15068 lbs of Tobo. and of asking the favor of you to make the purchase for us. As the Tobo. is some of it old, it is just that we should make good the weights, which you will be pleased to undertake shall be done. I am yrs. &c.

TJ
From John Fitzgerald

Alexandria April 1st, 1781

Sir

Your Excellency's Letter by Mr. Custis covering Tobo. Notes for the Purchase of the Encyclopedie I received.

I have made the Purchase agreeable to your Directions. I have engaged that the Weights of the Tobo. of 1777 shall be made good. The Box I will have made in a few days & will then take the first Opportunity of Forwarding them to Mr. Hunter.

I am very respectfully Your Excellency's most Obdt:

Servt.

John Fitzgerald
FROM: Department of Public Relations
Princeton University
(Telephone: Princeton 2300
extension 234 and 564)

Princeton, N. J. Mar. 31—A special exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclopedie, edited in France by D'Alembert and Diderot, an invaluable source book for historical research, has been placed in the Main Exhibition Gallery of the Firestone Library at Princeton University. Often called Diderot's Encyclopedia," it was one of the great editorial and publishing achievements of the eighteenth century.

Although it has been superseded as a reference book by other encyclopedias, it still stands as a landmark of human thought. It was both a summation of the thought of the time, and a detailed description of the state of knowledge in different branches of learning, theoretical as well as practical.

Many eminent writers contributed to the thirty-five large folio volumes, but it was Diderot who carried the main burden of the editorial work throughout the quarter of a century required to bring it to completion. The Encyclopedia stirred up much opposition and met many obstacles in the course of its publication. In conservative circles it was considered a subversive enterprise designed to undermine church and state, the twin pillars of society. It was thus part of the intellectual revolution which foreshadowed the political and social changes brought about by the American Revolution and the French Revolution.

The Princeton exhibit outlines the story of the Encyclopedia with special emphasis upon the finely engraved illustrations which fill eleven volumes. These engravings touch upon most of the arts and crafts of the period, including paper-making, mining, ship-building, furniture-making, textile-weaving, as well as such subjects as hunting, horsemanship, music and the theater. The editors of the Encyclopedia themselves attributed great importance to the "mechanical arts" and were pioneers in visual education. To the exhibit the Princeton Art Museum has lent several examples of eighteenth century craftsmanship, including a fine still-life by the
French painter Chardin, depicting the "Attributes of the Architect."

Grouped about the volumes of the Encyclopedia itself are several rare first editions of such epoch-making works as Rousseau's "Social Contract." The repercussions of the Encyclopedia in the United States are recalled by a group of documents which includes a notice printed in the "Virginia Gazette" in 1781 advertising a set of the Encyclopedia for sale "for cash or tobacco." Thomas Jefferson saw this advertisement and purchased the set for the State of Virginia for 15,000 pounds of tobacco. On the other hand, Samuel Miller, a Presbyterian minister who later become one of the founders of the Princeton Theological Seminary, considered that the Encyclopedia, although it contained some useful scientific information, was nevertheless "one of the most pernicious works that ever issued from the press."

Three other exhibits currently on display include memorabilia of James Madison, a former Princeton student who became President of the United States; a collection of Babylonian cylinder seals made many centuries before the birth of Christ, and a collection of original cartoons drawn for The New Yorker magazine by Whitney Darrow, Jr., Princeton Class of 1932.

The Madison exhibit in the Princetoniana Room includes the Madison family Bible which records the birth of Madison two-hundred years ago, a letter written by him as an undergraduate to a Philadelphia merchant asking for an adjustment of a bill for cloth, a diploma dated 1787 when he received an honorary L.L.D degree, and a receipt sent by the college to his widow (famous as Dolly Madison) acknowledging a gift of $1,000. to the college library. This latter bequest by Madison to his Alma Mater came from the proceeds of the sale to the United States government of his reports on the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The exhibit also includes manuscript of Madison's first inaugural address as President of the United States, an. two fine original portraits of Madison. One of these was done in pastel by the eminent English artist James Sharples, and the other, in the form of a plaster medallion, was taken from life in 1792 by Giuseppe Ceracchi, an Italian sculptor who visited America at that time.
The current exhibits in the Firestone Memorial Library offer a varied bill of fare to students, faculty and visitors. They include memorabilia of James Madison, a former Princeton student who became fourth president of the United States; and an exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Diderot’s Encyclopedia. In addition to these two exhibits, smaller displays range in time from Babylonian cylinder seals made many centuries before the birth of Christ, to original cartoons drawn for “The New Yorker” by Whitney Darrow, Jr.

In the Madison exhibit, in the Princetonians Room, visitors may see the Madison family Bible which records the birth of James Madison exactly two hundred years ago in March 1751. Madison’s connections with Princeton are shown in a variety of documents, such as a letter written as an undergraduate to a Philadelphia merchant asking for the adjustment of a bill for cloth, the original diploma granting Madison an honorary L.L.D. degree in 1787, and a receipt sent by the College to Madison’s widow (famous as “Dolly Madison”) acknowledging a gift of $4,000 to the College Library. This latter bequest by James Madison to his Alumnus Mater came from the proceeds of the sale to the United States Government of his reports on the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The exhibit also includes the manuscript of Madison’s first inaugural address as President of the United States, and two fine original portraits of Madison. One of these was done in pastel by the eminent English artist James Sharples, and the other, in the form of a five-foot medallion was taken from life in 1799 by Giuseppe Ceracchi, an Italian sculptor who visited America at that time.

The Main Exhibition Gallery in the Firestone Library is devoted to the exhibit commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Encyclopedia, edited at Pans by D’Alembert and Diderot. “Diderot’s Encyclopedia,” as it is often called, was one of the great editorial and publishing achievements of the eighteenth century. It was both a summation of the thought of the time, and a detailed description of the state of knowledge in different branches of learning, theoretical as well as practical. Although it has been superseded as a reference book by other encyclopedias, it still stands as a landmark of human thought and remains an invaluable source-book for historical research. Many eminent writers contributed to this work which included thirty-five large folio volumes, but it was Diderot who carried the main burden of the editorial work throughout the quarter of a century required to bring it to completion. The Encyclopaedia stirred up much opposition and met with many obstacles in the course of its publication.
Current Library Exhibits Include ‘Diderot’s Encyclopedia’, Madison

Current exhibits in the Firestone Memorial Library include a bicentennial of James Madison, 1773, a display commemorating the 200th anniversary of the publication of "Diderot’s Encyclopedia" and two smaller displays of Babylonian cylinder seals and original cartoons drawn for the "New Yorker" by Whitney Darrow Jr. ’52.

In the Madison exhibit, in the Princetonians Room, which was the Madison family home which records the birth of James Madison exactly two hundred years ago in March, 1751. Also, Madison’s connections with Princeton are shown in a variety of documents such as a letter written as an undergraduate to a Philadelphia merchant.

Manuscript of Inaugural Address.

The exhibit also includes the manuscript of Madison’s first inaugural address as President of the United States and two original portraits of Madison.

The Main Exhibition Gallery is devoted to the commemorating of the publication of the Encyclopedia, edited in France by D’Alembert and Diderot, "Diderot’s Encyclopedia," as it is often called, was one of the great editorial and publishing achievements of the 18th Century and copies are very rare.

‘Encyclopedia’ Summation of Thought

The Encyclopedia was both a summation of the thought of the time and a detailed description of the state of knowledge in diverse branches of learning, theoretical as well as practical.
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Un des plus grands monuments des progrès de l'esprit humain, ainsi qu'apprécie en particulier Voltaire en parlant de l'Encyclopédie. Il est de ce célèbre ouvrage comme de tant d'autres : tout le monde en a entendu parler, personne ne les a vus. On sait que ce "Dictionnaire raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers", publié entre 1751 et 1772, fut, en même temps que le recueil des connaissances accumulées par le génie des hommes, une arme de combat contre le dogmatisme, les abus de l'intolérance, des superstitions. Mais il faut aussi que ce qui constitue un de ses principaux titres de gloire aux yeux des hommes du XVIIIe siècle - et il devrait au même de mettre à nos yeux - était, à la place qu'y occupaient les arbres, les planches.

Sur les 18 volumes in-folio qui comprennent l'édition originale, il y a 17 volumes d'articles et 11 volumes de planches. Ces planches ne sont pas de simples "illustrations" destinées à égayer le texte, elles forment un vrai hémicycle ou journal qui a toujours retenu l'admiration des peuples qui peuvent en voir l'originalité.
LES SCIENCES, LES ARTS, LES MÉTIERS EN 3129 PLANCHES GRAVÉES

OU L'HISTOIRE EN IMAGES DE L'ORIGINE DE NOS CONNAISSANCES

La technique du fac-similé intègre en 3129 planches gravées les principales innovations techniques et scientifiques du passé, offrant un panorama complet de l'histoire des sciences, des arts et des métiers. Ce guide est une référence incontournable pour tous ceux qui souhaitent découvrir l'histoire des techniques et des arts à travers les époques.

Les planches présentées couvrent une période allant de l'Antiquité jusqu'à la fin du XIXe siècle, avec une attention particulière à l'époque médiévale et à la Révolution industrielle. Chaque planche est dédiée à un sujet précis, allant de l'astronomie aux inventions mécaniques, en passant par les arts décoratifs et les techniques artisanales.

La collection inclut également des planches spéciales sur l'histoire de la technologie et de l'industrie, ainsi que sur les inventions majeures qui ont marqué l'histoire de l'humanité.

Ce livre est une ressource précieuse pour les étudiants, les historiens et tous ceux qui sont passionnés par l'histoire des techniques et des arts.
UNE PLANÈTE VIVANTE NOUVELLES ÉDITIONS DIDEROT

Il faut bien l’avouer, l’image que nous avons de la vie réelle est parfaitement convenuionnelle : les cellules, vaisseaux sanguins, fibres nerveuses... L’Encyclopédie nous aurait montré que la vie réelle, la vie véritable de toutes les choses de la nature. C’est à elle, nous savons comment décrypter les apparences, comment se dégager des visions et des chaussettes. Il est vrai que, dans le détail de cette réalité, les perceptions, les sensations, les impressions, ne sont que des appâts, des apparences mêmes qui nous sont sans doute une belle et fine invention, mais qui en même temps sont le souffle de la vie.

UN PAPIER IMPRÉNÉEMENT STÉRILÉ
Les planches de l’Encyclopédie étaient prétendument gravées sur cuivre et teintées par passage au pinceau. Pour donner une sensation de l’impression d’origine, elle furent imprimées à partir de la même planche que les gravures de la première édition. Le style, l’art, l’art et l’artiste demeurent donc à la trace, les pages de garde en page d’apo...

« UN TABLEAU GÉNÉRAL DES EFFORTS DE L’ESPRIT HUMAIN » DIDEROT

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26,5 x 40
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... Le dépôt de toutes les sciences et de tous les arts, tous puissés aussi loin que l'industrie humaine a pu aller... Cet ouvrage immense et immortel semble accuser la brièveté de la vie des hommes.

C'était un des plus grands monuments des progrès de l'esprit humain.

Jamais on ne travailla avec tant d'ardeur et avec plus noble désintéressement. On vit bientôt des personnages recommandables dans tous les rangs, officiers généraux, magistrats, ingénieurs, véritables gens de lettres, s'empresser à décorer cet ouvrage de leurs recherches, souscrire et travailler à la fois : ils ne voulaient que la satisfaction d'être utiles.

VOLTAIRE

Une Babel par ordre alphabétique, un monstre dictionnaire de trente volumes in-folio. L'Encyclopédie fut bien plus qu'un livre. Ce fut une faction. A travers les persécutions, elle allait grossissant. L'Europe entière s'y mit.

MICHELET

L'Encyclopédie s'inséra dans un mouvement général, qu'elle exaltait et qu'elle dignifiait. Elle les ferait connaître à tous ses lecteurs, ces arts mécaniques que les purs penseurs ignoraient ou dédaignaient. Ses collaborateurs entrenaient dans les boutiques où se vendaient les objets usuels, mieux encore, ils traînaient dans les ateliers, ils vernaient comment un relieur habilie ses volumes, un charpentier batit ses caisses, un verrier souffle ses bouteilles, un mineur attaque son charbon. Le fils du coutelier de Langres se chargerait tout particulièrement de regarder, d'interroger; il enumérait avec lui des dessinateurs, qui copieraient les pièces les plus simples pour aboutir aux machines les plus compliquées....

PAUL HAZARD

Rassez nous tous les savants, et qu'ils composent une Encyclopédie ! Chacun y apportera son article. Vous aurez ainsi sous les yeux ce que le monde contient. Chacun pourra puiser dans ce grand dépôt des connaissances humaines ce dont il a besoin. Il lira cet article, regardera telle image, acquerrra telle connaissance. C'est l'univers tout entier que l'entendement humain aura mis en articles pour l'usage de l'homme.

BERNARD GROETHUYSEN

... Cet ouvrage énorme, mine inépuisable et encore inexploitée de renseignements sur la vie, les moeurs, les tendances, les aspirations du siècle...

Dans l'Encyclopédie l'audace est partout, et elle n'est en particulier nulle part. Elle est dans la réhabilitation de la nature, du travail, du technicque...

HENRI LEPFREVRE

Les planches de Diderot ont une ampleur et une perfection de style qui les placent au sommet du genre des illustrations techniques.

CHARLES COULSTON GILLIEF