

Enlightenment and Sentiment



Announcements

Dr. Spang's office hours:
Mondays, 3:00-4:30, Ballantine 711

Second Assignment (three-page paper on one of this week's readings) is due in discussion class;
see website for details

Over the next weeks, I will be making a few changes to the planned readings; check the website for updates.
Information on the website always supersedes that in the printed syllabus.



Social rank based on status is not the same as social class.

Old-Regime France was a society in which many of the categories people used when thinking of themselves and others were *not* the same categories we generally use today.

For example, *pays* (“homeland”) meant someone’s village or region, not “country.”

It is crucial to remember that the Three Orders/Estates were not “social classes.”

In theory, at least, membership in the Second or Third Estate was determined at birth. How is this different from social class?

In theory, on what was membership in the First Estate based?

What happened in practice such that some people perhaps started to see these categories differently?



The Third Estate included:

wholesale merchants, international trade

professions (law, medicine, “men of letters”)

families living “in a bourgeois fashion” (investments)

farmers owning their own land

urban tradesmen and artisans

watchmakers, printers

butchers, bakers

carpenters, shoemakers

household servants

sharecroppers

rural migrant laborers, menial laborers



Boucher, *The Beautiful Cook* (1735), Third Estate: Who, What, Where detail.



Rigaud, *Portrait of Samuel Bernard* (banker to the Court in early 1700s)

For Sale: A beautiful and prosperous ESTATE, well laid out, with all the advantages one might want. Buildings well maintained and newly improved; the estate also benefits from well established trees and some delightful views. All only a *lieue* [approx. 2 miles] from Toulouse and on a major highway. Interested parties should contact Pugens, the notary.

Announcements: A MAN SERVANT who knows how to shave, comb, and make desserts would like a position; he has good letters from the houses where he has served and people of the highest standing will speak for him. Contact Beignié, Master Candymaker, Paradoux Street.

LOVERS OF THE FINE ARTS are informed that a set of paintings by the most famous French and Italian masters will be on display at the house of Monsieur Sermet, Balances Street. These works are fit to belong to the King and we are certain that works of such beauty have never before been displayed in Toulouse. It is hoped that art lovers will not miss this opportunity: among those on display will be a painting by the famous Rembrandt, a surprising work, truly magical. The paintings will be on display from 10:00 in the morning until 4:00. Visitors must come in groups. Contact Girard, painter.

Affiches de Toulouse et de Haut-Languedoc (9 Jan. 1788), pp, 9-10; translated by RLS.

Enlightenment and Sentiment

Introduction and Definitions

Three Examples: Light, Laws, Reason

Joseph Wright of Derby, *The Philosopher Giving a Lecture* (1766)

Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (1748)

Diderot and D'Alembert, eds., *The Encyclopédie* (1751-1772)

Do Books Make Revolutions?

“Enlightened Absolutism”

Popular Literacy

Sentiment and the Limits of Reason (two examples)

Rousseau's works (1751-1780)

Joseph Wright of Derby, *Experiment...* (1768)



Jean-Baptiste Pigalle, *Voltaire, Naked* (1776)

Enlightenment

lumières (philosophes)

Aufklärung

All things must be debated, examined, investigated without exception and without regard for anyone's feelings... We must ride rough shod over all our ancient childish fears, we must overturn the barriers that reason never erected, and give back to the arts and sciences the liberty that is so precious to them....

Denis Diderot, entry "Encyclopedia," in Diderot and D'Alembert, eds., *Encyclopédie* (1751-1772).

Each century will add new enlightenment to that of the century preceding it, and this progress, which nothing from now on can stop or suspend, will have no other limits than those of the duration of the universe. . .

Marquis de Condorcet, Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences (1782).



Joseph Wright (of Derby), *The Philosopher giving a Lecture on the Orrery* (1766)



Godfrey Kneller, *Sir Isaac Newton* (1689).

As we see that the world, formed by the motion of matter and devoid of intelligence, still continues to exist, we learn that its motions must have invariable laws; and if one could imagine another world than this, it would have consistent rules or it would be destroyed...

... cold air contracts the extremities of the body's surface fibers, this increases their spring and favors the return of blood from the extremities to the heart... hot air, by contrast, relaxes those extremities... Therefore, men are more vigorous in cold climates, where the blood is pushed harder toward the heart

Charles de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws, or on the Relation that the Laws Must Have with the Constitution of Each Government, with the People's Customs and Manners, with Climate, with Religion, with Commerce, etc. etc. etc.* (first published, 1748).

Encyclopédie (1751-1772)

71,818 articles; 2,855 plates (pages of illustrations)

28 volumes in-folio (approx. 19" x 12" x 2.5")

17 volumes of text (1751-1765); 11 of images (1762-1772)

subscriber's cost for the first edition, 980 *livres* *

other folio editions: Geneva reprint of original;
contraband versions elsewhere

quarto editions (approx. 12" x 9.5")

published in Geneva, Neufchatel, 1777-79;

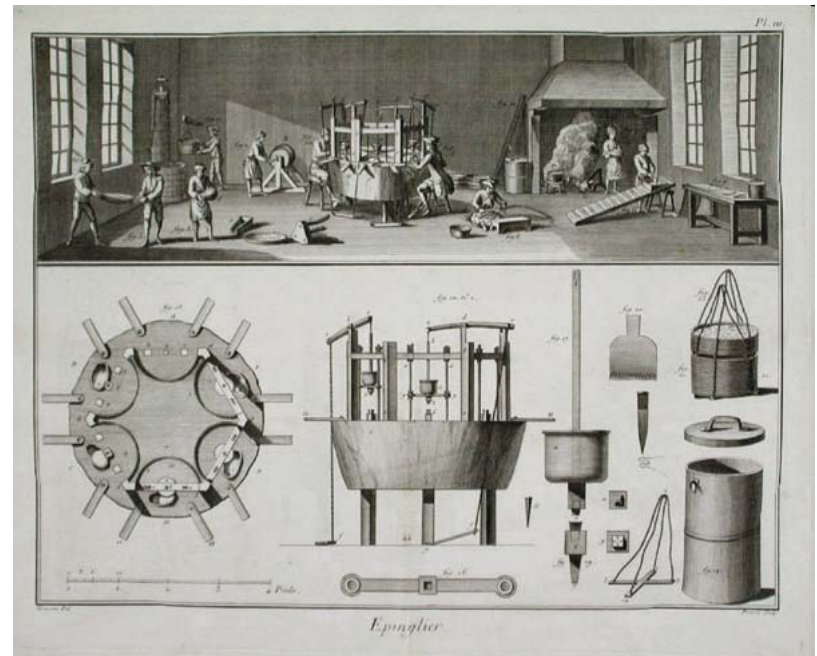
36 volumes of text and 3 of images

(print run: approx. 8400)

ocatavo editions (approx. 9" x 6")

published in Lausanne, Bern, 1778-1782;

TOTAL: approx 23,500



“Pin Making (iii)” from the *Encyclopédie*

* when skilled workers earned 2-5 *livres*/day and approx. ten pounds of bread could be bought for one *livre*



Louis Michel van Loo, *Portrait of Diderot*
oil on canvas, 81 cm. x 65 cm. (1767)
Louvre (Paris, France)

Encyclopedism and authorship

at least 140 contributors

no known author: 40%

de Jaucourt: wrote close to 25%

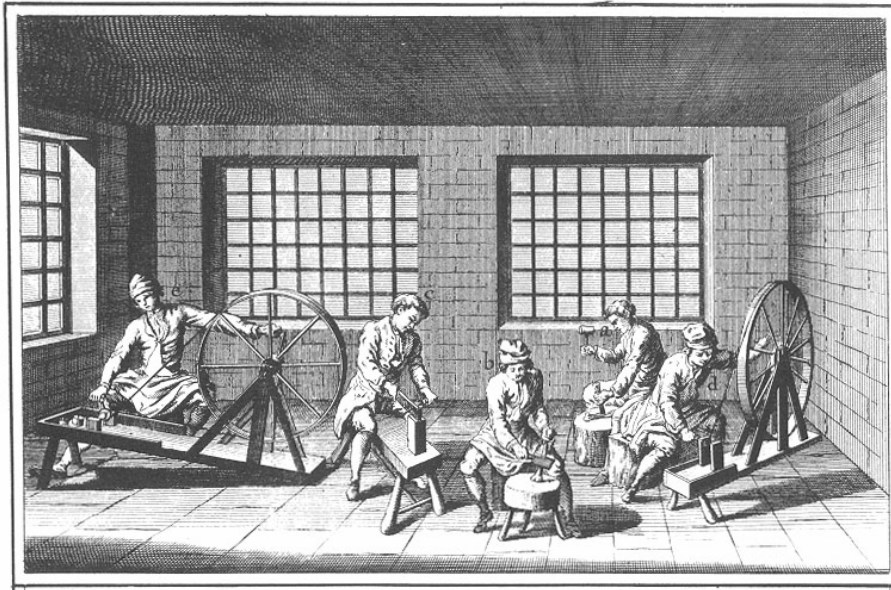
Diderot, abbé Mallet, Boucher d'Argis:
together responsible for another 20-25%

one-third of identified authors wrote only one article

“His grey tuft of hair and his affectedness give him the air of an old coquette who still tries to please, while his pose makes him look more like a bureaucrat than a *philosophe*....”

Denis Diderot, *Salon de 1767* (cited in Michael Fried, *Absorption and Theatricality*), commenting on this painting.

The three verbs to ADORE, to honor, and to revere are used for both religious and secular forms of worship. In religious worship one adores God, one honors the saints, and one reveres relics and images. In the secular form of worship, one adores a mistress, one honors decent people, and one reveres illustrious individuals. ... The manner of adoring the true God must never deviate from the standards of reason, because God is the author of reason and He wanted people to use it even in judging what is suitable to do or not to do regarding Him. Perhaps during the first centuries of the Church the saints were not honored and their images and relics were not revered, as they have been since that time; people than had an aversion to idolatry and maintained a cautious attitude toward the rituals of worship



Unknown author, article "Adore,"
Encyclopédie vol. 1, p. 144.

"The Manufacture of Rosary Beads," *Encyclopédie*

1745—publishers acquire the “privilege” (i.e., are licensed) to produce a multi-volume encyclopedia to be edited by Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d’Alembert

1751—first volume, “A-Azymites” published

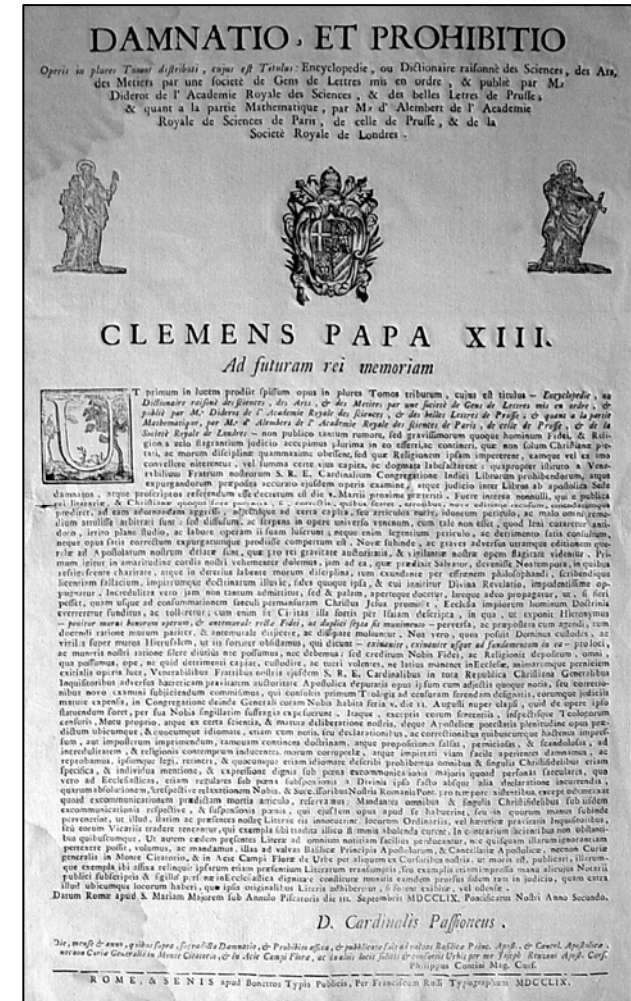
1756—Seven Years’ War begins

1757—Damiens attempts to kill Louis XV

1758—Helvétius, *De l’Esprit* advocates a material basis for morality

1759 –*Encyclopédie* banned by Paris Parlement; added to the Index of books that Catholics were forbidden to read; Pope Clement XIII told the faithful to have their copies burnt by a priest or be excommunicated

1765—volume 8 (“H-Itzehoa”) published



“Ut Primum”—papal encyclical banning the *Encyclopédie* (September 1759)

Who supported the *philosophes*?

Voltaire—Frederick II (the Great), King of Prussia

Diderot—Catherine II (the Great), Empress of Russia

Turgot—Louis XVI, King of France



Diderot's voyage to (blue) and from (red) St. Petersburg

Who Could Read? How do we know?

Literacy in France (average)

	men	women
1686-1690	29%	14%
1786-1790	47%	27%

What did they read? How do we know?

Religious works as % of permitted publications:
1700: 50%; 1720s: 33%; 1750s: 20%; 1780s: 10%

Prohibited Books: “philosophical”
pornographic
scandal/rumor reporting



Fragonard, *The Love Letter* (c.1770).

500 eighteenth-century inventories of people's books

185 copies of *La Nouvelle Héloïse*

1 copy of *The Social Contract*

Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (1762).



In me are united two almost irreconcilable characteristics... I have a passionate temperament and headstrong emotions. But my thoughts arise slowly and confusedly, such that they are never ready until it is too late. It is as if my heart and my brain belong to different people.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Confessions* (pub. 1780).

early edition of *La Nouvelle Héloïse*, published under the original title, *Letters of Two Lovers Living in a little Village at the Foot of the Alps* collected by Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Joseph Wright (of Derby), *Experiment on a Bird in an Air Pump* (1768)

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1. Grand Rue ("Main Street"), Geneva, Switzerland; photo RLSpang
2. *Annonces, affiches, et avis divers de la Haute et Basse Normandie* (1779); Archives départementales de la Seine Maritime (Rouen);
<http://www.archivesdepartementales76.net/cles/35-journaux-et-periodiques.html>
3. anonymous, "Ceremonial Costumes of the Three Orders" (1789), watercolor and engraving;
photo from www.photo.rmn.fr
4. Hyacinthe Rigaud, *Portrait of Samuel Bernard* (1726), oil on canvas, 2.65 x 1.665 meters; Versailles.
François Boucher, *The Beautiful Cook* (before 1735), oil on wood, .555 x .432 meters; Paris, Musée Cognacq-Jay; photos, <http://www.photo.rmn.fr>
5. *Affiches de Toulouse* available at gallica.bnf.fr
6. Jean-Baptiste Pigalle, *Voltaire, nu* (1776), marble sculpture, 1.5 x .89 x .77 meters; Paris, Louvre Museum; adapted from a photo at <http://www.photo.rmn.fr>
8. photo from www.derby.gov.uk
9. Godfrey Kneller, *Sir Isaac Newton* (1689); photo, wikimedia.org
- 10-13. statistics from Robert Darnton, *The Business of Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopédie* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1979).
10. <http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu>
11. Van Loo, *Portrait of Diderot* www.photo.rmn.fr
12. <http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu>
13. image and full text of encyclical (in Latin) at <http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu/node/117>
15. Jean Honoré Fragonard, *The Love Letter* (1770?), oil on canvas, .83 x .67 meters; New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art; photo. www.photo.rmn.fr; statistics from Roger Chartier, *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, trans. Lydia Cochrane (Durham: Duke University Press, 1991).
16. Statistics from Daniel Mornet, "L'Influence de Jean-Jacques Rousseau au xviiiè siècle," cited in Robert Darnton, *Mesmerism and the End of the Enlightenment* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ Press, 1968).