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UN SERVIZIO PERSONALIZZATO DI QUALITÀ A BIBLIOTECHE, CENTRI DI RICERCA ED UNIVERSITÀ DAL 1935

PIERRE BAYLE,

COMPLETE WORKS AND CRITICAL CORPUS

TRICENTENARY EDITION

(1706 – 2006)

COMPLETE WORKS

- *Dictionnaire historique et critique*, 5e édition, Amsterdam, Leyde, La Haye, Utrecht, 1740.
- *Œuvres diverses*, La Haye, P. Husson et al., 1727-31; following the reprint by G. Olms, Hildesheim, 5 vol.
- *Theses philosophicae quas, favente Deo, publicae disputationi subjiciet, sub praesidio Petri Baelii [...]* Philippus Muysson (« *Theses de elementis* »), Roterodami, A. Acher, 1689.
- *Theses philosophicae quas, favente Deo, publice tueri conabitur sub praesidio Petri Baelii [...]* Antonius de Massanes (« *Theses de fluiditate et firmitate* »), Roterodami, A. Acher, 1690.
- Extracts from the periodical of Henri Basnage de Beauval, *Histoire des ouvrages des savants*, attributed to Bayle : April-June 1693.
- *Commentaire philosophique*, critical edition by J.-M. Gros, Paris, 2006.
- *Avis aux réfugiés*, critical edition by G. Mori, Paris, 2006.

CRITICAL CORPUS

- *Pierre Bayle, citoyen du monde*, éd. H. Bost et Ph. de Robert, Paris, 1999.
 - G. Mori, *Bayle philosophe*, Paris, 1999.
 - J.-J. Boucharly, *Pierre Bayle, la nature et la « nature des choses »*, Paris, 2001.
 - J.-M. Gros, *Introduction au Dictionnaire historique et critique et aux articles philosophiques*, Paris, 2003.
 - *La Raison corrosive*, éd. I. Delpla et Ph. de Robert, Paris, 2003.
 - *Pierre Bayle dans la République des Lettres*, éd. A. McKenna et G. Paganini, Paris, 2004.
 - *Bibliographie complète des travaux sur Bayle entre 1900 et 2006*, established by G. Mori.
- Recent studies reveal in Pierre Bayle (1647-1706) not only a lucid and ironic observer of the evolution of the “new (Cartesian) philosophy” in Europe, but also a dynamic actor in the development of critical rationalism and in the crisis of rational theology at the turn of the 17th century. He is a specialist in the history of philosophy, who creates a dialogue between ancient and modern thinkers with inexhaustible energy and extraordinary erudition and who succeeds in demonstrating that the most coherent “Christian philosophy” at the time – that of Malebranche – is vulnerable to insoluble objections. Bayle is also a pioneer journalist, who addresses his bookreviews to the Republic of Letters, the prefiguration of modern Europe, and he is the creator of a concept of tolerance which founded the modern conception of “civil toleration” throughout Europe. Readers of Bayle’s works are all familiar with the difficulty of grasping the coherence of his thought, difficulty which is twofold : firstly, the immense dimensions of his works (9 folio volumes, each of some 1000 pages in two columns) which exhaust his readers ; secondly, his intentional masking of his real intentions and his willingness to veil an audacious philosophy by means of provocative paradoxes and orthodox “fideism”. It is difficult to grasp Bayle’s authentic philosophy, since one always suspects that what he says here will be contradicted there and that his sincere position is expressed yet elsewhere.



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Hence the need for an electronic edition of all his works : this realisation will be recognised as supremely worthwhile by all Bayle-scholars and by all those who are interested in the history of philosophy (be it rationalist, sceptical, scientific or religious) at the turn of the 17th century, since Bayle is the privileged intermediary between the classical rationalism of Descartes and the critical rationalism of the Enlightenment. Our project covers all Bayle's works : the *Dictionnaire historique et critique*, the *Œuvres diverses*, including the periodical *Nouvelles de la République des Lettres*, the critique of Maimbourg, the *Pensées diverses* and their *Continuation*, the *Commentaire philosophique* and the other works of religious controversy, the *Réponse aux questions d'un Provincial* and all the polemical works of the great battle with Jurieu, finally all the minor works, including (for the first time) extracts from Henri Basnage de Beauval's periodical which came from Bayle's pen and the notorious *Avis aux réfugiés*, of which the attribution to Bayle has been a subject of controversy over the last three centuries (we will demonstrate this attribution to be authentic and reliable). To these texts, published electronically according to the appropriate edition, we add a modern critical edition of the *Commentaire philosophique* (ed. Jean-Michel Gros) and of the *Avis aux réfugiés* (ed. Gianluca Mori).

The publication of this immense Baylean corpus is accompanied by a critical corpus composed of essential studies published over the last ten years brought up to date. Lastly, this critical corpus will also include the bibliography of all scholarly studies on Bayle between 1900 and 2006, established by Gianluca Mori. This corpus will subsequently be completed by new studies on Bayle to be published by Honoré Champion.

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Literature, philosophy, history

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