

liberties" (147). He strongly supported the British cause against the French Roman Catholics, specifically for their opposition to religious freedom for Protestants. After the French were finally defeated in 1763, he turned his efforts to opposing the "Grenville Program" of religious and political policies of George III and the Tory government, both in England and in the colonies, where it included the imposition of the Stamp Act and the possibility of the appointment of a colonial bishop (a move opposed by Whitefield, who ironically was often mentioned as a possible candidate for the position). By this time Whitefield had a network of acquaintances among the rich and powerful in England, as a result of his association with the Countess of Huntingdon. He was raising support in England for American causes like the colleges at Princeton and Dartmouth; he may also have been advocating for the colonial political cause. He attended Parliamentary sessions in support of Benjamin Franklin, which Mahaffey at least takes as an announcement that he "embraced the cause of the colonists" (199). He may have been working behind the scenes among acquaintances with Whig leanings; Mahaffey quotes at least one observer as giving Whitefield credit for the repeal of the Stamp Act (199).

Whitefield died in 1770, so that it is not possible to determine what position he would have taken when war actually broke out. Neither Hoffer nor Mahaffey ventures to assert that Whitefield would have supported the colonists, though they seem to lean in that direction. Neither Hoffer nor Mahaffey takes up Whitefield's Georgia associations in any detail; two of his closest associates there, James Habersham and John Zubly, chose the Tory side. It is, of course, not necessary to believe that Whitefield would have supported the Revolution to be convinced that he helped to bring it about. Mahaffey's work certainly makes a convincing case that he did so.

Hoffer's study of the friendship of Franklin and Whitefield, and Mahaffey's *Accidental Revolutionary*, are useful works, valuable for their insights and their general account of Whitefield and his times. *Preaching Politics* is a substantial scholarly work, exploring the rhetoric of the prerevolutionary period in impressive depth. All three works do Whitefield honor at the beginning of his three-hundredth year.

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### Bringing the Encyclopédie Méthodique to a New Era

Delia, Luigi and Éthel Groffier, eds. *La Vision nouvelle de la société dans l'Encyclopédie Méthodique*. Volume I: *Jurisprudence*. (Laval, QC: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2012). Pp. 546. \$ 40.00. ISBN: 978-2-7637-1524-7; PDF format, 978-27-637-1525-4.

Josiane Boulad-Ayoub, ed. *La Vision nouvelle de la société dans l'Encyclopédie Méthodique*. Volume II: *Assemblée constituante*. (Laval, QC: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2013). Pp. 591. \$ 60.00. ISBN: 978-2-7637-1755-5.



As Delia and Groffier note in the first of these collections, the “gigantisme” (I, 21; translations mine) of the *Encyclopédie Méthodique* kept it from being widely read by its intended contemporary audience. Few could afford the approximately 177 quarto volumes of text, along with the nearly 6,000 plates, that eventually comprised a full set of the encyclopedia. A further complicating factor was the lengthy publication span of this last of the various direct descendants of the *Encyclopédie*. Launched in 1782 and intended to be completed in five or six years, the *Méthodique* in the end spanned a full half-century, since the last volumes were published in 1832. As one can imagine, this lengthy period of production, which happened to include the turbulent Revolutionary and Napoleonic decades, meant that many surviving sets of the encyclopedia are incomplete. It is little wonder, then, that few modern scholars are acquainted with this immensely interesting work. Delia, Groffier and Boulad-Ayoub have made a major contribution to their target audience of the “wider public interested in the development of the human sciences, researchers, students, those interested in law, general readers” (I, 21-22), by anthologizing selections of articles from the dictionaries on law and on the Constituent Assembly. The volume on *Jurisprudence* is also available in digitized form.

In the case of *Jurisprudence*, the editors made the wise choice of largely passing over the articles compiled from the writings of famous authors such as Beccaria to concentrate on less well known texts, many written directly for this ten-volume dictionary. A monograph-length introduction (I, 27-137) provides the context for the first eight volumes of *Jurisprudence*, which were written and compiled by a group of editors. This first section, completed in 1789, quickly became a historical source summarizing the state of civil law at the end of the Old Regime. But these eight volumes also contain glimmers of the new vision of society that was being formed during this decade. One theme is the need to codify laws. In several areas, *Jurisprudence* is less overtly reformist than the *Encyclopédie*, but it does contain certain key texts that continue to stress the superiority of an immutable natural law to the law established by any theological system or political state. In this vein, Diderot’s “political authority” is carried over to *Jurisprudence* and reproduced here. Delia and Groffier also include a dozen articles on penal laws, explicated in detail in the introduction. The influence of Beccaria is pervasive, particularly on the question of capital punishment, as is demonstrated in “Assassination,” “Punishment,” and “Theft”; but in the spirit of many dictionaries of the *Méthodique*, counter-views are also covered in “Punishment.” Among other articles in this section, “Prison” is firmly reformist, praising Louis XVI’s efforts to improve conditions and calling for more circumspection in determining guilt, and “Question” decries torture as an interrogation method. A final group of four articles concerns the juridical aspects of enforcing adherence to a state religion. “Calvinism,” for example, discusses such points as the legal validity of Protestant marriages. The author of this article sees reason for hope in the tacit toleration that was being practiced at the time at certain



levels. The 130 pages of texts chosen from the approximately 6,000 pages of these eight volumes represent a draconian but entirely judicious selection that brings out the opinion pieces integrated into an otherwise sober work.

The remaining two volumes of *Jurisprudence* constitute a separate section entitled *Police et municipalités*. They were written during the pivotal years of 1787 to 1791 by a single editor, the versatile lawyer, journalist and man of letters Jacques Peuchet. This section is one of the richest dictionaries of the entire *Méthodique* in insights into the political and social life of the period—a goldmine of information for the cultural historian. Peuchet's subject is the legislative and moral principles underlying the ways in which order is maintained in a civil society. He examines these principles in their history and in the evolution they were undergoing as he wrote. Delia and Groffier devote almost 200 pages to texts from *Police et municipalités*, the seeming disproportion as compared with the first eight volumes of *Jurisprudence* amply justified by the interest of these pieces. The thirty-three articles are presented under five headings: the concept of a nation "people"; how French society can be regenerated; how a democratic society can be created; its security and welfare (the broader meaning of *police*); and the family. On the concept of the nation, one can observe the above-mentioned evolution of Peuchet's thought as the Revolution progressed. The short "Liberté," for example, notes the harmful excesses resulting from the freedoms of the press and of assembly in recent years. On regenerating, forming and maintaining a new social order, the editors analyze the philosophical influences on Peuchet that are evident in many of the articles. The entries themselves delineate social abuses, describe civic institutions such as assemblies that were needed to underpin the new order, and discuss its management on the practical level of security, utilities, roads and the conduct of business. The articles on family law would be useful background texts for many courses on the eighteenth century. The selections from *Police et municipalités*, which seems virtually unknown outside of studies of encyclopedism, would suffice of themselves to justify this anthology.

Peuchet was also the author of the companion volume entitled *Assemblée constituante*. It is the single volume that the original publisher of the *Méthodique*, Charles Joseph Panckoucke, managed to produce of what was promised as an ambitious dictionary on the Revolution; it was a late addition to the *Méthodique* that Panckoucke intended as a kind of updating of *Jurisprudence*. The second part of this new dictionary was to cover debates in the *Assemblée constituante*. Had this section been completed, it might have rivalled the longest dictionaries of the *Méthodique*, since the single volume published covers only the letter "A." Boulad-Ayoub's anthology was a revelation to this reviewer, who had tended to pass over this awkward, lone volume as an oddity of minor intellectual significance. But as she demonstrates, Peuchet's accounts give evidence of a sure editorial hand in their selection and organization; he is successful in recreating "toute la force d'invention de la Constituante" (the whole creative power of the constituent) (II,



27), including certain speeches made by the pro-monarchical minority, many of which were unpublished before this dictionary appeared. Boulad-Ayoub presents a sizeable chunk of the 804 pages of *Assemblée constituante* in this anthology. More than 100 pages are devoted to eighteen discussions of the thorny problem of Avignon, a papal state within France, and more than 200 pages to "Assignat" (a banknote issued during the Revolution). Among shorter articles included is the six-page "Acadiens," which reports on the request made on 21 February 1791 to reinstate the pension payments owed to a small number of Acadians who had been repatriated to France after 1763; the *Constituante* agreed to reinstate the payments. Boulad-Ayoub's inclusion of this discussion about a footnote in the history of the Revolution, one with very human dimensions, illustrates the serendipitous delights of reading these anthologies.

The team of editors involved in this effort, with the support of the Presse de l'université de Laval, continues to make this massive encyclopedia better known through such anthologies: a third volume on *Économie politique* has appeared recently. Greedy historians can only be grateful.

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### **A National System of Information: Three Recent Works on Literature and the State**

Frey, Anne. *British State Romanticism: Authorship, Agency, and Bureaucratic Nationalism*. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010) Pp. 204. \$55.00. ISBN 978080476228-1.

Benchimol, Alex. *Intellectual Politics and Cultural Conflict in the Romantic Period: Scottish Whigs, English Radicals, and the Making of the British Public Sphere*. (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2010) Pp. 236. \$99.95. ISBN 9780754664468.

Gruber, Ira D. *Books and the British Army in the Age of the American Revolution*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010) Pp. 325. \$26.01. ISBN 978080783378-0.

Several recent works have added to the long and fruitful conversation interrogating the relationship between the traditionally private area of literature and the activities and concerns of the state. Three such works published in 2010 include Anne Frey's *British State Romanticism*, Alex Benchimol's *Intellectual Politics and Cultural Conflict in the Romantic Period*, and Ira Gruber's *Books and the British Army in the Age of the American Revolution*. Each considers how the written word interacted with governmental authority during the Romantic period to form British individuals existing in increasingly intimate relationship to state authority.

Of the three, *British State Romanticism* focuses most on "big name" Romantics.