

"VOLTAIRE, (F.M.A. de).

Elémens de la Philosophie de Neuton. Contenant la Metaphysique, la Théorie de la Lumiere, & celle du Monde. Nouvelle Edition.

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A Londres (but Paris), no printer, 1744. Small 8vo. Contemp. full mottled calf, raised bands, richly gilt back. Previous owners stamp on tp. Engraved portrait (Newton), engraved title vignette, VIII, 5-12, (1-)232, 209-471, (4) pp. The text is complete and continuous despite the odd pagination. Having 8 engraved plates (1 folding) and many text engravings. A few leaves with contemporary marginal notes. Internally fine and clean.

Commentaire : Second or third edition, a contrefaçon not printed in London, but in Paris. "Voltaire's importance for the history of science lies particularly in his having composed a famous popularization of Newton, *Éléments de la philosophie de Newton* (1738), while also collaborating with his companion and mistress, Émilie, marquise de Châtelet, on her translation of the *Principia* into French, and more generally in his having referred, with the lightness of touch that made him a serious critic of the human condition, his moral philosophy to what he took to be Newtonian, and hence a correct account of physical reality." (DSB XIV:p.83), The work has been called one of the most beautiful illustrated scientific works of all. - This edition not in Gray's Bibliography.

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Herman H. J. Lynge & Son

herman@lynge.com

Tél. +45 33 155 335

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