

"BAYLE, PIERRE.

Dictionnaire Historique et Critique. Cinquième Édition. Revue, corrigée, et Augmentée de remarques critiques. Avec la Vie de L'Auteur par Mr. Des Maizeaux. 5 Vols (A-Z, all). - [""THE ARSENAL OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT""]

Référence : 48528

Amsterdam, Compagnie des Libraires, 1734. Folio. Bound in 5 contemp. full calf. Raised bands, richly gilt spines. Wear to spine ends. Corners variously bumped. Some covers with scratches. 5 Large engraved title vignettes. Title pages printed in red/black. A few quires with browning. Few scattered brown spots. Engraved portrait of Bayle (Petite F. (ecit))

Commentaire : In this fifth Amsterdam-edition is found at the end of each volume the critical remarks of l'abbé Le Clerc. ""For over half a century, until the publication of the ""Encyclopédie"", Bayle's ""Dictionnaire"" dominated enlightened thinking in every part of Europe."" (PMM: 155, the first edition published 1695). Pierre Bayle's Dictionnaire historique et critique stands as the supreme achievement of one of the seventeenth century's most prominent men of letters. Based in Rotterdam, Bayle animated intellectual discussion in Europe through his work as editor and author and as a prolific correspondent. Originally conceived as a response to the errors in Louis Moréri's Grand dictionnaire historique, his Dictionnaire historique et critique grew to be an exemplary work of critical methodology. The author painstakingly compiled, compared, questioned, seeking some degree of historical certainty, however small. The Bayle Dictionnaire has been called the ""Arsenal of the Enlightenment"", pillaged and re-edited throughout the eighteenth century by believers and sceptics alike who gathered ammunition for philosophical argument in the work's recondite notes.

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