

Call for Papers

Hume's French Conversation / Conversations avec 'le bon David'

International Colloquium, Paris, 6-8 September 2012

'But the most eminent instance of the flourishing of learning in absolute governments is that of France, which scarcely ever enjoyed any established liberty, and yet has carried the arts and sciences as near perfection as any other nation. The English are, perhaps, greater philosophers; the Italians better painters and musicians; the Romans were greater orators; but the French are the only people, except the Greeks, who have been at once philosophers, poets, orators, historians, painters, architects, sculptors, and musicians. With regard to the stage, they have excelled even the Greeks, who far excelled the English. And, in common life, they have, in a great measure, perfected that art, the most useful and agreeable of any, l'Art de Vivre, the art of society and conversation.' (*Of Civil Liberty*)

'Our jealousy and our hatred of France are without bounds; and the former sentiment, at least, must be acknowledged reasonable and well-grounded' (*Of the Balance of Trade*)

Through a series of plenary lectures, regular sessions and round tables, this colloquium proposes to explore a subject that has never been treated with the attention it deserves: the specific relations with France that helped make David Hume into the philosopher, man of letters, political author, economist and historian that he was.

Papers in either English or French are invited in three fields: the influence of French thinkers on Hume; his experience in Paris and the provinces during his years in France (and his correspondence with French contemporaries); the posterity and influence of his thought among the French, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. Whether the approach is philosophical, political, historiographical, economic, literary, sociological, etc., it is hoped that all papers will represent 'state of the art' contributions to Hume studies.

This colloquium is organized by Pr. Robert Mankin (Laboratoire de Recherches sur les Cultures anglophones, Université Paris-Diderot; mankin@univ-paris-diderot.fr) & Pr. Laurent Jaffro (Laboratoire PhiCo/NoSoPhi, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; jaffro@univ-paris1.fr).

One-page proposals for papers should be addressed by 1 October 2011 to both organizers.