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how scientific discoveries and practice were integrated into nineteenth century french

culture and thought winner of the sarton medal for lifetime scholarly achievement of the history of science society there has been a tendency to view science in nineteenth century france as the exclusive territory of the nation s leading academic centers and the powerful paris based administrators who controlled them ministries and the great savants and institutions of the capital seem to have defined the field while historians have ignored or glossed over traditions on the periphery of science in the savant and the state robert fox charts new historiographical territory by synthesizing the practices and thought of state sanctioned scientists and those of independent communities of savants and commentators with very different political religious and cultural priorities fox provides a comprehensive history of the public face of french science from the bourbon restoration to the outbreak of the great war following the enlightenment many different interests competed to define the role of science and technology in french society political and religious conservatives tended to blame the scientific community for upsetting traditional values and implicitly delivering france into the hands of revolutionary extremists and napoleonic bureaucrats scientists for their part embraced the belief that observation and experimentation offered the surest way to the knowledge and wisdom on which the welfare of society depended this debate fox argues became a contest for the hearts and minds of the french citizenry

love is harder to explain than hunger for a piece of fruit does not feel the desire to be eaten denis diderot s Éléments de physiologie presents a world in flux turning on the relationship between man matter and mind in this late work diderot delves playfully into the relationship between bodily sensation emotion and perception and asks his readers what it means to be human in the absence of a soul the atheist s bible challenges prevailing scholarly views on diderot s Éléments asserting its contemporary philosophical importance and prompting its readers to inspect more closely this little known and little studied work in this timely volume warman establishes the place of diderot s Éléments in the trajectory of materialist theories of nature and the mind stretching back to epicurus and lucretius and explores the fascinating reasons behind scholarly neglect of this seminal work in turn warman outlines the hitherto unacknowledged dissemination and reception of diderot s Éléments demonstrating how diderot s Éléments was circulated in manuscript form as early as the 1790s thus showing how the text came to influence the next generations of materialist thinkers this book is accompanied by a digital edition of jacques andré naigeon s mémoires historiques et philosophiques sur la vie et les ouvrages de denis diderot 1823 a work which warman argues represents the first publication of diderot s Éléments long before its official publication date of 1875 the atheist s bible constitutes a major contribution to the field of diderot studies and will be of further interest to scholars and students of materialist natural philosophy in the age of enlightenment and beyond

from 1889 to 1918 the reports consist of the report of the director and appendixes which from 1893 include various bulletins issued by the library additions bibliography history legislation library school public libraries these including the report of the director were each issued also separately

french playwright novelist activist and journalist louis sébastien mercier 1740 1814 passionately captured scenes of social injustice in pre revolutionary paris in his prolific oeuvre but today remains an understudied writer in this penetrating study the first in english devoted to mercier in decades michael mulryan explores his unpublished writings and urban chronicles tableau de paris 1781 88 and le nouveau paris 1798 in which he identified the city as a microcosm of national societal problems detailed the conditions of the laboring poor encouraged educational reform and confronted universal social ills mercier s rich writings speak powerfully to the sociopolitical problems that continue to afflict us as political leaders manipulate public debate and encourage absolutist thinking deepening social divides an outcast for his polemical views during his lifetime mercier has been called the founder of modern urban discourse and his work a precursor to investigative journalism this sensitive study returns him to his rightful place among enlightenment thinkers

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