



The censoring of Cartesianism at the Oratory

The case of Father Poisson

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Abstract: The case of Nicolas-Joseph Poisson, an Oratorian priest, publisher, translator, and commentator of René Descartes, testifies to the fraught reception of Cartesianism within the Oratory. The publication of his *Commentaire ou remarques sur la méthode de René Descartes* was censored by his superiors in 1670, shortly before the royal decrees of 1671 and 1675 prohibiting the teaching of new doctrines, and again in 1685.

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