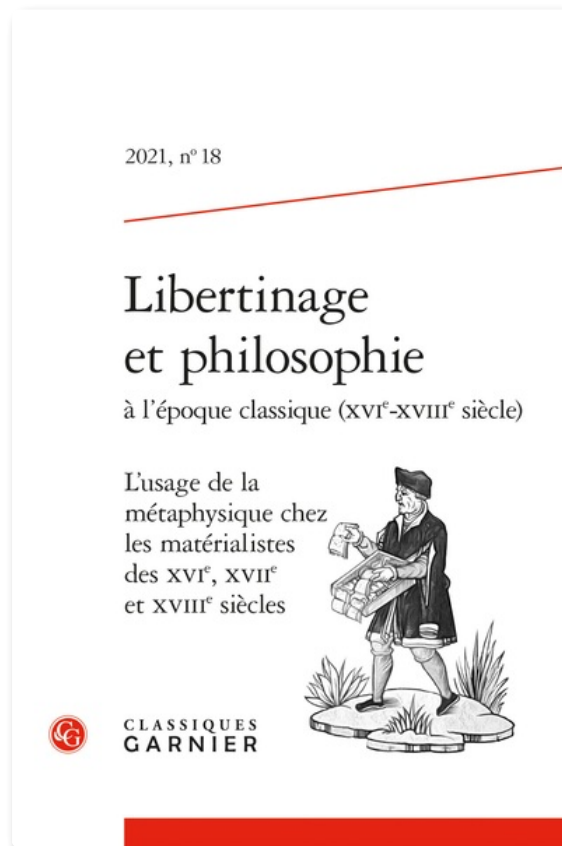


[Journals](#) > [Social Science](#) > [Libertinism and Philosophy in the Classical Period \(16th-18th Century\)](#)



A “classical” materialism

Voltaire and his *Letter on Locke*

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Libertinage et philosophie à l'époque classique \(XVI^e-XVIII^e siècle\)](#)
[2021, n° 18. L'usage de la métaphysique chez les matérialistes des XVI^e, XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles](#)

Authors: McKenna (Antony), Mori (Gianluca)

Abstract: Voltaire reads Locke through Bayle's spectacles. The materialism in the *Lettre sur Locke* is founded on Descartes's *Meditations* and Mersenne's objections as presented by Bayle and Bayle's conclusions are then allied with the principles of Newton's empiricism and with Locke's declaration on our ignorance of the nature of substances: Voltaire then declares, not without reason, that his materialism is «what Locke really thought but didn't dare to say».

Pages: 251 to 273

Journal: [Libertinism and Philosophy in the Classical Period \(16th-18th Century\)](#)

CLIL theme: 3126 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Philosophie

EAN: 9782406122098

ISBN: 978-2-406-12209-8

ISSN: 2649-1826

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-12209-8.p.0251

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 10-06-2021

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: soul, materialism, animals, Locke, Newton, Descartes, Mersenne, Bayle, Toland

[Display online](#)