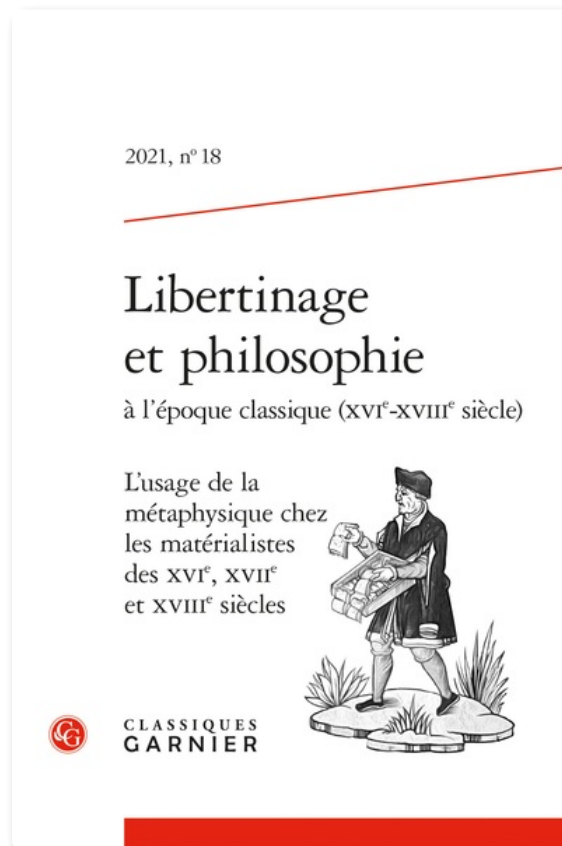


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Between Locke's doubts and Bayle's consequences

Jean Meslier and the debate on "thinking matter"

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Author: Tizziani (Manuel)

Abstract: According to Locke, we may never be able to know whether a material being thinks or not. For Bayle, such a possibility would lead to the materiality of the soul and its mortality. In his *Mémoire*, Meslier answers Locke's doubts and, based on a reading of Malebranche, draws the same consequences as Bayle, but defends them. This chapter examines Meslier's arguments in the context of the metaphysical debates of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.

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