



Bossuet the casuist

An English query on interest-bearing loans

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Abstract: The Bodleian Library holds a letter from Bossuet, dated February 26, 1687, in response to a query he received from England on the question of interest-bearing loans, a reflection of his authority among English Catholics. At the polar extreme of Baroque casuistry, Bossuet refused to take into account particular circumstances and limited himself to appealing to the theological principles he developed in his *Traité de l'usure*—which leads him to rather severe conclusions.

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