



Mirabeau's (and Quesnay's) Response to the *De l'esprit* scandal and Quesnay's Break with the *Encyclopédie* (Complements to "La vie de François Quesnay" by Jacqueline Hecht)

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Abstract: The paper is a tribute to Jacqueline Hecht (1932-2020), and to her biography of Quesnay. It presents three documents, which enrich the history of the physiocratic movement in the period 1758-1760 and, for the first two, deal with the consequences of the scandal provoked by the publication of *De l'esprit* on this movement:

- a letter of Mirabeau to Helvétius, the only one recorded between the two men, condemning Helvétius's book and asking for its withdrawal;
- the fact that the Sorbonne listed and quoted one of Quesnay's texts, published in the *Encyclopédie*, among the writings which inspired *De l'esprit*;
- a proof that a very rare text of Quesnay was printed in march 1760 at Versailles in Madame de Pompadour's apartments and with her assistance. This establishes a claim of Jacqueline Hecht, whose biography was issued without its notes in its two publications of 1958 and 2005.

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