31 December, 2008

Dear Rousseau Association Members:

Happy New Year to all the members of the Rousseau Association/Association Rousseau!

This bulletin provides Rousseau Association news and business.

Included in the following pages are:

- Announcement of forthcoming publication of the volume initially based on the 2003 colloquium, *Rousseau and l’Infâme*
- Information about the 2007 colloquium
- Minutes of the 2008 business meeting
- An update of recent Rousseau Association member publications

*** Please also note the attached 2009 dues notice. ***

As you pay dues, please recall that the Rousseau Association provides its members with volumes based on Association colloquia as part of their dues. We obtain these volumes at a somewhat discounted rate from SVEC or other publishers, but these costs are still quite high. In addition, we have the unusual situation of having one volume just published last year and another one coming in a couple of months. *Because of the price of these volumes we can distribute these volumes only to members whose dues are currently paid-up for the last two years (2008 and 2009).*

Sincerely,

John T. Scott

Publications Director, Rousseau Association/Association Rousseau

---

*President:* Christopher Bertram (University of Bristol)  
*Vice President:* Michael O’Dea (University of Lyon II)  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* Sally Campbell (Concord College)  
*Publications Director:* John T. Scott (University of California, Davis)  
*Electronic Publications Director:* Zev Trachtenberg (University of Oklahoma)
Publication of *Rousseau and ‘l’Infâme’*

The edited volume based upon the 2003 colloquium of the Rousseau Association has just been published by Rodopi Press. The volume is edited by Ourida Mostefai and John T. Scott.

All Rousseau Association members who have paid their dues for the last two years (2008 and 2009) will receive a copy of the volume as part of their membership.

**Table of contents**

**Introduction** (Ourida Mostefai and John T. Scott)

**Voltaire, Rousseau, and l’infâme**

   Raymond Trousson, *Tolérance et fanatisme selon Voltaire et Rousseau*

**The victims of fanaticism**

   J. Patrick Lee, *The condemnation of fanaticism in Voltaire’s *Sermon du rabbin Akib*

   Anne-Marie Mercier-Faivre, *Du Traité sur la tolérance* de Voltaire aux *Lettres écrites de la montagne* de Rousseau: Variations sur la victime du fanatisme

   Ourida Mostefai, *Singularité et exemplarité du cas Jean-Jacques: Théorie et expérience du fanatisme chez Rousseau*

**Religion against intolerance**

   John T. Scott, *Pride and providence: Religion in Rousseau’s *Lettre à Voltaire sur la providence*

   Christopher Bertram, *Toleration and pluralism in Rousseau’s civil religion*

   Bruno Bernardi, *La religion civile, institution de tolérance?*

**Fanaticism, cruelty, and pity**

   Christopher Kelly, *Pious cruelty: Rousseau on Voltaire’s *Mahomet*

   Jeremiah L. Alberg, *Preventing fanaticism through transcendental violence: The second part of the ‘Profession de foi’*

   Zev Trachtenberg, *Civic fanaticism and the dynamics of pity*
Atheism and toleration

Philip Stewart, Are atheists fanatics? Variations on a theme of Locke and Bayle

John Hope Mason, At the limits of toleration: Rousseau and atheism

Rousseau and l’infâme revisited

Jean-François Perrin, Penser l’hégémonie: intolérance et Lumières dans Rousseau juge de Jean-Jacques

Michel Schmouchkovitch, Portrait de Jean-Jacques en Diogène
Minutes of the 2008 Rousseau Association Business Meeting

Minutes for Rousseau Association general assembly: March 28, 2008
Portland, Oregon

I. Call to Order - President Chris Bertram

II. Discussion of proposal for "Rousseau pour tous" - Geneva, 2012
   A. Suggested topics
      1. Rousseau and Celebrity
      2. Rousseau and Botany
      3. Rousseau and Garden History
   B. It was agreed that these would be circulated among the membership

III. Discussion of current dues structure
   A. Current dues are $30 for regular membership and $15 for reduced membership
   B. Dues were last increased in 2001
   C. The cost of SVEC volumes has increased significantly since then
   D. Patrick Coleman moved and Ourida Mostefai seconded that dues be increased to $40 for regular membership and to $20 for reduced membership.
   E. The motion passed.

IV. Pensée Libre
   A. Discussion of what to do with back copies
   B. It was decided to send an email to the membership asking if their libraries would like to receive a complete set of the series
   C. The question of digitizing the series was raised and is to be referred to Zev Trachtenberg

V. Web site
   A. Michael O'Dea has offered to have the web site moved to Lyon
   B. It was agreed to accept Michael's offer and to pursue making the site bi-lingual
   C. Zev will be asked to contact Michael about the move

VI. Future Items
   A. The next biennial meeting of the Association will be held at UCLA in 2009, on the theme of Rousseau and his Legacies/ Rousseau et ses fortunes
   B. The 2011 biennial meeting of the Association will be held in Bristol
   C. There was a discussion about the possibility of co-sponsoring an event with another institution in 2012

VII. Publication report
   A. The 2003 volume is to appear later this year with Rodopi
   B. The 2005 volume has just appeared in SVEC
   C. Michael O'Dea is working editing the 2007 volume

VIII. Adjournment

Addendum: Secretary-Treasurer’s report. Sally Campbell has subsequently reported that the current dues paid membership is around 75. Our current bank balance (after payment to the Voltaire Foundation for the most recent SVEC volume) is $9,460.81.
Recent Rousseau Association Member Publications

In the interest of communication among Rousseau Association members—and in light of the all too human desire for self-promotion—I would like to continue a semi-regular feature of the Bulletin that offers a list of recent publications by members. In the 2005 member bulletin, I included a list of recent member publications. The following is an update of that list based on information I have received from members.


Bruno Bernardi has recently published several works. First of all, he recently published a book, *La fabrique des concepts: recherches sur l'invention conceptuelle chez Rousseau* (Honoré Champion, 2005), and included the following description:

> Cet ouvrage, fruit de quinze ans de travail, tente de renouveler la lecture de Rousseau par une approche génétique, en interrogeant la façon dont il constitue ses propres thèses. Décrire ce qu'on peut appeler son laboratoire, la fabrique de ses idées, permet en effet de cerner ce qu'est pour lui « raisonner en philosophe » (une attention soutenue est pour cela accordée aux brouillons, qui donnent à voir le travail de la pensée, et à la succession des textes sur une même question, qui en porte les effets). La problématique de l'invention conceptuelle ordonne cette enquête, parce que Rousseau constitue ses orientations essentielles en remaniant, déplaçant, transformant les concepts qu'il reçoit des traditions théoriques auxquelles il entend se confronter, en formant ceux que la constitution de son propre horizon de pensée requiert.


Raymond Birn published several works, including two books. The first book, *Crisis, Absolutism, Revolution: Europe and the World, 1648-1789* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2005), is an update of an earlier work of his that expands coverage of cultural history and places new emphasis upon the interaction of Europeans with the wider world. The second book, *La Censure royale des livres dans la France des Lumières* (Paris: Odile Jacob, 2007) is a series of four lectures that he gave at the College de France in which he tries to show how the practice of royal book censorship, particularly between 1751 and 1763, actually promoted tolerance when confronted by attacks upon writers on the part of parlementary magistrates and Church officials. Finally, he contributed to a SVEC volume: “Book Censorship in Eighteenth-Century France and Rousseau's Response,” *SVEC*, 2005:01, pp. 223-245.

Rousseau's Critique of Science is an original and penetrating development of the idea that the Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts is indispensable for understanding both Rousseau's philosophy and the political consequences of the modern liberal democratic commitment to scientific progress. Following Rousseau's own recommendation on how to read the work, Black structures his commentary around two simultaneous readings of the Discourse—a "naive" reading that examines Rousseau's arguments in isolation and a "sophisticated" reading that interprets these arguments in the light of Rousseau's later systematic works. Through these readings Black unpacks the Discourse's exceedingly compressed style, with its swarms of allusions to the Western philosophical and scientific tradition and its thickets of ambiguous rhetorical questions, and lays bare the sober reasoning behind Rousseau's thesis that scientific progress contributes to moral corruption. The resulting analysis encourages a renewed appreciation of the Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts, and illuminates the lessons it can teach us about the dangers of scientific progress and the ways in which the future happiness of mankind might be secured.


Laurence Cooper’s book was published with Pennsylvania State University Press, Eros in Plato, Rousseau, and Nietzsche: The Politics of Infinity. Also, he recently published an article: “Between Eros and the Will to Power; Rousseau and the ‘Desire to Extend Our Being,’” American Political Science Review 98 (February 2004), pp.105-119.


James Delaney published "Starting With Rousseau" (October 2009), which is part of a series Continuum Press is putting out that serve as introductory material for undergraduates studying various philosophers for the first time. Earlier he published a book: Rousseau and the Ethics of Virtue, Continuum Press, 2006.


Since Descartes, in the 17th and the 18th centuries, animal has played a new and more important part in Philosophy. It has become like a flag that Cartesians, neoperipatetics, then empiricists and materialists, fought over, the last group finally winning the fight on the whole. Rousseau, in a more distant way, reveals soul in beasts, mainly on the ground of the experience of pity. This soul will be spiritual but associated with a body so as to make animal become a truly animated machine. Thus, Rousseau differentiates himself as well from the materialism of Diderot or Helvétius or from the sensualism of Condillac than from Descartes who greatly inspired Buffon. But the main point consists in the decisive contribution of animal to anthropology. The originality of Rousseau, here, is to show that Man isn’t only defined by opposition to animal but also by assuming, in a reflective manner, elements both of them have in common. At last, animal is the centre of a fundamental reflection about right and values, a reflection which has renewed these notions by basing them not only upon reason but also sensibility. Thus, animal, for whom Rousseau’s mind has personally always been dwelt in by a passion for taming, also represents for him the instrument and the aim of a major philosophical reflection.


Christopher Kelly recently added to the Collected Writings of Rousseau, of which he is, along with Roger D. Masters, the series editor, with Volume Twelve: Autobiographical, Scientific, Religious, Moral, and Literary Writings (Hanover NH: University Press of New England, 2006). He also edited two anthologies: Rousseau on Philosophy, Morality, and Religion (Hanover NH: University Press of New


Jonathan Marks’ book, *Perfection and Disharmony in the Thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2007. Jonathan included the following description drawn from the promotional materials:

In *Perfection and Disharmony in the Thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, Jonathan Marks offers a new interpretation of the philosopher’s thought and its place in the contemporary debate between liberals and communitarians. Against prevailing views, he argues that Rousseau’s thought revolves around the natural perfection of a naturally disharmonious being. At the foundation of Rousseau’s thought he finds a natural teleology that takes account of and seeks to harmonize conflicting ends. The Rousseau who emerges from this interpretation is a radical critic of liberalism who is nonetheless more cautious about protecting individual freedom than his milder communitarian successors. Marks elaborates on the challenge that Rousseau poses to liberals and communitarians alike by setting up a dialogue between him and Charles Taylor, one of the most distinguished ethical and political theorists at work today.


Nathan Martin reports that he published an article, “An Unknown Rousseau Autograph: The Neuchâtel Manuscript of NOTES, en Musique” is now out in SVEC 2008:06, pp. 313-25. He also successfully defended my doctoral dissertation “Rameau and Rousseau: Harmony and History in the Age of Reason” at McGill.

Patti Marxsen published *Island Journeys: Exploring the Legacy of France* (Alondra Press), a collection of travel essays that explores the history and culture of seven islands with French connections, including
Haiti, Tahiti, Grosse Ile (Quebec), Lambarene (Gabon), Ile de la Cite, St. Helena, and--of course--the Ile St. Pierre in Switzerland. More about this book, with photos of the Ile St. Pierre, on her website: www.pattimarxsen.net


In 1761, Marie-Anne de La Tour wrote to Jean-Jacques Rousseau claiming to be the real-life embodiment of Julie d’Étange, the fictional heroine of *La Nouvelle Héloïse*. Rousseau and de La Tour went on to exchange 175 letters over some fifteen years. Since its first publication in 1803, this correspondence has been cited as evidence of widely varying conclusions: the neurotic meanness of Rousseau’s character, the abuse to which Rousseau himself was subjected by the French reading public, even the psychosis eighteenth-century women risked by cultivating loss of self through novel reading. This study demonstrates that de La Tour was a woman writer eager for fame who pursued her goal through the vehicle of a private correspondence with a celebrity. Her project of creating a publishable “private” correspondence with a famous author raises theoretical issues of authorial intention relevant not only to eighteenth-century studies but also to epistolary studies, reader-response theory, and gender theory.


John C. O’Neal and Ourida Mostefai published a collection of articles on Rousseau’s *Confessions* and *Rêveries* for the MLA Approaches to Teaching series: *Approaches to Teaching Rousseau’s ‘Confessions’ and ‘Rêveries’* (2004). In addition to their own contributions, the collection includes contributions by Jean Perkins, Mary Ellen Birkett, Guillelome Johnston, Christopher Kelly, Michael O’Dea, Byron Wells, Patrick Coleman, Raymond Trousson, Christie Macdonald, Sarah Herbold, Virginia Swain, Carl Fisher, Lorraine Clark, Jean Starobinski, Marie-Hélène Huet, Pierre Saint-Amand, and Christine Roulston.


Recent scholarship has been increasingly drawing attention to Rousseau’s affinity for the thinker he variously described as “divine” and as his “master”: Plato. *Rousseau’s Platonic Enlightenment* argues that such praise was not idle. Rather, the Platonic influence on Rousseau is pervasive – and it helps to link the many apparently disparate elements of this thought. Although he was modern in important respects, Rousseau’s Plato was never far from his mind – and indeed, his battle with the *philosophes* replays Plato’s own debates with the sophists. The book includes careful examination of Rousseau’s intellectual context and an exploration of these themes in his enormous wake.

Rousseau Association

2009 Annual Dues Notice

If you have not done so already, please pay your 2009 Rousseau Association dues, as well as any 2008 dues you may still owe.

Regular dues are US $40.00.

Dues for students and retired members are US $20.00.

We currently have two payment options:

Either: send a check or money order (made out to the Rousseau Association—in US dollars) to the following address:

Sally Campbell
Department of Political Science
Concord University
P.O. Box 1000, Faculty Box 69
Athens, WV 24712
USA

Or: pay electronically through PayPal. Go to www.paypal.com, click on _Send Money_ and follow instructions (you will be required to open an account if you do not already have one). Payment should be directed to the following email address: campbellsh@suddenlink.net.

Please let me know if you need a receipt.

If you have any questions about your dues or membership status, please write to me at: scampbell@concord.edu

Thank you!