Voltaire’s contribution to the spread of Newtonianism. I: Letters from England: Les lettres philosophiques. (English) Zbl 0724.01007

Voltaire’s “Letters concerning the English nation” (London 1733; French version 1734 as “Les lettres philosophiques”) usually are quoted as one of the books that stroke a blow for Newtonianism and English empiricism in France. The authors describe and discuss the contents and background of that influential booklet and add some interesting remarks on Jacques Rohault (1620–1675), Samuel Clarke (1675–1729), and especially John Locke and their relations to the book’s topics.

Reviewer: S.Gottwald (Leipzig)

MSC:
01A50 History of mathematics in the 18th century
00A30 Philosophy of mathematics

Keywords:
Newtonianism; Cartesianism; Voltaire; empiricism; Jacques Rohault; Samuel Clarke; John Locke

Biographic references:
Voltaire;
Newton, Isaac;
Rohault, Jacques;
Clarke, Samuel;
Locke, John

Full Text: DOI