

## Shaftesbury's Theory of Art: Substance and Virtue

Let us consider the things which people think they understand most distinctly of all; that is, the bodies which we touch and see [...]. Let us take, for example, this piece of wax. [René Descartes, *Meditations*]<sup>1</sup>

[...] therefore nothing can have an Intrinsic Value. [Nicholas Barbon, *A Discourse Concerning Coining the New Money Lighter*]<sup>2</sup>

A number of acts of Parliament in the early eighteenth century took up the problem of paper money being blown from ships or eaten by mice.<sup>3</sup> In what follows I attend to a body of writing and thought that I want to argue was made, and unmade, as an engagement with what were in this period widespread and fundamental shifts in the apprehension of things, crossing both material and economic or political dimensions, and intimated in this response to the actions of rodents and the wind.

The texts I am concerned with were written by the English philosopher Anthony Ashley Cooper, third Earl of Shaftesbury. They were to have formed a

volume on art that was left unfinished on Shaftesbury's death in Naples in February

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1713. This volume was planned to complement an earlier collection of writings,

linking moral philosophy and aesthetics, which in 1711 Shaftesbury had brought

together under the title of *Characteristicks*.<sup>4</sup> The only part of the planned volume on

art printed in Shaftesbury's lifetime was a short essay written in the style of

instructions for a painting of *The Choice of Hercules* (Fig. 1) that around the same

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time Shaftesbury commissioned from the Neapolitan artist Paolo de' Matteis (now in

the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford).<sup>5</sup> One further short piece, presented as a letter

dealing with the dependence of the arts upon political liberty, was completed but

printed after Shaftesbury's death.<sup>6</sup> There are several other unfinished texts, and what

would have been the principal essay remains in a long draft outline entitled

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'Plasticks, or the Original, Progress, & Power of Designatory Art'.

Notwithstanding the notional 'instructions' framing the *Hercules* text (quite

clearly a rhetorical device, though undoubtedly connected in some way with

Shaftesbury's transactions with the painter), the address of the writings on art was, as

with the *Characteristicks*, towards a broad Republic of Letters, or (as illuminated in

25 the work of Lawrence Klein) a culture of ‘politeness’.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, and not without  
justification, the prevailing approaches to Shaftesbury’s theory of art have  
foregrounded this kind of implied reader, and the ethical and broadly political  
determinations of the texts, as opposed to pursuing in any real depth their workings  
as a theory of art, or any of the more intricate problems that emerge in Shaftesbury’s  
30 writing to do with precisely how the image comes about. The reading I set out aims  
to draw together the political and the artistic questions that are tacitly separated here.  
Shaftesbury did in fact develop a rigorous and complex account of the artwork,  
whose complexity and whose rather contradictory forms were a precise index of the  
political and ethical demands of his theory. The purpose and address of Shaftesbury’s  
35 theory in this sense – the impulse to think seriously about the ethical and political  
role of the image, as well as the kind of frameworks he drew upon – problematised  
the procedures and effects of painting to the point that the very nature of the image  
became open to question in his writing.

Shaftesbury was both a philosopher and, for a short period, an MP.<sup>8</sup> His  
40 career in Parliament between November 1695 and July 1698 coincided with the

Recoinage crisis of 1695-6. In broad terms, this crisis occurred through the convergence of a number of immediate pressures (principally to do with military finance and shortages of metallic specie across Europe) with long-standing practices of clipping small quantities of silver from the edges of coins to be melted and turned into bullion.<sup>9</sup> These combined factors occasioned a collapse in confidence and the recall and reminting of virtually the entire stock of circulating coins. Centrally, what emerged in the very extensive debates around the Recoinage was a clear sense of the interconnectedness of the legislative, political, economic issues with quite tangible problems centred on the material of money.<sup>10</sup> As part of this – in a significant sense as the very form in which these debates were played out – the discursive possibilities and positions for thinking about money were interlinked with philosophical conceptions of material substance in the same period. Uncertainties about substance in philosophical writing were recurrently articulated in the form of a binary opposition pivoting on the question of whether matter contains immanent self-moving or self-generating principles, or whether the structuring or (in whatever sense) the animation of physical entities is given extrinsically. Exactly this kind of

opposition structured the debates around the Recoinage, centrally placing a conception of the value of coins as an intrinsic and concrete property of the metal against some non-sensible power conferred on money from elsewhere. Part of my argument is that the echoes and reiterations between these discrete discourses – on the most basic fabric of the physical world, and on the material grounds of social relations – lent to this shared and recurrent opposition a quality of the fundamental or the universal, and, as such, a role across quite diverse spheres in much more extensive redefinitions of how the nature of things could be imagined. Shaftesbury's own involvement with the problems in play here was direct. On the 12th of December 1695 he was named (then Lord Ashley) in a committee in the Commons to address the state of the coin; he took part in a conference on the same subject on the 5th of December, and on the 18th of the following February on the coining of guineas.<sup>11</sup> Little or nothing of the monetary crisis is voiced in Shaftesbury's work; and earlier, in the *Characteristicks*, he had programmatically rejected any engagement with enquiries into the nature of substance or matter within a philosophical framework.<sup>12</sup> Yet one question underpinning my discussion is the

degree to which this rejection of problems of substance may have been transformed,  
by the urgency with which questions of substance re-emerged in the monetary  
75 debates and more broadly the conjuncture Shaftesbury occupied, into a more active  
(if still implicit) challenge in his later writing and his theory of art.

The concern here is with Shaftesbury's theory (primarily the *Hercules* essay  
and the longest of the drafts, on 'Plasticks'), and the approach follows a close  
reading of the texts. Given the state of Shaftesbury's writings, this means an  
80 engagement with the drafts – that is, both drafts as unfinished works, and the  
'finished' works as part of an incomplete whole. The purpose of this, to be clear, is  
not the piecing together of something from its fragments, but rather to attend to the  
incomplete state of the work as itself bearing critical and historical significance.  
Shaftesbury's writing on art remained incomplete, and a conjectural process, for  
85 different reasons. Partly there is the fact of Shaftesbury's death. Yet death alone does  
not explain the texts' state, where incompleteness is tied with fundamental, perhaps  
objectively insoluble tensions, and marks the *impossibility* of completion except  
though abandoning some of the central questions the texts bring to light. Their state

marks a basic resistance between conventional models for writing about art and the  
90 kind of complex and contradictory functions the artwork took on in Shaftesbury's  
thought, as something enmeshed with pressing and unresolved questions beyond the  
artwork. To this extent, interpretation demands an approach that attends to the  
indecision and provisionality and contradictions of these writings as a paradoxically  
coherent and explicable mode of discourse at a specific moment of crisis.

95 Any reading that seriously entertains incompleteness or the sort of  
contradictions I am signalling is difficult to square with the prevailing view of  
Shaftesbury's theory of art as a simple programme for the immediate presentation of  
legible meanings, a condition of the texts' supposed function as a transparent  
expression of Shaftesbury's particular ideological standpoint.<sup>13</sup> Shaftesbury's  
100 painting of Hercules standing between the figures of Virtue and Pleasure and  
choosing virtue might in this respect be taken as the emblem of recent interpretations  
of Shaftesbury's theory – and their end point, I would suggest, in a critical model  
defined and limited by ideas of *representation* that are quite different from what I  
want to address here, in the clear (if not distinctly formulated) questions in

105 Shaftesbury's theory about the more basic make-up of the artwork. Therefore, while  
the significance of much of the recent work on Shaftesbury's art theory (particularly  
that of John Barrell) has been in positioning these writings within a larger political  
framework, and while this broadly forms the basis for the reading that will be set out  
here, what I want to pursue are the ways in which the painting's very function as a  
110 representation of an ethical or political narrative is in Shaftesbury's writings  
interlined with fundamental uncertainties about the painting's substance, and about  
its 'virtue' in the more complex implications of that term – as at once an ethical term  
of conduct, a power to move or effect change, and something (as will become clear)  
in a distinct relation to notions of monetary value. The artwork, precisely in so far as  
115 it was conceived in terms of a political function, takes shape as something that could  
not be definitively formulated, something crossed-out and overwritten in  
Shaftesbury's drafts, in a still-open process of thinking about the ways in which  
images might assume force.

120 At one point in 'Plasticks', Shaftesbury writes: 'That w<sup>t</sup> we most admir'd even in the



Turn of outward Features was but a misterious Expression of something *inward*

&c'.<sup>14</sup> The projection into the past ('w<sup>t</sup> we most admir'd') of some sensed connection

between the manifest features of the image and something 'inward' is one expression

of the tensions in Shaftesbury's thought between a desire to affirm the artwork as a

125 vehicle of moral meanings and uncertainties around the form this might take. These

uncertainties are linked here with notions of movement and change in Shaftesbury's

theory, both as traits of what is depicted, and in the process of viewing or

apprehending the image. Elsewhere in the same draft Shaftesbury writes:

the Moral Part in Painting, lyes *but little* in y<sup>e</sup> Forms. (For *Socrates*, a

130 *Silenus*, whom he resembled. A Triton, the Centaur *Chiron* or any other

less specious Form corporeal, may be principally moral.) But is

express'd in the Air, Feature, Attitude, Action, Motion; and is therefore

wholly lodgd in that Part of Painting calld the *Movements* where Action

Passion & the Affections are shewn.<sup>15</sup>

135 By 'Forms' here Shaftesbury meant outward appearances taken to be static, as

distinct from *processes* of appearance that offer some sort of index of inner

transformations. Shaftesbury's reference to a Triton is to a composite half-human half-fish (as for instance in the bizarre, supposedly factual, descriptions in Pausanias), and perhaps also to more animated transitions such as Pindar's poetic depiction of the Triton's disguised appearance to the Argonauts in the shape of a man.<sup>16</sup> In an enduring tradition, the figure of the centaur had been used to represent a divergence between outward appearance and moral being.<sup>17</sup> The same tropes of drunkenness that stood to emphasise the conflict between civilized and barbarous in centaurs (a race on the periphery of the cultivated world) registered the fluidity of states in conventional associations between Silenus with Socrates.<sup>18</sup> Shaftesbury's line of thought here complicates any fixed connection between the visible and the true nature of things by identifying truth with unfolding and hidden dynamics.

The centaurs and other composite creatures at this point should be seen as drawing together the classical imagery that appears throughout Shaftesbury's texts with what were more current questions, brought to bear through a direct (although imprecise) reference elsewhere in the draft to John Locke's *Essay Concerning*

*Humane Understanding*. Shaftesbury writes:

Philosophers [who] woud confound the very Notion of Species, specifick  
Ideas [...] See Mr L... *Book. Chapt ...*). But had not the Creatrix [...] or  
155 soverain Plastick Nature set the Boundarys the Caprice (i: e Wantoness &  
Bestiality) of ~~the~~ a corrupt Man woud long since have gon beyond any of  
the worst Painters, Grotisque  $\theta\tau\alpha\theta\omicron\chi\theta\alpha\upsilon\omicron\iota$  [*typarographoi*: painters of  
filth] &c as well as beyond any of the Poets in composing new  $\text{F}$   
complicated Forms of Satyrs Centaurs &c. into w<sup>ch</sup> the breed woud have  
160 run out and been lost.<sup>19</sup>

The reference is to book 3 chapter 6 of Locke's *Essay*, '*Of the Names of Substances*',  
where Locke's concern was with the mismatch between our grasp of things and their  
real nature.<sup>20</sup> For Locke, '*Species*' are not real entities (he equates that term merely  
with the word 'sort'), but rather are nothing more than linguistic constructions,  
165 merely the '*ranking [of things] under distinct Names*'.<sup>21</sup> Locke underlines the  
remoteness of what is always an arbitrary and contingent collection of our *ideas* from  
the real properties of things, which flow from their 'true internal Constitution'.<sup>22</sup> In  
one example, Locke separates the common notion of gold's essence – as merely a

collection of attributes that we happen to be able to discern – from the ‘*real Essence*’

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on which all the properties of gold depend, and which lies, as he puts it, in ‘the insensible parts of that Body’.<sup>23</sup>

Locke’s discussion discloses what were widespread difficulties in

identifying the nature of ‘substances’, a category that stood generally, and across

quite different strains of seventeenth-century philosophy, to define what is

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constitutive of reality.<sup>24</sup> His observations bore equally on enduring scholastic and

Aristotelian ‘substantial forms’ as they did on newer modes of experimental enquiry

that, as Locke put it, ‘however made with the greatest diligence and exactness, we

are capable of’ fail to bring to our knowledge ‘that Texture of Parts’ that constitutes

lead, iron, or anything else.<sup>25</sup> Substances, if they are anything in the *Essay*, are open

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to doubt. At different points, Locke speaks of them as a tacit conjecture, ‘an

uncertain supposition of we know not what’, a ‘Substratum’ that we have to

‘suppose’, ‘An obscure and relative *Idea*’, something of which ‘we have no *Idea* of

what it is, but only a confused obscure one of what it does’.<sup>26</sup>

In a number of ways, the kinds of doubts or limits mapped here affected

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Shaftesbury's theory of art. The section in 'Plasticks' that refers to Locke's discussion of substance is headed 'Instinct. natural Ideas &c.' and offers a premise of some inviolable and enduring qualities dividing distinct categories of created beings, and, as Shaftesbury goes on, some sort of an innate capacity to recognize these.<sup>27</sup> In this way Shaftesbury's remarks on 'species' were supposed to draw a line between his own ideas and the chapter from the *Essay*, but at the same time they mark what were pervasive uncertainties around the possible connections between traces on the surface of an object, a body, a person, and some inferred but essentially ungraspable properties within.

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The larger configuration within which these uncertainties emerged – linking the kind of epistemological problems articulated in the *Essay* and more concrete social practices in this period – was illuminated in criticisms made by the Scottish writer James Hodges of some texts Locke published on the topic of money. These, with hundreds of related pamphlets written around the same time, were occasioned by the Recoinage crisis.<sup>28</sup> In the first official scheme to address this crisis, a paper drawn up by William Lowndes (as Secretary to the Treasury) and printed in late-

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1696, it is made clear that the problems involved directly a question around the status of the material of money, the relations between metal, the stamp on the coin's surface, and its value.<sup>29</sup> Lowndes proposed to alter these relationships, a procedure he referred to as 'raising' the coin, that is, raising its *denominative* value – what

205 Lowndes calls the 'Extrinsick Value' and 'Extrinsick Denomination' – without any corresponding change in the quantity or purity of silver it contained.<sup>30</sup> In a reply to this proposal, a short pamphlet entitled *Further Considerations Concerning Raising the Value of Money*, Locke compared Lowndes' scheme itself to the clipping of coins that had been one of the immediate causes of the Recoinage.<sup>31</sup> The argument Locke

210 himself put forward was based on a notion of monetary value as something embodied and immediately present in the metal of coins – something *material*, and therefore basically unaffected by their denominations.<sup>32</sup> As he put it (using a form of typographical emphasis reserved for a small number of terms in his pamphlet, perhaps intended to convey a kind of plain speaking): 'an equal **quantity** of Silver is

215 always of equal value to an equal **quantity** of Silver': the denominations of money are only 'empty sounds'.<sup>33</sup> Echoing the distinction in the *Essay* between merely

linguistic ‘species’ and the real constitution of things, Locke dismissed (as ‘specious’) any alteration of the bond between denomination and value of the coin as an abuse of words and simply a misunderstanding of the nature of money:

220           **R**aising of Coin is but a specious word to deceive the unwary. It only  
  
gives the usual denomination of a greater quantity of Silver to a less, (v.g.  
  
calling Four Grains of Silver a Penny to day, when Five Grains of Silver  
  
made a Penny yesterday) but adds no worth or real value to the Silver  
  
Coin, to make amends for its want of Silver. That is impossible to be  
  
225           done. For it is only the **quantity** of Silver in it that is, and eternally will be,  
  
the measure of its value.<sup>34</sup>

Hodges, more than other critics of Locke’s arguments on the Recoinage,  
  
drew out some direct links between the writings on money and those on human  
  
understanding. He did so principally by pursuing Locke’s discussion in the *Essay* of  
  
230           ‘identical Propositions’. As Locke described them, these are propositions that  
  
(though they may certainly be true) mark merely an already-known identity, and  
  
offer no way of increasing our knowledge.<sup>35</sup> Locke took it as a conventional view,

though one that is misplaced, that identical propositions are fundamental to knowledge as the foundation on which all demonstration and reasoning must be based.<sup>36</sup> Against this, the emphasis in his own account of such propositions falls on a kind of dumb stasis, or repetition of a purely verbal kind, amounting to nothing more than empty utterances of what is already known, which Locke ridicules with parrot phrases – ‘*a Soul is a Soul; a Spirit is a Spirit; a Fetiche is a Fetiche*’ – and with an image of a monkey switching an oyster from one hand to the other, as if the action brought about any change in its object.<sup>37</sup> Hodges’ point was that Locke’s theory of value amounted exactly to this sort of empty assertion of the equivalence the same.<sup>38</sup>

Like other critics of Locke’s writing on money, Hodges’ pursuit of these arguments was concerned chiefly with Locke’s formulation of ‘intrinsic value’.<sup>39</sup> Locke had written that ‘The *intrinsic value* of Silver consider’d as Money, is that estimate which common consent has placed on it, whereby it is made Equivalent to all other things, and consequently is the universal Barter or Exchange which Men give and receive for other things they would purchase or part with for a valuable consideration [...]’.<sup>40</sup> In this Hodges saw a logical contradiction between Locke’s



identification of an ‘estimate’ of value, derived from ‘common consent’ – that is,  
250 something conferred, from outside, on money by some tacit or open agreement –  
with a notion of the ‘intrinsic’, which, as Hodges put it in rather laboured argument,  
must be understood as ‘of necessity one way or another [...] in the thing of which it  
is spoken, either in its Nature, Constitution, native Properties, or in or within its  
Substance [...] as if we should say Inward or Internal, or what is in, or within a  
255 thing’.<sup>41</sup>

These criticisms may have been grounded in quite precise terminology in  
scholastic philosophy. There an intrinsic denomination was a characterization of a  
thing involving only the thing itself, and without reference to its relations with, or  
operations on, other things.<sup>42</sup> Locke’s own sense of the terms of his writing on  
260 money may have shifted from such definitions. Certainly, what Hodges’ reading or  
misreading brought to the fore was a difficulty manifest in Locke’s dual,  
simultaneous insistence on value as something entirely self-contained, and – at the  
same time – as something constituted in an unfolding series of interactions and  
exchanges. One effect of Hodges’ objections was to disclose more general

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difficulties in defining what the ‘intrinsic’, ‘Inward or Internal’ might actually mean at this point.

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Some of the difficulties connected to such notions were addressed directly and systemically about this time in a number of writings by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. In one short text written in 1690 (a ‘demonstration against atoms’), Leibniz goes through a rehearsal of the scholastic definition of intrinsic denominations (‘a consideration of the thing alone, with no operation on the thing and no change brought about by the thing’), and examples (a fake coin that can be distinguished ‘extrinsically’ by the blow of a hammer).<sup>43</sup> But he then proceeds, against the standard view he has just set out, to argue that there are really no purely extrinsic denominations, and that all distinctions between things derive only and wholly from within their own internal compositions.<sup>44</sup> This was one instance of a recurrent idea in Leibniz’s writing, conceiving substances as at once entirely self-contained (‘without windows’, in his later phraseology), and yet as expressions of the entire universe.<sup>45</sup>

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As he put it in another short text written around the same time:

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*Every Individual substance contains in its perfect notion the entire*

*universe* and everything that exists in it, past, present, and future, for there is no thing on which one cannot impose some true denomination from another thing, at very least a denomination of comparison or relation. Moreover, there is no purely extrinsic denomination.<sup>46</sup>

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Leibniz's formulations – perhaps the rather blank assertion of the last sentence here – signal what more generally were unresolved questions about the intrinsic and the extrinsic, both in metaphysics and in more mundane kinds of things.

Leibniz himself returned to the same opposition in a text written in 1696 on lotteries, and, in a letter of 1699 to Thomas Burnett, to the question of intrinsic and extrinsic

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value in Locke's writing, where Leibniz concurred with Locke's view on the unreality of extrinsic value.<sup>47</sup> Within the monetary theories in the debates around the

Recoinage, quite specific questions of the 'internal' or 'external' constitution of

value emerged very plainly, as is clear in one central text, *A Discourse Concerning*

*Coining the New Money Lighter* by Nicholas Barbon, which was printed in 1696 as

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an answer to Locke's *Further Considerations*:

The Question betwixt us here will be, Whether Money has its sole Value

from the Quantity of Silver in each piece of Coin? Or whether Money has not some Value *from the Authority of the Government* where it is Coin'd, above the Value of the Silver in each piece?<sup>48</sup>

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Barbon's answer (as, broadly speaking, with Lowndes' initial scheme) was that the stamp imprinted on money is simultaneously the mark and the instantiation of its value, both its sign and its substance. This view lighted on what was an opposed a category of 'Vertue', and the difference between this category and that of value occupies much of Barbon's argument.<sup>49</sup> Value, as Barbon saw it, *cannot* be intrinsic, and is by definition determined without reference to the coin's physical properties.<sup>50</sup> It is instead the effect of a network of external factors – 'Plenty or Scarcity', 'occasion and usefulness' (money is more useful than silver, so has greater value), and the 'Rarity' that in ornament is the chief reason for value, rather than 'any excellent quality in the things themselves'.<sup>51</sup>

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Barbon's concern in the *Discourse* was with the nature both of money and of sovereign power. He placed the authority of the government, ultimately a declaration of the King, as the constitution of a coin's value, and, as Barbon

understood it, this is a function of the image imprinted on money as distinct from the material of coins.<sup>52</sup> A transparent image on the surface of the coin becomes opposed to 'Vertue', which Barbon regards as some hidden or occult power within material substances, a view of materials that he associates with Locke's theory of value, as in the loadstone or the drugs that serve in the *Discourse* as examples.<sup>53</sup>

The separation that Barbon sought to instate was unstable, however. To begin with, Locke's annotations in his own copy of Barbon's text indicate that he understood the 'intrinsic Vertue' described there to mean just the same as his own sense of intrinsic value.<sup>54</sup> More than this, I would argue that there is running through Barbon's text a residual fascination with the material of money, and this forms particles of resistance to the theory of value he sets out. The process of emptying the material of coins of any value in Barbon's theory begins with a question about the qualities of that material which then draws him into a detailed, virtually microscopic analysis. He attends to the 'innumerable Fractions of Grains' of silver used in the different mints across Europe and elsewhere, in this regard going beyond the concern with material shown in Locke's writing, since for Locke silver is taken as essentially

a *uniform* material, consistent between bullion and money, and lacking any of the  
330 kind intricate textures that Barbon's account brings to mind.<sup>55</sup> The different alloys of  
gold and silver, the different internal compositions of coins emerge in Barbon's  
argument as 'a mystery that belongs only to a small number of men that deal in it'.<sup>56</sup>  
Coins assume a density and complexity that causes even those acquainted with the  
'Chymical part of the mystery' to fall back on the simpler methods of using the  
335 touchstone and the colour of the metal.<sup>57</sup>

Barbon's method of demonstrating the incommensurability of coins'  
material properties with a proper theory of value thus in part works paradoxically  
through a heightened attention to the material properties of coins. In this regard, the  
balance of Barbon's argument – its positioning of metal as something at once  
340 negated and magnified in the text – intersects with a quite central model in  
philosophical accounts of substance in the mid-seventeenth century. Apropos a piece  
of wax, in part of the second 'Meditation', written around the early 1640s, Descartes  
had asked his reader to consider materials in this way:

Let us consider the things which people think they understand most

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distinctly of all; that is, the bodies which we touch and see. [...] Let us take, for example, this piece of wax. [...] it has not yet quite lost the taste of the honey; it retains some of the scent of the flowers from which it was gathered; its colour, shape, and size are plain to see; it is hard, cold, and can be handled without difficulty; if you rap it with your knuckle it

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makes a sound. In short, it has everything which appears necessary to enable a body to be known as distinctly as possible. But even as I speak, I put the wax by the fire, and look: the residual taste is eliminated, the smell goes away, the colour changes, the shape is lost, the size increases; it becomes liquid and hot; you can hardly touch it, and if you strike it, it

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no longer makes a sound. But does the same wax remain? It must be admitted that it does; no one denies it, no one thinks otherwise. So what was it in the wax that I understood with such distinctness? Evidently none of the features which I arrived at by means of the senses; for whatever came under taste, smell, sight, touch, or hearing has now

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altered – yet the wax remains.<sup>58</sup>

The description serves in the *Meditations* equally to underline the failings of sensory perception, and to pursue a foundational explanation of material substance. What can be known distinctly is removed from the senses in the same movement that sets out a reduction of matter, as Descartes' text unfolds, to something lacking any real properties except 'extension'. This was part of a basic separation of material substance from thinking substance as two radically separate constituents of the world, and, with this, a conception of material substance as inert and passive and therefore secondary to an entirely external principle of movement. Various arguments that radiate through Descartes' system – on the relation between the soul and the body, between matter and thought, and on the existence of God – take as their condition this separation and the emptying of material substance of any active principle. Yet the wax remains. What emerges in Descartes approach here is a distinct attitude towards material involving a process of negation, and a *necessary alternation* between emphasis on sensory perception and then the liquefying of any distinct knowledge sensory perception might be supposed to bring.

If such movements in the text could be viewed simply as paradoxes of



method which resolve themselves in the course of Descartes' writing, or merely as rhetorical scaffolding outside his argument, the real problems around the composition, and potentially the dynamics of material substance that Descartes was treating nonetheless remained (for one pressing instance, on the relation between thought and matter in his late work in *The Passions of the Soul*) and flared up elsewhere in philosophical discourse from the mid-seventeenth century.<sup>59</sup>

Reflecting on Descartes' account in 1695, Leibniz, halfway through his 'Système nouveau de la nature et de la communication des substances', noted that he was 'as it were carried back into the open sea'.<sup>60</sup> The unresolved questions were to do both with the nature of, and the possible 'communication' between material and thinking substance (if these were, as Leibniz averred, following Descartes, separate kinds of being with no common medium of causal connection).<sup>61</sup> As was the case with a number of other more or less direct engagements with Descartes in the second half of the seventeenth century, Leibniz's thinking on these problems here generated the elaboration of a system in which matter itself carries some immanent force.<sup>62</sup>

Shaftesbury is likely to have known Leibniz's 'Système nouveau'. He was certainly

aware of Leibniz himself at the time he was working on ‘Plasticks’ because via  
Pierre Coste, an Huguenot writer and translator who assisted with the publication of  
the *Hercules* text in French, Leibniz had in 1712 sent Shaftesbury some remarks on  
the *Characteristicks*.<sup>63</sup> Leibniz mostly went along with the cast of the Shaftesbury’s  
thought, but he did challenge the disregard in the *Characteristicks* of questions of  
matter, substance, and space, which in Leibniz’s view were as vital to Shaftesbury’s  
stated concern with a true moral philosophy as they were to metaphysics.<sup>64</sup> Leibniz’s  
response converged with related questions about the principles of substance and  
matter that appeared at other points on Shaftesbury’s intellectual horizon. For  
instance Shaftesbury had read Ralph Cudworth’s *True Intellectual System of the  
Universe* (1672), which developed a common topos of a ‘plastic nature’, a vital force  
shaping the forms of creation, but removed in Cudworth’s account from ‘any Sense  
or Conscious Understanding’.<sup>65</sup> There is also a notable work in Shaftesbury’s library  
catalogue, by the surgeon Francis Glisson, on ‘energetic’ substance – that is,  
substance as an animated, generative, but unconscious force within the tissues of  
bodies.<sup>66</sup> Locke’s concern with uncertain suppositions and relative and obscure ideas

in his descriptions of substance in the *Essay*, as well as his speculation there on

410 ‘thinking matter’, were occupied with similar questions, some of which emerged too  
around 1690 in correspondence with Shaftesbury concerning matter and the soul.<sup>67</sup>

As I have suggested, in rather complex ways, the treatment of substance in the *Essay*  
intersected with Locke’s and the other theories of money.

What brought to a point Shaftesbury’s otherwise contingent encounter with  
415 both the philosophical and monetary questions here was a larger shift, effected  
through quite practical reasons, in which a model of opposition between intrinsic and  
extrinsic causality (or force or ‘virtue’) assumed in this period a common structural  
role in very diverse forms of knowledge and social practice. The opposition as it had  
come to define philosophical questions about substance was taken up in the  
420 Recoinage (quite speculatively, I would suggest, as an existing conceptual  
framework in the absence of other means) as a way of acting on ‘concrete’ economic  
crises; and in turn, and through a kind of retrospective action, the application of this  
metaphysical model at the level of the concrete lent to it a reality in its concrete  
effects. Philosophical debates on the nature of substance and more practical

425 instabilities around the substance of money thus interlocked in a mutually  
constitutive relation that both privileged a certain form of opposition between  
intrinsic and extrinsic; and, to the extent that substance and money were themselves  
understood as constitutive of basic physical and social realities, lent to the opposition  
itself a kind of already-known priority in the framing of approaches to things more  
430 broadly.<sup>68</sup>

In Shaftesbury's writing on art, this model of opposition was tied with different  
conceptions of temporality in the image. At some points, meaning is presented as  
fixed on the surface of the painting, instantly legible, as something static, imparted  
435 from outside – from theory, philosophy, instructions to a painter. Elsewhere,  
meaning emerges in an open series of mental images that separate themselves from  
what is on the surface of the painting through an immanent production of forces  
registered, in time, in an unfolding sequence of effects.

Most clearly in the *Hercules* essay, in order to give some definition to this,  
440 Shaftesbury developed a theoretical device of 'Anticipation':

How is it therefore possible (says one) to express a Change of Passion in any Subject, since this Change is made by Succession; and that in this case the Passion which is understood as present, will require a Disposition of Body and Features wholly different from the Passion which is over, and past? To this we answer, That notwithstanding the Ascendancy or Reign of the principal and immediate Passion, The Artist has Power to leave still in his Subject the Tracks or Footsteps of its Predecessour: so as to let Us behold not only a rising Passion together with a declining one; but, what is more, a strong and determinate Passion with its contrary already discharg'd and banish'd.<sup>69</sup>

The image here is a complex of traces marking the causes of some movement that will unfold beyond the moment of the painting, or the effects of some passion that has passed. The painting's surface registers merely one instant within a largely invisible process. The same way of thinking of the image was reframed in different ways elsewhere in the drafts, for one instance in a short text written weeks before Shaftesbury's death (a detailed outline for a portrait of himself as a dying

philosopher, which was not completed), where he described painting's objects in similar terms, as expressions that have past but 'qui ne sera pas tout-à-fait chassée même du Visage [which will not be completely chased away from the countenance]'.<sup>70</sup>

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The exact wording of such formulations was significant to Shaftesbury. This becomes evident in his reaction to a number of more or less conspicuous changes made by Pierre Coste, who edited Shaftesbury's French manuscript of the *Hercules* essay before it was printed in the *Journal des sçavans*.<sup>71</sup> Coste's changes had the effect of blurring or erasing something that, both prior to and after his editing of the text, was underlined by Shaftesbury as key. Where Shaftesbury had written: 'par la même voye qu'on *rapelle* en memoire le passé, on *anticipe* l'avenir [in the same way as one *recalls* to memory the past, one *anticipates* the future'], in Coste's version this is changed from emphatic and precise designations into a more prosaic kind of diction: 'On anticipe encore l'Avenir par les mêmes moyens qu'on emploie pour rappeler le souvenir du Passé [One anticipates the future by the same means that one employs to recall a memory of the past].'<sup>72</sup> The removal of the underlining of

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‘*rapelle*’ and ‘*anticipe*’ obscures their role as theoretical definitions (as well as their co-relation with each other) – something that Shaftesbury marked first in the original version, and again in his own later translation into English, made after its publication in the *Journal des sçavans*. To similar effect, Coste removed a short paragraph that in Shaftesbury’s French and again in his later English version consists simply of the definition of this technique, naming and fixing it as an object of theory (‘*Cette Operation diverse peut être distinguée par les deux Noms d’Anticipation et de Rapelle*’ [This particular operation can be distinguished by the two terms *Anticipation* and *Repeal*]).<sup>73</sup> Together, these changes follow a repeated back and forth movement from Shaftesbury’s French drafts, to the blurring or erasures in Coste’s editing, and then to Shaftesbury’s *reassertions* when he himself came back to the text to translate it into English.

Shaftesbury’s use specifically of ‘anticipation’ in these passages (that is, as distinct from an interest more generally in the kind of technique he was describing) is significant because, as far as I can see, that word had not had any career in earlier sources on the question of how change may be depicted in painting.<sup>74</sup> Rather, the

sense in which Shaftesbury uses ‘anticipation’ here seems to have been drawn  
490 primarily from his own works in moral philosophy – this as part of the larger,  
principally Hellenistic, tradition in which those works may be placed – and secondly,  
perhaps indirectly, from a number of related early modern discourses, from rhetoric  
and literary theory to a broad category of economic and legal thought, in which  
notions of ‘anticipation’ figure in a related manner.

495 In the *Characteristicks* ‘Anticipation’ is used to refer to a form of innate  
knowledge.<sup>75</sup> At times Shaftesbury presents this as uncomplicated, but clearly the  
term was subject to contradictions both within his own writings, and in its wider  
contexts in seventeenth century England and the earlier texts Shaftesbury knew.<sup>76</sup>  
Instabilities around the use of this word in relation to knowledge were conveyed, for  
500 example, in the derisive tone of Francis Bacon’s use of phrases like ‘*Anticipatio*  
*Mentis*’ and ‘*Anticipationes Naturae*’, meaning ungrounded reasoning opposed to the  
true goal of science in ‘*Interpretatio Naturae*’.<sup>77</sup> Anticipation here marks a gap in  
knowledge or a flawed presumption about the nature of the world. Others, including  
Locke, used the word in a similar vein, and in this way it marked out some broader



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tensions in epistemological theories in this period.<sup>78</sup>

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Centrally among the Hellenistic works in moral philosophy that Shaftesbury was responding to, Cicero had used ‘anticipatio’ to signify an innate idea.<sup>79</sup> While this presented the word rather neutrally as a translation into a Latin philosophical vocabulary of the word  $\pi\theta\text{---}\kappa\gamma\omega\iota$  [prolepsis] as it had been used by Epicurus, Cicero’s account in fact involved a complete inversion of his source, shifting the term from a theory of knowledge accrued through sensations and experience, as is clear in Epicurus, to one based on the pre-given, the untaught, and instinctive.<sup>80</sup> The shift reflected at an epistemological level what were more directly ethical problematics within the same network of texts, perhaps most clearly drawn out in the works of the Stoic Epictetus (the subject of very intensive readings on Shaftesbury’s part), who returned in his works to the problem that, while we are born with prior moral principles – ‘ $\pi\theta\text{---}\kappa\gamma\omega\epsilon\iota$ ’ – they are often applied inappropriately to particular things, or are corruptible, and in their use subject to ambiguity.<sup>81</sup>

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What are, in certain senses, related problems to this emerged in theories of anticipation in rhetoric and poetics. In rhetorical theory anticipatio or prolepsis was

in simple terms the unravelling of an opponent's argument before it has been uttered.

As it was put in an English handbook printed in the mid-seventeenth century, anticipation is a matter of an orator's perceiving and confuting 'before it be spoken' whatever might 'hurt him as to what he is about to deliver'.<sup>82</sup> However, as in the

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more thorough and critically subtle analysis set out, for example, by Gerardus Joannes Vossius in his *Commentariorum rhetoricorum* (published in a number of editions from 1606, and a work Shaftesbury owned), *anticipatio* or  $\pi\theta\text{---}\kappa\gamma\omega\iota$  could have further implications, beyond simply saying first one's opponent's argument, and involved a peculiar sort of speech in which one more properly assumes the role of opponent, and speaks, in a sort of dialogue, alternately occupying the different personae of opponent and self.<sup>83</sup>

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In an overlapping tradition of literary analysis, certain passages in Virgil's poetry figured centrally in the theoretical construction of anticipation (as well, for reasons that I will come to, as exercising a wider fascination in the late seventeenth century). In one important discussion of the mid-sixteenth century, Julius Caesar Scaliger in the *Poetices libri septum* (again a work Shaftesbury owned) outlined two

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conventional definitions of anticipation in the *Aeneid*.<sup>84</sup> He notes first, in the first few lines of the poem, that Virgil's narrator speaks of Aeneas landing on 'Lavinian shores'.<sup>85</sup> This is called an anticipation because when Aeneas landed there the place had not yet been named Lavinium. The second instance is from the sixth book, when Aeneas, having travelled to the Underworld, meets his dead helmsman Palinurus who had been torn from the ship by the god of Sleep, and, after drifting on the waves for three nights, was killed on reaching the shore.<sup>86</sup> At this point Palinurus speaks of a place using a name (Velinos) which it would not bear until some later time, asking that his remains be buried there.

Scaliger's reading, in part, and to the extent that it separates these two types of anticipation, followed an established line, as notably in Servius' fifth-century commentary on the *Aeneid*.<sup>87</sup> Servius and the other earlier commentators discriminated between the two kinds of anticipation, essentially in ethical terms, with reference to the difference between the voice of the poet and that of characters within the poem. The first kind of anticipation is understood as acceptable (Servius' word is 'tolerabilis'), where it is the narrator – understood to be the person of the poet – who

uses the future name of the place in a veiled indication of the history that will unfold in the poem's future.<sup>88</sup> With the second kind, however, when it is the voice of

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Aeneas' dead helmsman who speaks, the technique becomes rather more problematic ('vitiosissima') in terms of the integrity of the poem and its demands on the reader.<sup>89</sup>

The dead Palinurus could not know of the place where he asked to be buried; and

even if one were somehow to accept that he could – by some power of divination

given to the dead, for example – then (as spelled out by Aulus Gellius, one of the

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authorities cited by Servius) one would still not be able to account for Aeneas

understanding these utterances.<sup>90</sup>

Yet around this same point, Scaliger's sense of the poem, and of

'anticipatio', marked an important shift from the earlier commentators. Scaliger

admits anticipation as a device with which the poet, through the voice of a character,

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is able to disclose to the reader things that the poet in his own voice has not explicitly

described.<sup>91</sup> The effect of Scaliger's interpretation is to acknowledge a definite force

in the poem through a separation of the voice from the personification of meaning,

where the voice comes to exist precisely between and separate from either the person

of the poet or that of any character in the poem. Here, as with the fluidity of personae  
570 and the dissolution of arguments and their speakers in the rhetorical techniques  
elaborated by Vossius, anticipation problematises both the objective identity of the  
work and, through its operations, the identity of the subject facing the work.

These were technical issues, and (as is the case more broadly with rhetorical  
and literary theory) could certainly be seen to have offered some points of reference  
575 for writing on painting in this period. More significantly though, these reflections on  
'anticipation' appeared – as technical issues centring on the relation between  
meaning and the voice – as one face of a much larger set of uncertainties in this  
period about thought and the body, *spiritus* and *materia*, the forces in play within  
physical entities. Anticipation, as these texts brought it to light, offered the work a  
580 nuanced, indirect effect – a virtue that, at the same time, is superimposed on the kind  
of doubts about the status of the artwork, the threat and difficulty and the unexpected  
force that Servius had dimly sensed in the helmsman's speech in the *Aeneid*, 'quasi  
dictum ab umbra [as something spoken by a shadow]'.<sup>92</sup>

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Leibniz remarked in the ‘Système nouveau’ that when he came to think of the union between the soul and the body he was cast out on an open sea. The image perhaps calls to mind the figure of Palinurus in Virgil’s ironic reversal of that character’s role as helmsman in the sixth book of the *Aeneid* which, in fact, Leibniz did turn to in his later *Essais de theodicée*.<sup>93</sup> There Virgil’s lines, the pantheist notion of a world

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sustained by an inner spirit (‘Spiritus intus alit’), were placed by Leibniz in relation to questions about individuation, and in an argument against what he saw as the view (centrally Spinoza’s) that souls are nothing but ‘modifications passagères’ of a single substance, like drops briefly separated from an ocean and then reabsorbed and lost.<sup>94</sup>

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These questions were, clearly, closely identified with those that Leibniz had turned over in the ‘Système nouveau’, even if there he put them in terms of the persistence of souls in a folding and refolding of matter in the experiments of Swammerdam, Malpighi, and Leeuwenhoek, and the coming back to life of drowned flies.<sup>95</sup> More broadly, the kind of interest Leibniz showed in the cosmological picture

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set out in the sixth book of the *Aeneid* may be seen elsewhere (as I indicated above),

and seems to have assumed a quite concrete topicality in this period. Shaftesbury himself at one point in the ‘Plasticks’ draft refers sketchily to the same lines of Virgil’s poem with a note to include these ‘philosophical Theistical-Hypothesis-Passages’ somewhere in the finished essay.<sup>96</sup> In a number of works Shaftesbury

605 knew – for example Cudworth, Charles Blount (who translated Spinoza), Edward Stillingfleet – the attention given to Stoic and Platonic doctrines of death and rebirth in the *Aeneid* perhaps formed a means of admitting more recent unresolved questions around the nature and limits of conscious existence.<sup>97</sup> And as questions of existence, they crossed between the rarefied and the down to earth: Leibniz was thinking

610 through – in the most rigorous and imaginative fashion – what emerged more widely as correspondences between the souls haunting the pages of Virgil and more mundane and quite historically specific forms of experience, in what Leibniz called ‘a commerce between mortal and immortal persons’, in a draft on annuities.<sup>98</sup> In the same place, Leibniz developed an intricate theory of value and property precisely

615 around a concept of ‘anticipation’, which thus assumed a position both within fundamental theories of knowledge, and in the operations of finance.<sup>99</sup> In this latter

sense, the term clearly had currency in England in the last years of the seventeenth century – for example with a project ‘which may raise annually enough to carry the

Charges of the War, on equal and easie Terms, with little or no Anticipation’,<sup>100</sup> or

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elsewhere (in a text responding to Locke on the Recoinage) in the view that ‘We

have no way in the World to maintain our selves but by settling some Funds or other,

as we have done of late Years, and borrowing the money upon it by way of

Anticipation’.<sup>101</sup>

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Where Shaftesbury introduces ‘Anticipation’ in the *Hercules* essay, this and its

complementary term ‘Repeal’ are woven into a narrative that seems unconnected

with the painting the essay describes. Evoking a quite separate image, generated

entirely within the text, he writes that a change of passion may be shown

As for instance, when the Plain Tracks of Tears new falln, with other

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fresh Tokens of Mourning and Dejection remain still in a Person newly

transported with Joy at the sight of a Relation or Friend, who the moment

before had been lamented as one deceas’d or lost.<sup>102</sup>



The image is separate, yet the tropes of loss and pleasure within which Shaftesbury's critical terms appear, the latent charge of desire, in a movement between tension and relief, between disappearance and reappearance are, still, effects of the formation and dissolution of the artwork in Shaftesbury's theory. Without resolve, Shaftesbury's writings on painting work through a movement between immanence and what is given elsewhere, in a meditation on the substance of things and their force, coins melted and remade.

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<sup>1</sup> *Meditationes de prima philosophia* [1641] in *Oeuvres de Descartes*, eds Charles Adam and Paul Tannery, 11 vols (reprint, Paris: Vrin, 1996), 7:30; trans. in *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, eds John Cottingham, Robert Stoothoff, and Dugald Murdoch, 3 vols (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 2:20.

<sup>2</sup> *A Discourse Concerning Coining the New Money Lighter. In Answer to Mr. Lock's Considerations about raising the Value of Money* (London: Richard Chiswell, 1696), 6.

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<sup>3</sup> P. G. M. Dickson, *The Financial Revolution in England: A Study in the Development of Public Credit 1688–1756* (corrected edn, Aldershot: Gregg Revivals, 1993), 459.

<sup>4</sup> *Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times*, 3 vols (London: [John Darby] 1711).

<sup>5</sup> ‘A Notion Of the Historical Draught or *Tablature* of the Judgment of Hercules; according to Prodicus. Lib. II. Xen. de Mem. Soc.’, in *Second Characters*, series 1, vol. 5 of Anthony Ashley Cooper, third Earl of Shaftesbury, *Standard Edition: Complete Works, Selected Letters and Posthumous Writings*, eds Wolfram Benda, Christine Jackson-Holzberg, Patrick Müller, and Friedrich A. Uehlein (Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt: Frommann-Holzboog, 1981-), 70-151.

<sup>6</sup> ‘A Letter Concerning the Art, or Science of Design: Written from Italy (On the Occasion of some *Designs* in Painting) To My Lord \*\*\*\*’, in *Second Characters*, 36-61.

<sup>7</sup> Lawrence Klein, *Shaftesbury and the Culture of Politeness: Moral Discourse and Cultural Politics in Early Eighteenth-Century England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

<sup>8</sup> See Robert Voitle, *The Third Earl of Shaftesbury 1671–1713* (Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1984), 70; and, more recently, Lawrence Klein’s article in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 9 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004). Shaftesbury did not stand for Parliament after 1698,

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though after the death of his father he did sit in the House of Lords.

<sup>9</sup> For discussion of the Recoinage see Kelly in *Locke on Money*, especially 1:55-67 and with extensive bibliography.

<sup>10</sup> For key studies of the structural and more immediate economic problems see Dickson, *Financial Revolution*; J. K. Horsefield, *British Monetary Experiments 1650–1710* (London: G. Bell and Sons, 1960); and Patrick Hyde Kelly's introduction in *Locke on Money*, 2 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), especially 1:39-67.

<sup>11</sup> I have used the online version of the *Journals of the House of Commons* via the British History Online website: *Journal of the House of Commons: volume 11: 1693-1697* [1803], <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=258> [accessed 4 October 2013], 358-359; 353-355 (referring to 'Lord Ashly'); 453-456.

<sup>12</sup> See *Characteristicks*, 1:299-301; I discuss this point below, p. 26. On the absence or near-absence of any reference to the monetary crisis in Shaftesbury's writing cf. *Characteristicks* 2:50, where Shaftesbury's term 'Denomination' in the context of ethical questions seems to play on an allusion to monetary usage; see also the monetary metaphors at 1:320-1 and 2:202.

<sup>13</sup> See principally John Barrell, *The Political Theory of Painting from Reynolds to Hazlitt: 'The Body of the Public'* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1986), 1-68.

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<sup>14</sup> Shaftesbury, 'Plasticks, or the Original, Progress, & Power of designatory Art', in *Second Characters*, 167 (in my quotations from this I have occasionally departed from the editors' conventions for transcribing the text). Shaftesbury is referring to an earlier text, 'Sensus Communis: An Essay on the Freedom of Wit and Humour. In a Letter to a Friend' [1709], in *Characteristicks*, 1:137-138.

<sup>15</sup> Shaftesbury, 'Plasticks', 178.

<sup>16</sup> For Pausanias see *Description of Greece*, 9.21.1, trans. W. H. S. Jones, 6 vols (London and New York: William Heinemann and G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1918–1935), 4:258-261. For Pindar see *Pythian Odes*, 4.19 ff., in *Pindar*, 2 vols, trans. William H. Race (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1997), 1:262-265.

<sup>17</sup> My comments here draw on the entry for Centaurs in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, eds Simon Hornblower and Anthony Spawforth (third edn, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1996). See also Robin Osborne's essay 'Framing the Centaur: Reading Fifth-Century Architectural Sculpture' in Simon Goldhill and Robin Osborne (eds), *Art and Text in Ancient Greek Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 52-84; and Edith Hall's comments on centaurs in *Inventing the Barbarian: Greek Self-Definition through Tragedy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), 51ff.

<sup>18</sup> For one example of this see Alcibiades' praise of Socrates in Plato, *Symposium*, 215a-223d, in *Lysis, Symposium, Gorgias*, trans. W. R. M. Lamb (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1996), 218-245.

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<sup>19</sup> Shaftesbury, 'Plasticks', 188.

<sup>20</sup> John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Humane Understanding*, for example 3.6.9. I use the text established by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979), based on the fourth edition of 1700; references are to book, chapter, and section.

<sup>21</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 3.6.1; 3.6.8.

<sup>22</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 3.6.9.

<sup>23</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 3.6.2.

<sup>24</sup> For a useful broad discussion see R. S. Woolhouse, *Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz: The Concept of Substance in Seventeenth-Century Metaphysics* (London and New York: Routledge, 1993); for different approaches to Locke's views on substance see Michael Ayers, *Locke: Epistemology and Ontology*, 2 vols (London and New York: Routledge, 1991), 2:15-128; and Jonathan Bennett, *Learning from Six Philosophers*, 2 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 2:108-123.

<sup>25</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 3.6.9.

<sup>26</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 1.4.18; 2.23.1; 2.23.3; 2.13.19. On this see especially Bennett, *Learning from Six Philosophers*, 2:112.

<sup>27</sup> For instance, Shaftesbury, 'Plasticks', 190; 217.

<sup>28</sup> James Hodges, *The Present State of England as to Coin and Public Charges*, (London: Andr. Bell, 1697). For useful comments on Hodges see in particular Joyce

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Oldham Appleby, 'Locke, Liberalism and the Natural Law of Money', in *Past and Present*, 71 (1976), 43-69. Horsefield, *British Monetary Experiments* (37) notes that there are still extant from 1695 and 1696 at least two hundred and fifty pamphlets dealing with the Recoinage, and the ephemeral nature of these texts makes it likely that many more were printed during this single year.

<sup>29</sup> Lowndes, *A Report Containing an Essay for the Amendment of the Silver Coins* (London: Charles Bill and the executrix of Thomas Newcomb, 1695).

<sup>30</sup> Lowndes, *Report*, for example 56; 58-59; 61-67.

<sup>31</sup> Locke, *Further Considerations Concerning Raising the Value of Money. Wherein Mr. Lowndes's Arguments for it in his late Report concerning An Essay for the Amendment of the Silver Coins, are particularly Examined*. I use the 'second' (actually the third) edition of 1696 printed in Kelly (ed.), *Locke on Money*, 2:402-481. For Locke's comparison of Lowndes' scheme with clipping see, for instance, 417.

<sup>32</sup> Cf. *Further Considerations*, 429: Locke notes here the potential for a very small difference between the value of bullion and coined money, given that the former can more easily be exported.

<sup>33</sup> Locke, *Further Considerations*, 415; also 442 on 'bare Sounds'.

<sup>34</sup> Locke, *Further Considerations*, 416.

<sup>35</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 4.8.1, under the heading 'Of Trifling Propositions'.

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<sup>36</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 4.8.3.

<sup>37</sup> Locke, *Essay*, 4.8.3; also: ‘*Substance is Substance, and Body is Body; a Vacuum is a Vacuum, and a Vortex is a Vortex: a Centaure is a Centaure, and a Chimæra is a Chimæra, etc.*’.

<sup>38</sup> Hodges, *Present State*, 153.

<sup>39</sup> For other responses to Locke see especially Kelly in *Locke on Money*, 1:35-7; and Appleby, ‘Locke, Liberalism and the Natural Law of Money’.

<sup>40</sup> Locke, *Further Considerations*, 410.

<sup>41</sup> Hodges, *Present State*, 132.

<sup>42</sup> See for instance Rudolph Goclenius, *Lexicon philosophicum, quo tanquam clave philosophiae fores aperiuntur* (Frankfurt: Typis viduae Matthiae Beckeri, impensis Petri Musculi & Ruperti Pistorij), 260-261.

<sup>43</sup> Leibniz, ‘*Demonstratio contra Atomos Sumta ex Atomorum contactu*’ [1690] in *Die philosophischen Schriften von Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz*, ed. C. I. Gerhardt, 7 vols (Berlin: Weidmann, 1875–90), 7:284-288; trans. Lloyd Strickland in *Leibniz: The Shorter Texts* (London: Continuum, 2006), 119-123.

<sup>44</sup> Leibniz, ‘*Demonstratio contra Atomos*’, 284; trans., 119.

<sup>45</sup> For ‘without windows’ see, for example, ‘*Principes de la philosophie ou la monadologie*’ [1714] in *Principes de la nature et de la grâce fondés en raison*.



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*Principles de la philosophie ou la monadologie*, ed. André Robinet (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1954), 71. For useful accounts of the wider contexts in which ‘expression’ in this sense was formulated see Gilles Deleuze, ‘Conclusion: The Theory of Expression in Leibniz and Spinoza: Expressionism in Philosophy’, in *Expressionism in Philosophy: Spinoza*, trans. Martin Joughin (New York: Zone Books, 1992), 321-335; also Daniel Garber, *Leibniz: Body, Substance, Monad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 206-224 (which, however, argues that Leibniz’s understanding of ‘expression’ was subject to significant revision between the writings of the 1680s and later works such as the ‘Monadologie’).

<sup>46</sup> Leibniz, ‘Principia logico-metaphysica’ [1689?], in *Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe*, eds Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, multiple volumes in 6 series (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1923–) series 6, 4:1646; trans. as ‘Primary Truths’ in Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber (eds), *Philosophical Essays* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989), 32-33. See also, for instance, ‘Monadologie’, 73-75.

<sup>47</sup> ‘Sur les Lotteries’ [1696], in *L’Estime des apparences: 21 manuscrits de Leibniz sur les probabilités, la théorie des jeux, l’espérance de vie*, ed. Marc Parmentier (Paris: Vrin, 1995), 443. For Leibniz’s letter to Burnett [20/30 January 1699], see Gerhardt (ed.), *Die philosophischen Schriften*, 3:243-253, especially 244.

<sup>48</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 12 [as in note 2, above].

<sup>49</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, especially 6.

<sup>50</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 6-7.

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<sup>51</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 5; 27; see also 43.

<sup>52</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, for example 91-92; 28.

<sup>53</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 6-7.

<sup>54</sup> See Kelly in *Locke on Money*, 1:82.

<sup>55</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 19-22; 20 for ‘innumerable Fractions of Grains’.

<sup>56</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 22.

<sup>57</sup> Barbon, *Discourse*, 22-3 .

<sup>58</sup> Descartes, *Meditationes*, 30; trans., 20 [as in note 1, above].

<sup>59</sup> Descartes, *Les passion de l'âme* [1649] in Adam and Tannery (eds), *Oeuvres*, 11:327-488; trans. in Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch (eds), *Philosophical Writings*, 1:328-404. For useful discussions of substance see Woolhouse, *Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz*; Steven Nadler (ed.), *Causation in Early Modern Philosophy: Cartesianism, Occasionalism, and Pre-Established-Harmony* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1993); Daniel Garber, ‘Mind, Body, and the Laws of Nature in Descartes and Leibniz’ in *Descartes Embodied* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 133-167; as well as his *Leibniz: Body, Substance, Monad*. For one important reading that rejects any separation of Descartes’ thought from ‘rhetorical’ aspects (in particular the use of metaphor), see Antonio Negri, *Political Descartes: Reason, Ideology, and the Bourgeois Project*,

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trans. Matteo Mandarini and Alberto Toscano (London: Verso, 2007).

<sup>60</sup> ‘Système nouveau de la nature et de la communication des substances’, printed in two parts (with consecutive pagination), in the *Journal des sçavans*, nos 23 and 24, (27 June and 4 July 1695), 301; trans. in R. S. Woolhouse and Richard Francks (eds), *Leibniz’s ‘New System’ and Associated Contemporary Texts* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), 17.

<sup>61</sup> ‘Système nouveau’, 301–2; trans., 17.

<sup>62</sup> For some related approaches see following discussion and note 66. Leibniz’s solution to the incommensurability of material- and thinking substance was a notion of ‘pre-established harmony’. This meant that, without any casual relation between the two, each substance was moved by an inner principle caused by God to correspond exactly with that of the other (more broadly within a system of correspondences between all substances in the universe).

<sup>63</sup> Leibniz, ‘Remarques sur les trois volumes intitulés: Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times, in three volumes’, in Gerhardt (ed.), *Die philosophischen Schriften*, 3:423-431; trans. Leroy M. Loemker in *Philosophical Papers and Letters* (second edn, Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1969), 629-635.

<sup>64</sup> Leibniz, ‘Remarques’, 427-428; trans., 632. For Shaftesbury’s comments see *Characteristicks*, 1:299-301.

<sup>65</sup> Cudworth, *The True Intellectual System of the Universe: The First Part; wherein,*

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*all the Reason and Philosophy of Atheism is Confuted; and its Impossibility Demonstrated* (London: Richard Royston), 131. For Shaftesbury's reading of Cudworth, see *Characteristicks*, 2:262. The notion of 'plastic nature' is perhaps directly invoked by Shaftesbury in the discussion of 'species' cited above ('soverain Plastick Nature') as well, indirectly, as in the draft's title.

<sup>66</sup> Glisson, *De Natura Substantiae Energetica, seu de Vita Naturae* (London: E. Flesher for H. Brome and N. Hooke, 1672). For Glisson on substance see especially Guido Giglioli, 'Anatomist Atheist? The 'Hylozoistic' Foundations of Francis Glisson's Research' in *Religio Medici: Medicine and Religion in Seventeenth-Century England*, eds Ole Peter Grell and Andrew Cunningham (Aldershot: Scholar Press, 1996), 115-133. For Shaftesbury's copy of this work see *Catalogus Librorum Graecorum & Latinorum Utriusque Bibliothecae viz. Aegidiana et Chelsqanae Comitum de Shaftesbury. Aegidiis Anno Aerae Christianae 1709*, MS Public Record Office, PRO 30/24/23/11, fol. 26. The work was in Shaftesbury's library presumably in part because Glisson (like Locke) had worked in the household of Shaftesbury's grandfather, to whom the book was dedicated.

<sup>67</sup> For 'thinking matter', see John W. Yolton, *Thinking Matter: Materialism in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983), especially 3-28. For the letters on the soul, see E. S. De Beer, *The Correspondence of John Locke*, 8 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976-89), 4:666-671; 5:150-154.

<sup>68</sup> My thinking here makes use of Pierre Bourdieu's account of the mutually

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constitutive effects of the ‘cognitive’ and the ‘practical’ in *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), 96-97, an analysis that draws directly on Marx’s *Theses on Feuerbach*.

<sup>69</sup> Shaftesbury, ‘Judgment’, 82-84.

<sup>70</sup> Shaftesbury, ‘Projet D’une Espece de Portraiture Moderne’, in *Second Characters*, 424. Immediately after these comments Shaftesbury refers to the discussion of anticipation and repeal in the *Hercules* treatise.

<sup>71</sup> For discussion of the different versions of the *Hercules* text in its original French, see the editors’ comments (*Second Characters*, 301) preceding the transcriptions of Shaftesbury’s manuscripts (in two variants) and that prepared by Coste for publication. Shaftesbury’s version carries the title ‘Raisonnement sur le Tableau du Jugement d’Hercule: Selon l’Histoire de Prodicus, au Second Livre des Mem: de Xenophon’; and the version edited by Coste, ‘Le Jugement d’Hercule, ou Dissertation sur un Tableau, dont the Dessein est pris de l’Histoire de Prodicus qu’on Trouve dans les Choses Memorables de Xenophon, Liv. II’.

<sup>72</sup> Shaftesbury, ‘Raisonnement sur le Tableau du Jugement d’Hercule: Selon l’Histoire de Prodicus, au Second Livre des Mem: de Xenophon’ in *Second Characters*, 316; Shaftesbury/Coste, ‘Le Jugement d’Hercule, ou Dissertation sur un Tableau, dont le Dessein est pris de l’Histoire de Prodicus qu’on Trouve dans les Choses Memorables de Xenophon, Liv. II’, in *Second Characters*, 317.

<sup>73</sup> Shaftesbury, ‘Raisonnement’ 318; ‘Judgment’, 84.

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<sup>74</sup> The word does not figure in this sense in either of the two books on art from which Shaftesbury drew most closely: Roland Fréart de Chambray, *Idée de la perfection de la peinture* (Le Mans: Jacques Ysambart, 1662); and Franciscus Junius, *De pictura veterum libri tres* (Rotterdam: Regneri Leers, 1694). Very broadly (again without those terms emphasised by Shaftesbury) the kind of technical questions Shaftesbury was addressing were commonplace in the art theory of the preceding generation: see for instance Giovan Pietro Bellori, *Le Vite de' pittori scultori e architetti moderni* [1672], ed. Evelina Borea, 2 vols (Turin: Einaudi, 2009), 55 and 48 (on Annibale Carracci's use of 'anacronismo'; and, in a description of his painting of the *Hercules* theme, on the foreshadowing of the outcome); also the sixth of the French Academy's *Conférences* (published in various formats from 1666), principally in the exchanges after Le Brun's lecture on Poussin's painting of *The Israelites Gathering the Manna*, in Alain Mérot (ed), *Les Conférences de l'Académie royale de peinture et de sculpture au XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle* (Paris: École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, 1996), 110-112.

<sup>75</sup> Shaftesbury, *Characteristicks*, 3:214-215; 2:420.

<sup>76</sup> For useful analysis of tensions in Shaftesbury's writing around this point see Esther A. Tiffany 'Shaftesbury as Stoic' in *Proceedings of the Modern Language Association* 38, no. 3 (September 1923), 642-684, especially 663-665.

<sup>77</sup> Francis Bacon, *The Instauratio magna Part II: Novum organum and Associated Texts*, ed. Graham Rees and Maria Wakely (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 58; 74-76. I am grateful to Aaron Garrett for bringing this to my attention.

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<sup>78</sup> For Locke see, for example, *Posthumous Works of Mr. John Locke* (London: W. B. For A. and J. Churchill, 1706), 41: ‘And ’tis not the evidence of Truth, but some lazy Anticipation, some beloved Presumption [...]’. For discussion of Locke’s epistemology within this context see especially John W. Yolton, *Locke and the Way of Ideas* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956).

<sup>79</sup> Cicero, *De natura deorum* 1.43-44, ed. H. Rackham (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 2000), 44-47.

<sup>80</sup> On πθ—κγωι| in Epicurus see for instance Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of the Eminent Philosophers*, 10.33, trans. R. D. Hicks, 2 vols (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 2000), 2:562-563; this is the work Cicero refers to in his own account of anticipations. For the tensions in Cicero’s relation to Epicurus around this term see especially Arthur Stanley Pease’s commentary in *Tulli Ciceronis de Natura Deorum Liber Primus* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1955), 296. For further useful discussions see A. A. Long, ‘Aisthesis, Prolepsis and Linguistic Theory in Epicurus’, in *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies*, 18, 1971, 114-133; and F. H. Sandbach, ‘Ennoia and Prolepsis in the Stoic Theory of Knowledge’, in *Problems in Stoicism*, ed. A. A. Long (London: Athlone Press, 1971), 22-37.

<sup>81</sup> Epictetus, *Discourses*, for example 1.22, trans. W. A. Oldfather, 2 vols (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press and William Heinemann, 1925–28), 1:140-145. On this point see Tiffany ‘Shaftesbury as Stoic’. For

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Shaftesbury's engagement with Epictetus see especially the notebooks transcribed by Benjamin Rand in his *Life, Unpublished Letters, and Philosophical Regimen*; and in a much more reliable edition, though with the text translated into French, by Laurent Jaffro: *Exercises* (Paris: Aubier, 1993).

<sup>82</sup> John Smith, *The Myserie of Rhetorique Unvail'd* (London: E. Cotes for George Eversden, 1657), 127.

<sup>83</sup> *Commentariorum rhetoricorum sive oratoriarum institutionum libri sex*, two parts (Leiden: Ioannis Maire, 1630), 2:391ff. The work was first printed in 1606 with the title *Oratoriarum institutionum libri sex*: see C. S. M. Rademaker, *Life and Work of Gerardus Joannes Vossius (1577–1649)* (Assen: Van Gorcum, 1981), 356. For Shaftesbury's copy see *Catalogus Librorum Graecorum & Latinorum*, fol. 78.

<sup>84</sup> Scaliger, *Poetices libri septem* (Lyons: Antonium Vincentium, 1561), 126-127. For Shaftesbury's copy of this work see *Catalogus Librorum Graecorum & Latinorum*, fol. 71.

<sup>85</sup> Virgil, *Aeneid* 1.2-3: 'Lauiniaque uenit / litora'. I use R. A. B. Mynors' text in *P. Vergili Maronis Opera* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969), 103.

<sup>86</sup> Virgil, *Aeneid* 6.337-366 for the meeting and Palinarus' description of the events leading to his death; the death is described by the narrator at 5.838-871; Mynors (ed.), 237-238 and 225-226.

<sup>87</sup> *Servii Grammatici Qui Feruntur in Vergilii Aeneidos Libros VI-VIII Commentarii*,



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ed. George Thillo (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1883). See also Aullus Gellius, *The Attic Nights*, 10.16, trans. John C. Rolfe, 3 vols (Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press and William Heinemann, 1927), 2:254-257; this in turn refers to a lost work by Gaius Julius Hyginus.

<sup>88</sup> Thillo (ed.), *Servii Grammatici*, 59.

<sup>89</sup> Thillo (ed.), *Servii Grammatici*, 59.

<sup>90</sup> See Aullus Gellius, *Attic Nights*, 10.16, 254-255.

<sup>91</sup> Scaliger, *Poetices*, 127.

<sup>92</sup> Thillo (ed.), *Servii Grammatici*, 59.

<sup>93</sup> Leibniz, *Essais de theodicée*, 55-56; trans., 78-79.

<sup>94</sup> Leibniz, *Essais de theodicée*, 56; trans., 79. For the point in Virgil Leibniz is alluding to see *Aeneid*, 6.724-728; in Mynors (ed.), 250. Useful commentaries on this can be found in Eduard Norden, *P. Vergilius Aeneis Buch VI* (fourth edn, Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1957), 17-20; and R. G. Austin, *P. Vergili Maronis; Aeneidos Liber Sextus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), 220-222.

<sup>95</sup> Leibniz, 'Système nouveau', 68-69; trans., 13-14.

<sup>96</sup> Shaftesbury, 'Plasticks', 232.

<sup>97</sup> Cudworth, *Intellectual System*, 168; Charles Blount, *Anima Mundi: Or, an Historical Narration of the Opinion of the Ancients Concerning Man's Soul After*

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*this Life: According to Unenlightened Nature* (London: Will. Cademan, 1679), 8 and 42-43 (linked with ‘intrinsic, plastick vertue’); Edward Stillingfleet *A Defence of the Discourse Concerning The Idolatry Practiced in the Church of Rome* (London: Robert White for Henry Mortlock, 1676), 433. Shaftesbury owned the edition of Blount’s *Anima Mundi* bearing the false imprint ‘Amsterdam, Anno Mundi. 0000’: see *Catalogus Librorum Anglicorum, Gallicorum, Italicorum &c. utriusque Bibliothecae viz.<sup>t</sup> Aegidianae et Chelsqanae Comitissae de Shaftesbury. Aegidiis Anno Aerae Christianae 1709*, MS, Public Record Office, PRO 30/24/23/12, fol. 99; for his copy of Cudworth see fol. 9 (as well as the reference at *Characteristicks*, 2:262); for Stillingfleet see fol. 71. Blount’s translation of Spinoza, the sixth chapter of Spinoza’s *Tractus theologico-politicus*, appeared in *Miracles, No Violations of the Laws of Nature* (London: Robert Sollers, 1683).

<sup>98</sup> Leibniz, *De Reditibus ad vitam aliisque pensionibus singularibus, specimen inquisitionis mathematicae in negotio politico* [1680], in Akademie edn, *Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe*, series 4, 3:441; French trans. in Parmentier (ed.), *L’Estime des apparences*, 375.

<sup>99</sup> Leibniz, *De Reditibus ad vitam*, 441; trans. 375.

<sup>100</sup> John Cary, *An Essay on the State of England, in Relation to its Trade, Its Poor, and its Taxes, for Carrying on the Present War against France* (Bristol: W. Bonny, 1695), 175.

<sup>101</sup> Anon., *Some Considerations about the Raising of Coin. In a Second Letter to Mr.*

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*Locke* (London, A. and J. Churchill, 1696), 33.

<sup>102</sup> Shaftesbury, 'Judgment', 84.