

# The Oxford Philosophical Texts (OPT) Edition of Hume's *Treatise and Abstract*<sup>1</sup>

## ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND REVISIONS

Although the *Treatise of Human Nature* and the *Abstract . . . of the Treatise* were each published only once during Hume's lifetime, by the time of his death in August 1776 Hume had prepared some of his works for at least twelve distinct *editions*. And far from letting his bookseller (*publisher*, we would now say) simply reprint the most recent version of his texts, Hume appears invariably to have read an earlier version of whichever works were to appear in a new edition, and revised these in both minor and substantial ways. "It is," he said, "one great advantage that results from the Art of printing, that an Author may correct his works, as long as he lives."<sup>2</sup> Now in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century willing authors or editors and such dedicated publishers of traditional books as Oxford University Press can work together to carry the advantage Hume mentions still further. Even mere impressions or reprintings can be corrected, and that has been the case with some of the successive reprintings of the Oxford Philosophical Texts (OPT) edition of the *Treatise* and the *Abstract*. Following instructions on how to determine which impression of the OPT edition any reader possesses or is using, the corrections and revisions made through the first eleven impressions of this edition are listed below. As of the present date, 31 August 2008, no further changes have been made to later impressions, but two minor changes, described below, are envisaged.

With one exception, the impression or printing of any copy of the OPT *Treatise* may be determined by looking at the line of numbers found just below the ISBN numbers printed near the bottom of the copyright page [p. iv] of each volume. In first impression copies this line of numbers reads:

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

In second impression copies it reads:

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

In third impression copies it should read:

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4

but it does not because the printers failed to make the appropriate adjustment. In fact, they used the line of numbers found in the first impression:

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The third impression may be identified, however, by the combination of this particular line of numbers and the words, found about mid-page:

Reprinted with corrections 2001

The relevant line of fourth impression copies correctly reads:

5 7 9 10 8 6 4

Fifth impression copies read:

5 7 9 10 8 6

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<sup>1</sup>For advice leading to some of these corrections or revisions we are indebted to Donald Baxter, Deborah Danowski, David Owen, Eric Schliesman, Michael Silverthorne, M. A. Stewart, and F. L. van Holthoorn.

<sup>2</sup>*The Letters of David Hume*, ed. J. Y. T. Greig, 2 vols. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1932) 2: 246-7.

Sixth impression copies read:

7 9 10 8 6

And so on to the tenth impression, which has only the single number:

10

Then, beginning with the next impression, the 11<sup>th</sup>, a new line of numbers is introduced:

11 13 15 17 19 20 18 16 14 12

Once you have identified the impression you have and consulted the list that follows, you will know if you need to correct the texts or annotations in your copy, and where these changes should be made. If your copy is an 11<sup>th</sup> or later impression (a copy printed in 2006 or later) you need make none of the corrections listed below because these changes will already have been incorporated in your copy when it was printed.

The 11<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent impressions also have in the right-hand margins the page numbers of the Selby-Bigge edition (SB) published from 1888 until, in late 1976 or early 1977, its publisher, Oxford University Press, issued an edition moderately revised by P. H. Nidditch (SBN). The page numbers of the main text of these two editions are identical, but there is a four-page difference in the pagination of Hume's "Introduction." In the edition of 1888, this Introduction runs from p. [xvii] to p. xxiii. In the revised second edition the Introduction runs from p. [xiii] to p. xix. As a consequence, in the SBN edition the note found near the end of 1.3.12, *Of the probability of causes* (1.3.12.24, SBN 140) refers to pages [xxii, xxiii], pages not found in that edition. However, because the SBN edition has been much more commonly cited for the past three decades, we have used the page numbers of the "Introduction" as found in SBN in the margins of our editions of the *Treatise*.

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The list of textual corrections and revisions that follows is divided between 'accidentals' (such formal features as capitalization, spelling, word division, punctuation, and italicization) and 'substantives' (complete words found in the text). The lists show first the page and line number of the relevant text, then the erroneous printed reading followed by the words (in bold), '**now reads,**' and then conclude with the corrected reading. Explanation of many of the substantive emendations listed here is provided in the article by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton, "Substantive Differences between Two Texts of Hume's *Treatise*," *Hume Studies* 26 (2000), 245-77. These emendations are discussed again in "Editing the Texts of the *Treatise*, *Abstract*, and *Letter from a Gentleman*," in David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, ed. David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton, 2 vols. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 2007), 2: 647-62.

Corrections made to the editorial materials in Part 3 of the OPT *Treatise* are listed separately below, following the lists of textual emendations. We recommend that both kinds of change be entered in the volume you have.

## Textual Emendations of the Text of the *Treatise* and the Impression in Which These Have Been Made

Textual emendations made to the 3<sup>rd</sup> (2001) and all subsequent impressions:<sup>3</sup>

page.line<sup>4</sup>

### Accidentals

- 38.6 *plain* **now reads** *plane*  
50.28 *degrees of any quality* **now reads** *degrees of any quality*  
117.1 *phæomenon* **now reads** *phænomenon*  
117.2 *phæomenon* **now reads** *phænomenon*  
117.40 *phæomenon* **now reads** *phænomenon*  
120.1 *phæomenon* **now reads** *phænomenon*  
210.34 *entitl'd* **now reads** *entitled*  
258.41 *parent's* **now reads** *parents*  
261.24 *gaoler* **now reads** *goaler*  
265.17 *tis* **now reads** *'tis*  
278.20 *stil'd* **now reads** *styl'd*  
311.35 *peopl'd* **now reads** *peopled*  
316.21 *controlling* **now reads** *controuling*  
318.10 *married* **now reads** *marry'd*  
336.15 *with-hold* **now reads** *withhold*  
344.42 *favour* **now reads** *favours*  
350.4 *dependent* **now reads** *dependant*  
350.5 *the artifice* **now reads** *the artifice*  
359.43 *mingl'd* **now reads** *mingled*  
361.24 *settl'd* **now reads** *settled*  
387.26 *entitl'd* **now reads** *entitled*  
389.10 *entitl'd* **now reads** *entitled*  
397.35 *settl'd* **now reads** *settled*

### Substantives

- 166.27 *plants and vegetables* **now reads** *plants and animals*  
275.9 *An East-India* **now reads** *A West-India*

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<sup>3</sup>Emendations intended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> impression were overlooked at the press and appeared only in the 3<sup>rd</sup> impression.

<sup>4</sup>Lines composed entirely of headings are excluded from line counts.

n. 89 (400)<sup>5</sup> p. 171 **now reads** pp. 169-70

Textual emendations to the 5<sup>th</sup> (2002) and all subsequent impressions:

**Accidentals**

322.31 favour **now reads** favours

322.35 favours **now reads** favour<sup>6</sup>

Textual emendations to the 6<sup>th</sup> (2003) and all subsequent impressions

**Substantives**

24.22 parts **now reads** objects<sup>7</sup>

Textual emendations to the 9<sup>th</sup> (2005) and all subsequent impressions:

**Accidentals**

n. 12.16 (46-7) tangible: **now reads** tangible,

87.44 and **now reads** *and*

n. 50.4 (166) *Moralist, a* **now reads** *Moralists:* or

244.16 *Guicciardini* **now reads** *Guicciardin*

321.37 nothing **now reads** nothing,

n. 77.16 (332) relation **now reads** relation,

**Substantives**

23.20 quantity **now reads** quality

134.7 identity **now reads** unity

260.38 takes **now reads** makes

Textual emendations to the 11<sup>th</sup> (2006) and all subsequent impressions:

**Accidentals**

74.16 *sçai* **now reads** *scai*

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<sup>5</sup>Each note number is followed by the number of the page, in parentheses, on which the note is found.

<sup>6</sup>The 4<sup>th</sup> impression made an erroneous alteration at 322.35, changing ‘favour’ to ‘favours’ when the intent was to make this change at 322.31. The 5<sup>th</sup> impression corrected this mistake.

<sup>7</sup>Impressions 1-5 emend the text to read ‘parts’, as called for by the Errata to vol. 1 of the first edition. Subsequent impressions emend the text to read ‘objects, as called for by Hume’s manuscript emendations in the copies he presented to Henry Home (later Lord Kames) and Alexander Pope.

## Textual Emendations of the Text of the *Abstract* and the Impression in Which These Have Been Made

Textual emendations to the 9<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent impressions of the *Abstract*:

### Accidentals

- [403.2] PUBLISHED, **now reads** PUBLISHED;  
[403.3] ENTITLED, **now reads** ENTITULED,  
[403.4] &c. **now reads** &c.  
405.8 *linked* **now reads** *linkt*  
407.ti. entitled, **now reads** entitled,  
407.8 shown **now reads** shewn  
408.8 *The* **now reads** the  
408.36 whoever **now reads** who-ever  
408.45 cou'd **now reads** could  
409.3 furnish'd **now reads** furnished  
409.9 asks, *From* **now reads** asks *from*  
409.36 motion: And **now reads** motion: and  
409.45 life: On **now reads** life: on  
410.1 history: And **now reads** history: and  
410.12 another: Whatever **now reads** another: whatever  
410.13 sense: But **now reads** sense: but  
411.4 conclusion: And **now reads** conclusion: and  
411.7 qualities: And **now reads** qualities: and  
413.15 dispatched **now reads** dispatcht  
413.38 whoever **now reads** who-ever  
413.40 whoever **now reads** who-ever  
415.24 integrity: From **now reads** integrity: from  
415.25 fencing: From **now reads** fencing: from  
415.35 acknowledg'd **now reads** acknowledged  
415.37 liberty . . . . Whatever **now reads** liberty.” - - - - “Whatever  
415.38 acknowledg'd **now reads** acknowledged  
415.43 observ'd **now reads** observed  
416.4 determin'd **now reads** determined  
416.19 bodies: And **now reads** bodies: and  
416.27 show **now reads** shew  
416.38 discourse: Hence **now reads** discourse: hence  
416.42 St. Denis **now reads** St. Dennis

## Substantives

408.9 *concerning* **now reads** *on*

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### Corrections of Editorial Materials and the impression in which these have been made

Corrections of editorial materials in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and all subsequent impressions:

434.42 *Search* 3.2.1; **now reads** *Search* 2.3.1.4;

435.12 *Essay* 2.13.9). **now reads** *Essay* 2.15.9).

458.1 (*Pensées* 821). **now reads** (*Pensées* 432).

460.41 (*Pensées* 432). **now reads** (*Pensées* 821).

Corrections of editorial materials in the 4<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent impressions:

455.7 **spirits]** probably . . . . Hume here accepts the common view that the objects we experience affect the level of our spirits. **now reads** perhaps . . . or an allusion to animal spirits as explained by e.g. Descartes or Malebranche; see *Principles of Philosophy* 4.190 or *Search* 5.3 [347-8].

465.7 cause it **now reads** as to cause it

467.7 *Doctrine of the Passions* 4 [284], **now reads** *Philosophical Essays* 12.4,

477.9 *Clavis Universalis* 1.5; 2.1. **now reads** *Clavis Universalis* 1.1.1-2 [24, 30].

477.16 370-418]), **now reads** 443-55]),

481.12 *Principles* 9–15; **now reads** *Principles* 1.9–15;

482.24 *Three Dialogues* 1 [2:206]. **now reads** *Three Dialogues* 1 [2:205-6].

487.13 *Characteristics* [esp. 2:95–103] **now reads** *Characteristics* [esp. 2:99–106]

487.33 *Alciphron* [3:298]; **now reads** *Alciphron* 7.8;

496.37 *Philosophy* 4.189, 196). **now reads** *Philosophy* 2.2; 4.189, 196).

530.8 *Paradise Lost* 2.1021-33. **now reads** *Paradise Lost* 2.70-7.

599b.37 33, 48-9, **now reads** 26, 33, 48-9,

604a.15 I95, 431, **now reads** I95, 259, 431,<sup>8</sup>

604b.45 7-8, 16, **now reads** 7-8, 12, 16,

608b.16 I70, 408, **now reads** I70, 106, 408,

617b.54 of acts of mind . . . 45, 135 **now reads** (at 618a.2) of acts, dispositions . . . 45, 135, 145, 166-7

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<sup>8</sup>The letters “a” and “b” indicate, respectively, columns 1 and 2 of the index.

Corrections of editorial materials in the 5<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent impressions:

142.32 (1.2.4.56-7). **now reads** (1.4.2.56-7).

453.43 Apps. **now reads** App.

494.24 2.3.6. **now reads** 2.3.5.

546.42 4.5.5-8. **now reads** 4.7.11-12.

546.46 2.3.8-9; **now reads** 2.3.16-17;

547.39 2.6.2; **now reads** 2.6.1-2;

549.37-9 **The explanation of perfect and imperfect dominion now reads:** Perfect dominion was the exclusive right to something. Dominion was rendered imperfect by e.g. servitude or mortgage, for then some aspect of the right of ownership had to be shared with someone else.

552.38 7.9.6 n.1). **now reads** 7.8.6 n.1).

553.31 1661 **now reads** 1638

556.37 2.5.11 **now reads** 2.1.7

565.42 1.4.6.17ff. **now reads** 1.4.6.16ff.

593.4 5<sup>th</sup> **now reads** 4<sup>th</sup>

622.38 **add** Zeno of Citium 478

Additions to the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> impressions

The impressions mentioned (6 through 10) included, pp. 623-33, “A Guide to Parallel Paragraph and Page References in Oxford University Press Editions of Hume’s *Treatise* and *Abstract*.” The guide enabled readers to locate in the OPT edition of the *Treatise* book, part, section, and paragraph numbers (the universal references) that correspond to the page numbers of the widely cited edition of this work as edited by Selby-Bigge and first published in 1888, and revised by P. H. Nidditch in 1978. This Guide was discontinued after the 10<sup>th</sup> impression because, as noted above, the 11<sup>th</sup> and all subsequent impressions have in the right-hand margins the page numbers of SB and SBN editions.

As we have indicated above, no further corrections to the editorial materials have been made in the 12<sup>th</sup> or subsequent impressions, but the following changes are due to be made:

The epigram on the title page of Book 3 that now reads

—*Durae semper virtutis amator,*

*Quare quid est virtus,*

*et posce exemplar honesti.* LUCAN

should be, because it is an excerpt of poetry, set in this form

———*Duræ semper virtutis amator,*  
*Quære quid est virtus, et posce exemplar honesti.*

LUCAN

as it is in the Clarendon Edition of the *Treatise*. In addition, from the first OPT impression of 2000 through August 2008 this excerpt from Lucan has been translated: “A lover of austere virtue, you should at least ask now what Virtue is and demand to see Goodness in her visible shape” (see p. 533 of the OPT *Treatise*). This translation is taken from the Loeb library edition of Lucan, *Civil Wars* (ibid, pp. 585, 591), but the text of that edition reads “*Duræ saltem virtutis amator . . .*” (the word *saltem* means *at least*) instead of “*Duræ semper virtutis amator . . .*” (the word ‘semper’ means ‘always’), the form of the text quoted by Hume. Consequently, the translation is erroneous. We would have come closer to the sense of Hume’s quotation if we had said: “Constant lover of austere virtue, you should ask now what Virtue is, and demand to see Goodness in her visible shape.” In due course the OPT edition will use the translation provided for the Clarendon Edition of the *Treatise* by Prof. Michael Silverthorne: “*Constant lover of austere virtue, inquire what virtue is, and ask to be shown an example of a good man.*”

David Fate Norton

Mary J. Norton

31 August 2008