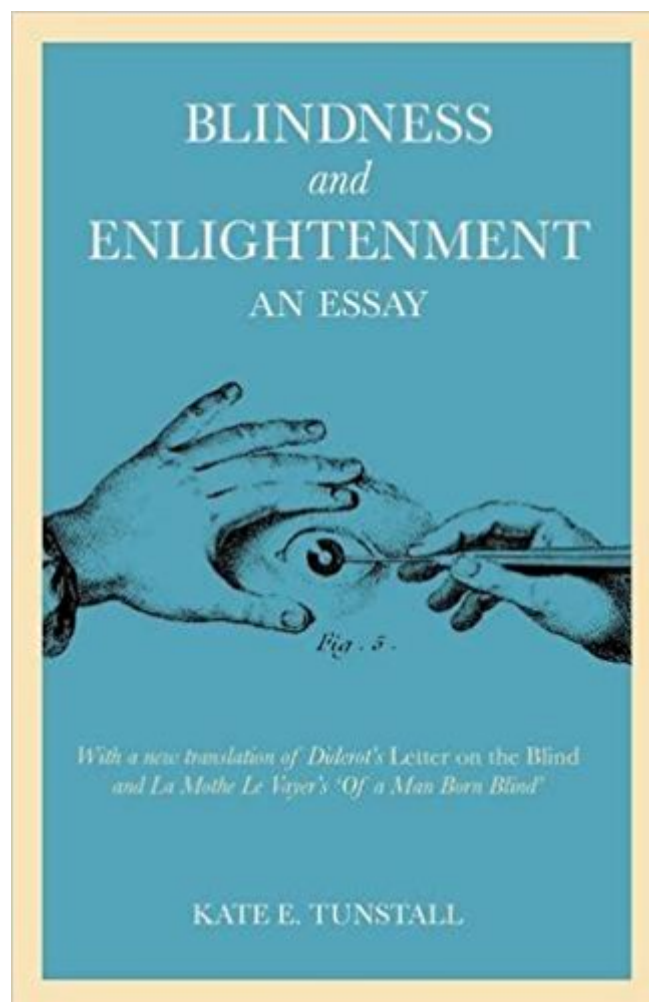


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Blindness And Enlightenment: An Essay: With A New Translation Of Diderot's 'Letter On The Blind' And La Mothe Le Vayer's 'Of A Man Born Blind'





Synopsis

Blindness and Enlightenment presents a reading and a new translation of Diderot's Letter on the Blind. Diderot was the editor of the Encyclopédie, that Trojan horse of Enlightenment ideas, as well as a novelist, playwright, art critic and philosopher. His Letter on the Blind of 1749 is essential reading for anyone interested in Enlightenment philosophy or eighteenth-century literature because it contradicts a central assumption of Western literature and philosophy, and of the Enlightenment in particular, namely that moral and philosophical insight is dependent on seeing. Kate Tunstall's essay guides the reader through the Letter, its anecdotes, ideas and its conversational mode of presenting them, and it situates the Letter in relation both to the Encyclopédie and to a rich tradition of writing about and, most importantly, talking and listening to the blind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although this book's audience has likely been a largely academic one so far, it deserves to be more widely read. Tunstall's opening essay, which takes up most of the book, is thought-provoking, insightful, entertaining, and entirely readable. Her translations are lucid and nuanced, and readers familiar with the original works will enjoy seeing them placed within the text here rather than in lengthy endnotes or appendices. Those interested in philosophy, creative writing, literature, or history will find Tunstall's work well worth their time.

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