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Sommario/riassunto

This volume is the first of a complete critical edition of the letters of Claude-Adrien Helvetius (1715-71) and his wife, nee Anne Catherine de Liginville (1722-1800). Though rank and wealth, Helvetius was acquainted with the leading political and social figures of his time, and, through family, with court and government which he occasionally served in a diplomatic capacity. Philosopher and author of the explosive *De l'esprit*, Helvetius corresponded with the great and the influential throughout Europe. His letters, and those of Mme Helvetius, provide insights into, and new information about, their lives and the political, social, and intellectual history of the eighteenth century. Volume I contains almost 250 letters written by or to Helvetius or his wife. Of these, the largest collections are those from Helvetius to Mme Helvetius, made available by his descendants, and letters from the future Mmem Helvetius to her aunt, Mme de Graffigny, which are at Yale University. Letters to or from third parties are also included. Much of this correspondence has never before been published.
