Index to the Works of Adam Smith
THE GLASGOW EDITION OF THE WORKS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF ADAM SMITH

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Edited by D. D. Raphael and A. L. Macfie

AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS
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Index to the Works of ADAM SMITH

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Introduction

In writing his introduction to the Lectures on Jurisprudence, Edwin Cannan recorded the extraordinary way in which the manuscript of these notes had been discovered:

On April 21, Mr. Charles C. Maconochie, whom I then met for the first time, happened to be present when, in course of conversation with the literary editor of the Oxford Magazine, I had occasion to make some comment about Adam Smith. Mr. Maconochie immediately said that he possessed a manuscript report of Adam Smith’s lectures on jurisprudence, which he regarded as of considerable interest. (Cannan, 1896, p. xv.)

Cannan’s reaction may be imagined.

More than sixty years later, John Lothian accidentally discovered, at an auction held in Aberdeen, two sets of lecture notes as delivered by Smith. The first set were notes of the lectures on jurisprudence given by Smith in the session 1762–63, that is in the session preceding the version edited by Cannan. Lothian observed:

The second set of manuscripts, in two volumes, similarly bound but with leather tips to protect the corners, carried on the spine of each volume in neat handwriting the inscription, ‘Notes of Dr. Smith’s Rhetoric Lectures’. These manuscripts proved to be an almost complete set of a student’s notes on part of Smith’s course on Moral Philosophy given in 1762–63. (Lothian, 1963, p. xii.)

The Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres were edited by Lothian in 1963. Both sets were subsequently purchased by the University of Glasgow and were to become key elements in the decision to proceed with editions of these works and the other volumes. The edition was formally embarked upon in the early 1960s and completed twenty years later with the publication of John Bryce’s edition of the Rhetoric.

The completion of the edition was secured financially when the Liberty Fund undertook a paperback version of the entire work. This decision effectively provided access for a very wide audience.

Wider access to the series prompted the belief that it would be appropriate to produce a general index to the Works as a whole. As I recall, I offered this suggestion to the Liberty Fund some fifteen years ago. The Fund agreed both to support the project and to the suggestion that the indexes should include Knud Haakonssen. While we have joint responsibility for the outcome, Knud Haakonssen’s main task was with Smith’s ethical and jurisprudential material, while I mostly took care of the remaining areas and the task of co-ordinating the volume as a whole.
In this context we would wish to acknowledge a debt to Professor Drummond Bone, formerly of the Department of English Literature in the University of Glasgow, and now Vice-Chancellor of Royal Holloway, University of London. Professor Bone identified a colleague, Dr. Peter Cochrane, who was to give us invaluable advice with regard to the indexes to the *Rhetoric*, and to those other literary works which were first published in the *Essays on Philosophical Subjects*.

We began the work using traditional and manual techniques, before being introduced to the advantages of modern computer technology. In Glasgow University this development was the result of advice received from Professor Richard Trainor, now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich, who in turn introduced us to Dr. Thomas Munck, head of the Computing Unit in the Faculty of Arts. We are indebted to Dr. Munck and to his team who helped check the texts for keywords to be used in the index.

While we have not sought to produce a *concordance*, nonetheless the flow of information generated by responses from the Computing Unit was so great as to become almost unmanageable. We were forced to the conclusion, for example, that the fact that Smith mentioned the term ‘capital’ on 702 occasions in the *Wealth of Nations* might not of itself be very helpful. Accordingly, we have sought a compromise which, we hope, will give the indexes as a whole greater descriptive power.

This index is to Smith’s *Works* and does not include the *Correspondence*, although there are cross-references to this material. Each index is separate on the ground that the works involved are very different in terms of focus. Each includes an index of subjects and of persons. For the sake of convenience, the indexes include the lists of statutes prepared by the editors of the *Lectures on Jurisprudence* and of the *Wealth of Nations* where the main contributors were P. G. Stein (LJ) and R. H. Campbell (WN). We have included the original manuscript index to the *Lectures on Jurisprudence* as in the Glasgow edition, on the ground that this is a document of importance in its own right. The volume also contains a copy of the index which was added to the third edition of the *Wealth of Nations*. The index may have been added as a result of criticism from Hugh Blair (*Correspondence*, letter 151) and from William Robertson who noted that:

As your Book must necessarily become a Political or Commercial Code to all Europe, which must be often consulted both by men of Practice and Speculation, I should wish that in the 2d Edition you would give a copious index. (*Correspondence*, letter 153.)

The first index is reprinted following the original, but with cross-references to the present version.

Whoever the author of the original index may have been, it is a remarkable document, notable for its sensitivity to many of Smith’s major themes. Interestingly, the same quality is evident in the index to Sir James Steuart’s
Introduction

Principles of Political Economy, which had been issued by the same publishers, Strachan and Cadell, in 1767.

We owe debts to our respective institutions, to the readers appointed by the Liberty Fund, and to colleagues in Great Britain who include Tony Brewer (Bristol), Vivienne Brown (Open University), and Donald Winch (Sussex). We are also indebted to numerous scholars who have bombarded us with random questions. The ‘nicest’ of these came in a telephone call from the United States where my interlocutor was in urgent need of a reference to ‘pots and pans, augmentation of’ (Wealth of Nations, pp. 439–40)!

It is hoped that the indexes will be useful, supplementing those that already exist, and that their usefulness will be further enhanced by another technical advance. An electronic version of the Works will be made available on the Liberty Fund’s Library of Economics and Liberty website, with free access. There will be a separate electronic version published by Oxford University Press. Both will include copies of these indexes. The opportunities opened up by these initiatives are surely considerable.

We have reason to be grateful to the Principal of Glasgow University, Sir Graeme Davies, who readily agreed to these proposals on behalf of the University Court.

The technical costs involved were met by the Liberty Fund. The cost of preparing the numerous editions through which the final version has passed were borne by the Department of Economics in Glasgow. The texts were prepared by Christina MacSwan, who was involved with the Smith project from its beginnings, and completed by Lavina MacMillan. We are indebted to both for their efficiency and, above all, patience.

Andrew Stewart Skinner
Glasgow University
February 2001

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