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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# Robert Boyle (1627-1691)

(British natural philosopher, 14th child of the Earl of Cork; st. Eton and with private tutors. Joined the group of Wilkins, Warden, Wadham, Wren, Ward, Petty and Hooke, founding member of Royal Society 1660; experimental scientist, promoted New England evangelization, a director of East India Company)

**Works**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *New Experiments Physico-Mechanical on the Spring of the Air and Its Effects.* 1660.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Some Consideration Touching the Style of the Holy Scriptures.* 1663.

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**Biography**

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**Criticism**

Alexander, Peter. *Ideas, Qualities and Corpuscles: Locke and Boyle on the External World.* 1985.

Boas, Marie. *Robert Boyle and Seventeenth-Century Chemistry.* Cambridge, 1958.

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Gotti, M. *Robert Boyle and the Language of Science*. Milano: Guerini Scientifica, 1996.

Gould, Stephen Jay. "Sobre la transmutación de la ley de Boyle en la revolución darwiniana." In *Evolución: Sociedad, ciencia y universo.* Ed. Andrew C. Fabian. Barcelona: Tusquets, 2001. 15-50.\*

Markley, Robert. *Fallen Languages: Crisis of Representation in Newtonian England, 1660 -1740.* Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1993. (Boyle, Wilkins, Peter Shaw and Newton; prose style, historicising scientific discourse)

Pighetti, C. *Boyle.* Milan: Edizioni Accademia, 1968.

Shapin, Steven. "Who Was Robert Boyle? The Creation and Presentation of an Experimental Identity." Ch. 4 of Shapin, *Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth-Century England.* Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1994. 126-92.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. "Certainty and Civility: Mathematics and Boyle's Experimental Conversation." Ch. 7 of Shapin, *Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth-Century England.* Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1994. 310-54.\*

Shapin, Steven, and Simon Schaffer. *Leviathan and the Air Pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the Experimental Life.* Princeton: Princeton UP, 1985.

Music

Händel, G. F. *Theodora.* Oratorio. Text by Thomas Morell, based on Robert Boyle's novella "The Martyrdom of Theodora and of Didymus." 1749. First performed 16 March 1750.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Theodora.* Roberta Alexander, Jochen Kowalski, Jard van Nes, Hans Peter Blochwitz, Anton Scharinger, Alois Glaßner. Arnold Schoenberg Chor (Erwin Ortner). Herbert Tachezi, harpsichord and organ. Concentus Musicus WSien / Nikolaus Harnoncourt. 2 CDs. (Das alte Werk). Germany: Teldec, 1991.\* (Notes by Nele Anders and libretto in English, French and German).

Related works

Swift, Jonathan. "A Meditation upon a Broom-stick: According to the Style and Manner of the Honourable Robert Boyle's Meditations." 1703. In *The Writings of Jonathan Swift.* Ed. Robert A. Greenberg and William Bowman Piper. (Norton Critical Edition). New York: Norton, 1973. 421-22.\*

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