

# Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. The <i>Lettres persanes</i> as a Work of Fiction	9
(i) <i>Fictional and philosophical elements</i>	9
(ii) <i>The letter form</i>	11
(iii) <i>The characters</i>	17
(iv) <i>The oriental background</i>	22
(v) <i>The language</i>	26
3. The <i>Lettres persanes</i> as Social Satire	31
4. Philosophical Elements in the <i>Lettres persanes</i>	38
(i) <i>Montesquieu's philosophical principles</i>	38
(ii) <i>Institutions: religion</i>	45
(iii) <i>Institutions: politics</i>	50
5. Conclusion	60
Suggestions for Further Reading	62