

Ninon de Lenclos - Preliminary Thread

Post by "Cassius" of December 17, 2018 at 6:26 PM

It may be we will need to create a separate subforum for her, but let's start here. This thread originated [here](#).

Some links:

[Internet Encyclopedia of History Entry](#)

[Link to Her Letters](#)

[Internet Encyclopedia of History Entry](#): a. Theory of Love: The sentiment of love is predominantly an instinct. It is a passion which owes little to reason. "The precise truth is that love is just a blind instinct which one must personally experience in order to appreciate it. It is an appetite which one has for one object in preference to another. One is not able to provide reasons for why one has this particular taste (LMDS no. 2)." The instinctual and emotive nature of love precludes rational justification for its emergence and development.

Also: For Lenclos, the activity of love is the clearest human manifestation of the fundamental inclination to maximize pleasure and to minimize pain. Rather than the virtues, it is the passions which dominate the human will in its moral choices. Natural inclination determines psychological interaction as surely as it does the physical interaction of bodies. In exploring the romantic pursuit of pleasure, Lenclos argues for the fundamental equality and reciprocity between the genders.