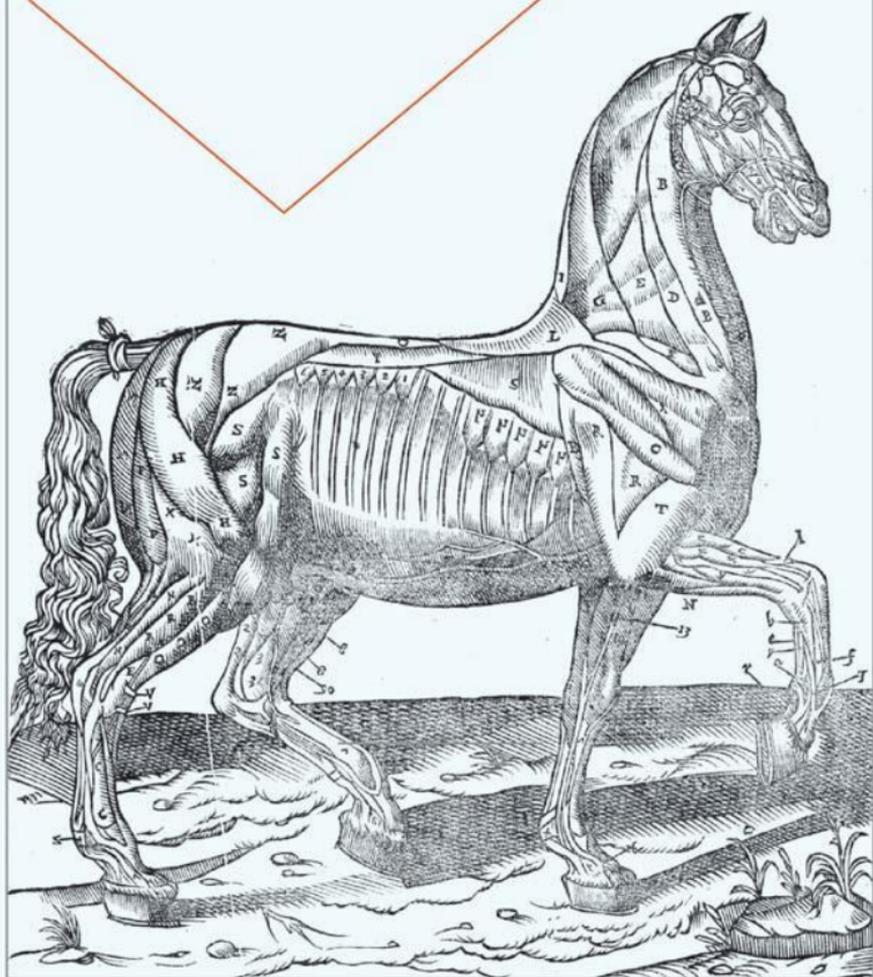


DIVINE MACHINES

Leibniz and the Sciences of Life

JUSTIN E.H. SMITH



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LEIBNIZ AND THE
SCIENCES OF LIFE

Justin E. H. Smith

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Every realm of nature is marvelous: and as Heraclitus, when the strangers who came to visit him found him warming himself at the furnace in the kitchen and hesitated to go in, is reported to have bidden them not to be afraid to enter, as even in that kitchen divinities were present, so we should venture on the study of every kind of animal without distaste; for each and all will reveal something natural and something beautiful.

—Aristotle, *On the Parts of Animals* I 5, 17–23

Let us free ourselves from the deception of the senses, from becoming, from history, from lies... And above all, away with the body, this wretched *idée fixe* of the senses, disfigured by all the fallacies of logic, refuted, even impossible, although it is impudent enough to behave as if it were real!

—Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*,
“Reason in Philosophy,” § 1

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ABBREVIATIONS

Editions of Leibniz are abbreviated as follows:

- A *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz: Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe*, ed. Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin, Darmstadt, and Leipzig: 1923–present).
- AG *G. W. Leibniz: Philosophical Essays*, trans. and ed. Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989).
- Barrande *Leibniz: Protogaea: De l'aspect primitif de la terre*, ed. Jean-Marie Barrande, trans. Bertrand de Saint Germain (Toulouse: Presses Universitaires du Mirail, 1993).
- Bodemann *Die Leibniz-Handschriften*, ed. E. Bodemann (Hanover and Leipzig, 1895).
- Couturat *Opuscles et fragments inédits de Leibniz*, ed. Louis Couturat (Paris, 1903).
- Dutens *Gothofredi Guilelmi Leibnitii Opera Omnia*, 6 vols. ed. Louis Dutens (Geneva: De Tournes, 1768; repr. Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 1989).
- FdC *Oeuvres de Leibniz*, 7 vols. 2nd ed., ed. A. Foucher de Careil (Paris, 1875).
- G *Die philosophischen Schriften von G. W. Leibniz*, ed. C. I. Gerhardt. 7 vols. (Berlin, 1875–90).
- GM *Die mathematischen Schriften von G. W. Leibniz*, 7 vols. ed. C. I. Gerhardt (Berlin, 1849–63).
- Ger'e *Sbornik "pistem" i memorialov" Leibnitsa otnosyashchikhsya k Rossii i Petru Velikomu*, ed. V. I. Ger'e (Guerrier) (Saint Petersburg, 1873).
- Gerland *Nachgelassene Schriften physikalischen, mechanischen und technischen Inhalts*, ed. Ernst Gerland (repr. Hildesheim: Olms, 1995).
- Grotefend *Leibniz: Album aus den Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Hannover*, ed. C. L. Grotefend (Hanover, 1846).
- Grua *Leibniz: Textes inédits*, ed. Gaston Grua (Paris: 1948).
- Guhrauer *Leibniz's Deutsche Schriften*, ed. G. E. Guhrauer (Berlin, 1838).
- Klopp *Die Werke von Leibniz. Erste Reihe: Historisch-politische und staatswissenschaftliche Schriften*, 11 vols., ed. Onno Klopp (Hanover, 1864–84).