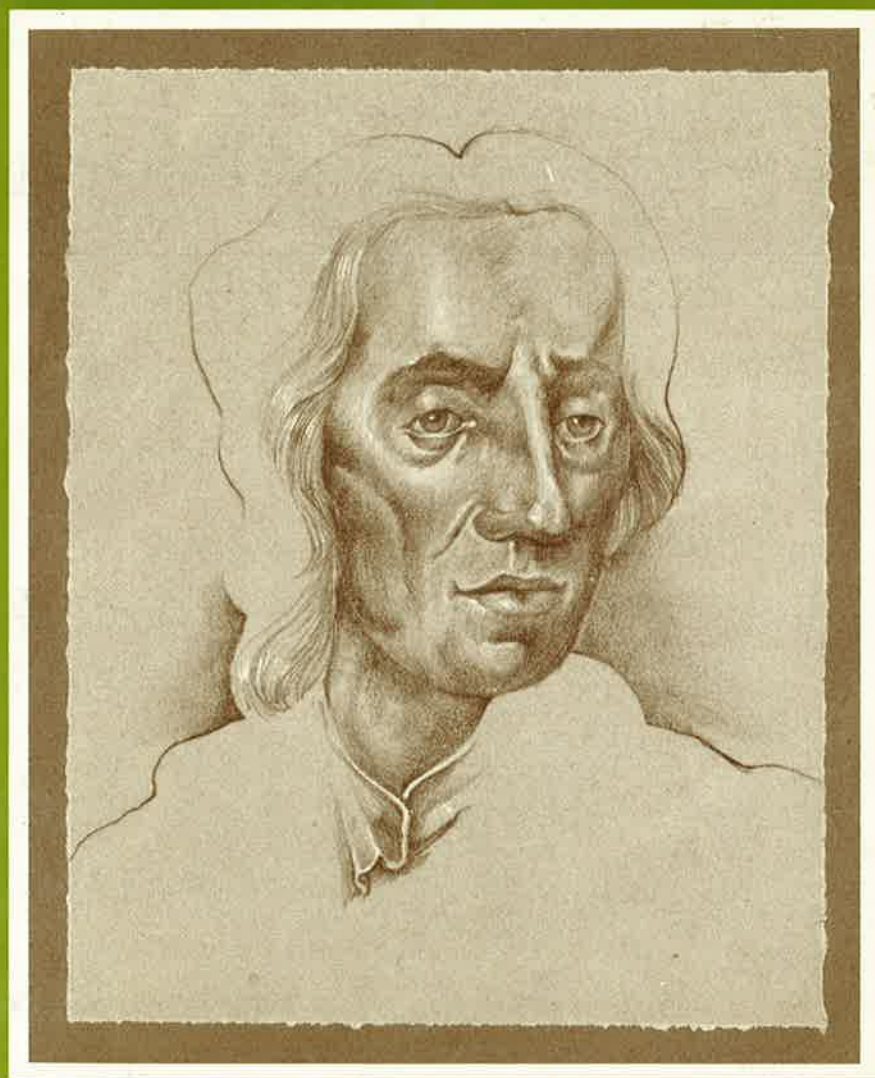


JOHN LOCKE
Economist and Social Scientist



Karen Iversen Vaughn



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Economist and Social Scientist

Karen Iversen Vaughn

John Locke: Economist and Social Scientist is a comprehensive treatment of Locke's economic thought and its relationship to his political and social philosophy, a subject that until now has been neglected by Locke scholars.

The first half of the book is devoted to a detailed analysis of Locke's economic ideas. Vaughn examines Locke's theories of value, money, interest, rent, and international trade. She argues that because of the systematic and objective nature of Locke's analysis, he must be regarded as a scientific economist.

The second half deals with the interrelation between Locke's economic thought and his political thought. In essence, he believed that the role of government should be limited to protecting a fundamentally benign economic order. This view, Vaughn shows, was based on his belief both that the economy functioned according to laws of nature that the government was powerless to counteract, and that the property distribution resulting from the functioning of these laws was essentially just. Vaughn concludes that Locke did more than simply assert the existence of economic laws. He also attributed their functioning to the actions of individuals intent on pursuing their own self-interest, and hence she sees in him a forerunner of Adam Smith as a formulator of economics as a social science.

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KAREN IVERSEN VAUGHN is associate professor
of economics at George Mason University.

To my first teacher, Josef Soudek,
with gratitude and affection.

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