PART THREE

SKEPTICISM AND POLITICS
In an article published in 1953 in the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Richard Popkin argues that if Samuel Sorbière had completed the unfinished French translation of Sextus’s *Hypotyposes*, it would in all probability have made an important contribution to improving knowledge of skepticism in XVIIth-century France.1

In fact, although the Latin translation by Henry Estienne was published in Paris in 1562,2 we have to wait until 1725 for a complete French translation of the *Hypotyposes*—an anonymous one (by the Geneva mathematician Claude Huart)—to see the light of day under the title *Les Hipotiposes ou Institutions Pirroniennes de Sextus Empiricus*.3 Before this date all that was available in French was a summary of the *Institutions pyrrhonienennes* in *La Verité des sciences contre les Sceptiques ou Pyrrhonien* by Mersenne (Paris, 1625). In chapters xi–xv of the first book, the ‘Minim’ presented a summary of Sextus’s first book and of

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