Lawrence D’Antonio* (ldant@ramapo.edu). The Role of Mathematics in the Encyclopédie. Preliminary report.

One of the greatest intellectual achievements of the 18th century was the Encyclopédie edited by Denis Diderot and Jean d’Alembert. The work, comprising 28 volumes with over 70,000 articles written by more than 130 contributors, attempted to give a systematic overview of human knowledge at that time. In this talk we will give an overview of the writing of the Encyclopédie and its place in the Enlightenment. We will focus on the more than one thousand mathematical articles in the Encyclopédie, many of which were written by d’Alembert. Specifically, we will consider the question of the role played by mathematics in the structure and goals of the Encyclopédie. (Received January 18, 2015)