Henry James and the Philosophical Novel breaks fresh ground by examining James's unique position as a philosophical novelist, closely associated with the climate of ideas generated by his brother, William, and his father, the elder Henry. The book offers a detailed consideration of story-telling as a mode of philosophical enquiry, showing how a range of distinguished thinkers have relied on fictional narrative as a vital technique for formulating and clarifying their ideas. At the same time, it investigates (with close reference to his novels) the affiliations between James's practice as a novelist and the epistemological, moral and linguistic concerns pursued by members of the Phenomenological Movement. The study brings to light striking similarities between James's later works and the philosophical project of Merleau-Ponty; it emphasizes James's growing attraction to, and versatility with, deconstructive strategies such as those later employed by Jacques Derrida.
HENRY JAMES AND THE PHILOSOPHICAL NOVEL
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Being and seeing

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For my mother and my father
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Acknowledgements

In developing this project, I owe a special debt of gratitude to Professor Kenneth Graham, who supervised the research upon which it is based; over a protracted period, he proved the shrewdest, most sympathetic and most creatively critical of advisers. For their generosity with their time and their penetrating appraisals, I should also like to thank Professor Jacques Berthoud, Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank and R. T. Jones. Both Meirlys Lewis and Fidéla Fouché have helped patiently and resourcefully to clarify many of my philosophical perplexities. In addition, Eve Horwitz provided invaluable editorial guidance at a crucial stage in this investigation. Last but not least, I appreciate the encouragement and perceptive comment which my husband, Michael, has invariably been ready to offer. In recognition of their kindness and efficiency in typing this manuscript, I owe many thanks to Beverly Pollinger, and to Caroline and Marina Hazell.

For financial support at various stages of my work, I am grateful to: the University of Natal in Durban for the award of an Emma Smith Overseas Scholarship; Bedford College, University of London, for appointing me to a Caroline Spurgeon Research Fellowship in English Literature; and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for granting me a Council Research Fellowship for the Human and Social Sciences.


Unless otherwise stated, all references in this study are to the 26-volume New York edition of Henry James’s works: The Novels and Tales of Henry James (New York: Scribner’s, 1907–17; reprinted and reissued 1963–79). Wherever possible, references are included in a suitably abridged form in the body of the commentary.