KANT’S CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON

In this new introduction to Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, Jill Vance Buroker explains the role of this first *Critique* in Kant’s critical project and offers a line-by-line reading of the major arguments in the text. She situates Kant’s views in relation both to his predecessors and to contemporary debates, and she explains his critical philosophy as a response to the failure of rationalism and the challenge of skepticism. Paying special attention to Kant’s notoriously difficult vocabulary, she explains the strengths and weaknesses of his arguments, while leaving the final assessment up to the reader. Intended to be read alongside the *Critique*, this guide is accessible to readers with little background in the history of philosophy, but should also be a valuable resource for more advanced students.

JILL VANCE BUROKER is Professor of Philosophy at California State University. Her publications include *Antoine Arnauld and Pierre Nicole: Logic or the Art of Thinking* (1996).
This new series offers introductory textbooks on what are considered to be the most important texts of Western philosophy. Each book guides the reader through the main themes and arguments of the work in question, while also paying attention to its historical context and its philosophical legacy. No philosophical background knowledge is assumed, and the books will be well suited to introductory university-level courses.

Titles published in the series:

- **Descartes’s Meditations** by Catherine Wilson
- **Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations** by David G. Stern
- **Wittgenstein’s Tractatus** by Alfred Nordmann
- **Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics** by Michael Pakaluk
- **Spinoza’s Ethics** by Steven Nadler
- **Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason** by Jill Vance Buroker
For Sophie
Contents

Acknowledgments viii
List of abbreviations ix

1 Introduction to the critical project 1
2 The Prefaces and the Introduction 14
3 The Transcendental Aesthetic 36
4 The Metaphysical Deduction: identifying categories 73
5 The Transcendental Deduction of the categories 103
6 The Schematism and the Analytic of Principles I 136
7 The Analytic of Principles II 163
8 Transcendental illusion I: rational psychology 201
9 Transcendental illusion II: rational cosmology 226
10 Transcendental illusion III: rational theology 264
11 Reason and the critical philosophy 284
   Conclusion: Kant’s transcendental idealism 305

Works cited 310
Index 317
Acknowledgments

I am grateful to California State University, San Bernardino, for sabbatical and research support while I was writing this book. I also thank my colleague, Tony Roy, for helpful conversations, and students who allowed themselves to be test subjects for various chapters. My interpretation of Kant has been most heavily influenced by Henry Allison, Gordon Brittan, Jr., Lorne Falkenstein, Michael Friedman, Michelle Grier, and Arthur Melnick. Gordon Brittan and Lorne Falkenstein both made valuable comments on early drafts. I am indebted to Hilary Gaskin of Cambridge University Press, and three readers for the press, William Baumer, Fred Rauscher, and Lisa Shabel, for their sympathetic criticisms and suggestions. I was especially fortunate to have Angela Blackburn as my copy-editor. Finally, I want to thank Ed McCann for his encouragement.
**Abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPR</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Critique of Pure Reason</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFNS</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NST</td>
<td>non-spatial and non-temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(non-spatiotemporality thesis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>Principle of Determinability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolegomena</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTD</td>
<td>Principle of Thoroughgoing Determinability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t.u.a.</td>
<td>transcendental unity of apperception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT</td>
<td>unknowability thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>