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OAKESHOTT

Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and non-specialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Michael Oakeshott (1901–1990) was one of the leading British philosophers of the twentieth century. He has been influential particularly as a political philosopher but his work reflects philosophical interests that have only gradually come to be appreciated. In this volume a broad group of scholars offers a comprehensive overview of Oakeshott's philosophy, including his moral and political philosophy, his philosophy of history, science and aesthetics, and his views on the role of education. They analyse Oakeshott's ideas in different intellectual contexts and assess his overall contribution to twentieth-century thought. Accessible and rich with new scholarly material, this volume will be an excellent guide for students and scholars alike.

New readers will find this the most convenient, accessible guide to Oakeshott currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Oakeshott.

EFRAIM PODOKSIK is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is author of *In Defence of Modernity: Vision and Philosophy in Michael Oakeshott* (2003).

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TERRY NARDIN is Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore. He is the author of *The Philosophy of Michael Oakeshott* (2001) and editor, with Luke O'Sullivan, of Oakeshott's *Lectures in the History of Political Thought* (2006). He is also the author of *Law, Morality, and the Relations of States* (1983) and other writings on the political theory of international relations.

LUKE O'SULLIVAN is Associate Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore. He is the author of *Oakeshott on History* (2003) and general editor of *Michael Oakeshott's Selected Writings* (2004 to present).

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Oakeshott include *In Defence of Modernity: Vision and Philosophy in Michael Oakeshott* (2003).

STEVEN B. SMITH is the Alfred Cowles Professor of Political Science and formerly Master of Branford College, Yale University. His books include *Spinoza, Liberalism, and the Question of Jewish Identity* (1997), *Reading Leo Strauss: Philosophy, Politics, Judaism* (2006), and he is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Leo Strauss* (2009). His book *Political Philosophy from Athens to America* will be published in 2012.

IAN TREGENZA teaches political theory in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University, Sydney. He is the author of *Michael Oakeshott on Hobbes: A Study in the Renewal of Philosophical Ideas* (2003).

DANA VILLA is Packey Dee Professor of Political Theory at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Arendt and Heidegger: The Fate of the Political* (1995); *Politics, Philosophy, Terror* (1999); *Socratic Citizenship* (2001); and *Public Freedom* (2008). He also edited *The Cambridge Companion to Hannah Arendt* (2000).

KEVIN WILLIAMS is Senior Lecturer in the Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin City University, and former President of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland. His books include *Education and the Voice of Michael Oakeshott* (2007) and *Faith and the Nation: Religion, Culture and Schooling in Ireland* (2005).

ABBREVIATIONS

- CPJ* Michael Oakeshott, *The Concept of a Philosophical Jurisprudence: Essays and Reviews 1926–51* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2007)
- EM* Michael Oakeshott, *Experience and its Modes* (Cambridge: University Press, 1933)
- EPW* Michael Oakeshott, *Early Political Writings 1925–30* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2010)
- HC* Michael Oakeshott, *On Human Conduct* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975)
- HCA* Michael Oakeshott, *Hobbes on Civil Association* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1975)
- LHPT* Michael Oakeshott, *Lectures in the History of Political Thought* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2006)
- NL* Michael Oakeshott, *Notebooks and Letters 1922–90* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, forthcoming)
- MPME* Michael Oakeshott, *Morality and Politics in Modern Europe: The Harvard Lectures* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993)
- OH* Michael Oakeshott, *On History and Other Essays* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1983)
- PFPS* Michael Oakeshott, *The Politics of Faith and the Politics of Scepticism* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1996)
- RP* Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays* (London: Methuen, 1962)
- RP* Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics and Other*
 [1991] *Essays*, new and expanded edition (Indianapolis, IND: Liberty Fund, 1991)

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- RPML* Michael Oakeshott, *Religion, Politics, and the Moral Life* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993)
- VLL* Michael Oakeshott, *The Voice of Liberal Learning: Michael Oakeshott on Education* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1989)
- VMES* Michael Oakeshott, *The Vocabulary of a Modern European State* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2008)
- WH* Michael Oakeshott, *What is History? And Other Essays* (Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2004)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1901 Michael Joseph Oakeshott born on 11 December in Chelsfield, Kent, second son of Joseph Francis Oakeshott and Frances Maude Oakeshott (née Hellicar).
- 1912 Begins to attend St George's School, Harpenden (Headmaster Revd Cecil Grant).
- 1914–18 First World War.
- 1920–3 History undergraduate at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.
- 1923–4 Awarded Christopher James Studentship at Gonville and Caius. Visits Germany.
- 1924–5 English teacher at King Edward VII Grammar School, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire.
- 1925 Elected Fellow, Gonville and Caius College.
- 1927 Marries Joyce Fricker.
- 1931 Son, Simon, born. Oakeshott appointed College Lecturer.
- 1933 University Lecturer in History. Holds this position until his departure from Cambridge in 1949. *Experience and its Modes* is published.
- 1936 Publishes with G. T. Griffith a book on horse-racing: *A Guide to the Classics, or, How to Pick the Derby Winner*.
- 1938 Divorces Joyce Oakeshott and marries Katherine Alice Burton (previously Mrs Ian Cox).
- 1939 Compiles anthology *The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe*. The Second World War erupts.

The editor would like to express his deep appreciation to Professor Robert Grant and Dr Simon Oakeshott, who were most generous in supplying bits of information for this chronology and correcting factual errors.

Chronology

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- 1940 Enlists in the British Army (Royal Artillery).
 1944–5 Serves on the Continent in battlefield intelligence unit, 'Phantom' (GHQ Liaison Regiment). Adjutant of 'B' Squadron.
 1945 War with Germany ends in May. Clement Attlee is appointed prime minister after the Labour Party wins the parliamentary election in July. War with Japan ends in August.
 1946 Oakeshott edits a new edition of T. Hobbes's *Leviathan* and writes an introduction to it.
 1947–54 Member of the editorial board of the *Cambridge Journal*; later, general editor.
 1949–51 Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford.
 1950 Appointed Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics after the death of Harold Laski.
 1951 Takes up appointment at LSE and remains there until his retirement in 1968. Conservative Party wins the parliamentary election. Winston Churchill returns to serve as prime minister.
 1952–3 Visiting Muirhead Lecturer at the University of Birmingham.
 1955 Divorces Kate Oakeshott.
 1958 Visiting Professor, Harvard University. His lectures are posthumously published as *Morality and Politics in Modern Europe* (1993).
 1962 At the urging of his colleague Maurice Cranston, Oakeshott publishes ten of his essays as *Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays*.
 1965 Marries Christel Schneider.
 1968 Retires from LSE but continues to contribute to the MSc History of Political Thought programme until 1981.
 1975 *On Human Conduct* and *Hobbes on Civil Association* published.
 1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes prime minister after the Conservative Party wins the parliamentary election.
 1983 *On History and Other Essays*.
 1989 *The Voice of Liberal Learning* (a collection of essays on education) published.
 1990 Oakeshott dies in Acton, Langton Matravers in Dorset, England during the night of 18/19 December.

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