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 nonspecialists. 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.

Widely acknowledged as the principal architect of Scottish common sense philosophy, Thomas Reid is increasingly recognized today as one of the finest philosophers of the 18th century. Combining a sophisticated response to the skeptical and idealist views of his day with a robust realism about mind, world, and value, Reid’s thought stands as an important alternative to Humean skepticism, Kantian idealism, and Cartesian rationalism. This volume is the first comprehensive overview of Reid’s output and covers not only his philosophy in detail but also his scientific work and his extensive historical influence.

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

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The Cambridge Companion to
THOMAS REID

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DALE TUGGY is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the State University of New York, Fredonia. His publications include articles on Thomas Reid and in the philosophy of religion.

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Contributors xi

RENE VAN WOUDENBERG is Professor of Philosophy at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In addition to publishing articles in epistemology, history of philosophy, and philosophy of language, he has written several books including Gelovend denken (1992), Het mysterie van de identiteit (2000), and Filosofie van taal en tekst (2002).


PAUL WOOD is Professor of History at the University of Victoria, Canada. He has published widely in the intellectual history of early modern Europe and is the editor of Thomas Reid on the Animate Creation: Papers Relating to the Life Sciences (1995) and The Correspondence of Thomas Reid (2002).
References to editions of or sources for Reid's published works use an abbreviated title of work or source as indicated below:

**List of Abbreviations for Works by Thomas Reid**


Note on Citations


Reid engaged extensively with the work of Locke and Hume, and several of the essays included in this volume make numerous references to this work. Thus, a similar abbreviation scheme is used when referring to Locke’s *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* and Hume’s *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, and *A Treatise of Human Nature*.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS FOR WORKS BY JOHN LOCKE**


**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS FOR WORKS BY DAVID HUME**


Note on Citations

In the case of references to the first two books published in Reid’s lifetime (IHM and EIP), the abbreviated title is followed by two Roman numerals that indicate essay and chapter, and then a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon. Thus a reference to Essay II, Chapter v, page 97 of Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man is made as follows: EIP II.v: 97. Occasionally, an author may also include the line numbers on the page cited. In this case, the line numbers follow the page number preceded by a forward slash. Thus a reference to Essay II, Chapter v, page 97, lines 5 through 10 of Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man is made as follows: EIP II.v: 97/5–10. With a single exception, references to Essays on the Active Powers of Man are made thus: The abbreviated title is followed by two Roman numerals that indicate essay and chapter, a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon that is followed by the letter “a” or “b,” which indicates the left-hand and right-hand column respectively of the page in the Hamilton edition. Thus a reference to Essay II, Chapter i, page 637, column a of Essays on the Active Powers of Man is made as follows: EAP II.i: 637a. The exception to this is the references to Essay III of the Essays on the Active Powers of Man, which Reid divided into three parts with chapters. In the case of references to Essay III, then, the abbreviated title is followed by three Roman numerals that indicate essay, part, and chapter, respectively, followed by a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon, that is followed by the letter “a” or “b.” Thus, a citation to Essay III, part iii, Chapter ii, page 581, column b of Essays on the Active Powers of Man is made as follows: EAP III.iii.ii: 581b.

References to works by Reid published after his lifetime conform to the following format: The abbreviated title is given followed by a page number, preceded by a colon. Thus a reference to page 82 of Thomas Reid on the Animate Creation: Papers Relating to the Life Sciences is made as follows: PRLS: 82.

Several of the essays contained in this volume cite Reid’s unpublished manuscripts contained in Aberdeen University Library (AUL) and elsewhere. Unless indicated otherwise, references to the general collection designated AUL MS 2131 are given by the aforementioned general collection title, followed by an Arabic numeral designating the box number, a Roman numeral designating the envelope number, another Arabic numeral designating the item number (all separated by forward slashes) and then (if necessary) either a page number preceded by a colon or a folio number followed by “v” (verso) or “r”
Note on Citations

(recto) preceded by a comma. Thus a reference to page 11 of item 3 in envelope II, box 3 of AUS MS 2131 is made thus: AUL MS 2131/3/II/3: 11. By contrast, a reference to folio 2 verso of item 3 in envelope II, box 3 of AUL MS 2131 is made thus: AUL MS 2131/3/II/3, fol. 2v. References to the general collection designated AUL MS 3061 are given by the aforementioned general collection title, followed by an Arabic numeral that indicates the item number, separated by a forward slash, and followed by a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon. Thus a reference to page 5 of item 6 of AUL MS 3061 is made thus: AUL MS 3061/6: 5. Unless indicated otherwise, references to other manuscripts held in this collection and manuscripts held at other locations are referred to by their general designation number. Thus a reference to AUL MS 2343 is made thus: AUL MS 2343.

References to Locke’s An Essay on Human Understanding take the following form: The abbreviated title is followed by two Roman numerals that indicate book and chapter, an Arabic numeral that indicates section, and then a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon. Thus a reference to Book IV, Chapter 1, section 1, page 525 of An Essay on Human Understanding is made as follows: E IV.i.1: 525.

References to Hume’s An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding and An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals are made as such: The abbreviated title is followed by an Arabic numeral that indicates section number, an Arabic numeral that indicates part number (if necessary) and page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon. Thus a reference to Book 3, part 3, section 1, page 367 of A Treatise on Human Nature is made as follows: THU 3.3.1: 367.

Unless indicated otherwise by the author of a particular essay, works by authors other than Reid [and the works by Locke and Hume mentioned above] are referred to by name of the author, the publication date of the work or edition cited [followed by “a,” “b,” “c,” etc. to distinguish publications in the same year], and a page number (if necessary), preceded by a colon. For example, a reference to
Note on Citations xvii


Full information about cited works and sources is given in the bibliography.
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATING TO
THOMAS REID AND HIS CONTEXT

1687    Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*
1690    John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
1694–1746    Francis Hutcheson
1696–1782    Henry Home, raised to the Bench as Lord Kames 1752
1698–1746    Colin Maclaurin
1698–1748    George Turnbull
1704    Isaac Newton's *Opticks*
1707    Treaty of Union of England and Scotland
1710    Thomas Reid born to Lewis Reid and Margaret Gregory
1710    Bishop Berkeley's *Principles of Human Knowledge*
1711–76    David Hume
1711    Lord Shaftesbury's *Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times*
1719–96    George Campbell
1720–2    Reid a pupil at Kincardine O'Neil parish school
1722    Reid at Aberdeen Grammar School; then matriculates at Marischal College, Aberdeen
1723–90    Adam Smith
1723–1816    Adam Ferguson
1724–73    John Gregory
1726    Reid graduates Master of Arts from Marischal College
1726–31    Reid a student of divinity at Marischal College
1728    Hutcheson's *Essay on the Nature and Conduct of the Passions, with Illustrations on the Moral Sense*
1728–95    Alexander Gerard
1731    Reid licensed to preach by the presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil
xx  Chronology of Events

1731–70  David Skene
1732    Death of Margaret Gregory, Reid’s mother
1733–6  Reid is librarian at Marischal College
1736    Reid and John Stewart visit Cambridge, London, and Oxford
1737    Reid ordained minister of New Machar, Aberdeenshire
1739–40 Hume’s *A Treatise of Human Nature*
1740    Reid marries his cousin Elizabeth Reid in London
1742    George Turnbull’s *Principles of Moral and Christian Philosophy*
1744    George Turnbull’s *Observations upon Liberal Education*
1745–6  Jacobite Rising under Prince Charles Edward Stuart
1748    Hume’s *Philosophical Essays concerning Human Understanding* [later titled *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*]
         Colin Maclaurin’s *Account of Sir Isaac Newton’s Philosophical Discoveries*
         Reid’s “Essay on quantity” published in volume 45 of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*
1751    Adam Smith appointed Professor of Logic and Rhetoric at Glasgow, becoming Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow in 1752
1753–1821 James Gregory
1753–1828 Dugald Stewart
1754    Reid becomes Honorary Burgess of Aberdeen
1755    Hutcheson’s *A System of Moral Philosophy*
1757    Hume’s *The Natural History of Religion*
1758    Founding of the Aberdeen Philosophical Society, the “Wise Club,” of which Reid is founding member and first secretary
         Reid attends inaugural meeting of the Gordon’s Mill Farming Club

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Chronology of Events

1759
Adam Smith’s The Theory of Moral Sentiments

1762
Reid receives doctorate of divinity from Marischal College

Death of Reid’s father, Lewis Reid

George Campbell’s Dissertation on Miracles

1764
Thomas Reid’s An Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense

Reid appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow in succession to Adam Smith and made burgess and guild brother of Glasgow

Reid elected member of the Glasgow Literary Society

1765
Second edition of Reid’s Inquiry

1766
Death of Reid’s friend, the Marischal Professor of Mathematics, John Stewart

1769
Third edition of Reid’s Inquiry

1774
Lord Kames’s Sketches of the History of Man including Reid’s “A Brief Account of Aristotle’s Logic”

Joseph Priestley’s An Examination of Dr. Reid’s Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense

1775–6

1776
Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations

George Campbell’s Philosophy of Rhetoric

American Declaration of Independence

1777
Marriage of Reid’s daughter Martha to Patrick Carmichael, son of Gershom Carmichael (first Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University)

Joseph Priestley’s Disquisitions Relating to Matter and Spirit

Joseph Priestley’s The Doctrine of Philosophical Necessity

1778
Joseph Priestley and Richard Price’s A Free Discussion of the Doctrines of Materialism, and Philosophical Necessity, in a Correspondence between Dr. Price, and Dr. Priestley
### Chronology of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
<td>Hume's <em>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Archibald Arthur elected as Reid’s assistant and successor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant's <em>Critique of Pure Reason</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>Reid elected Fellow of the newly founded Royal Society of Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Reid appointed Vice-Rector of Glasgow University by the Rector Edmund Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Reid's <em>Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man</em> Fourth edition of Reid's <em>Inquiry</em> Reid reappointed Vice-Rector of Glasgow University by the Rector Edmund Burke Dugald Stewart appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Reid's <em>Essays on the Active Powers of Man</em> Immanuel Kant's <em>Critique of Practical Reason</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>French Revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Reid is founding member and first president of the Glasgow Society of the Sons of Ministers of the Church of Scotland</td>
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<td>1791</td>
<td>Reid joins the Glasgow Friends of Liberty and attends Bastille Day dinner Medallion of Reid struck by James Tassie Reid contributes money to the French National Assembly Death of Reid’s wife Elizabeth James Gregory's <em>Philosophical and Literary Essays</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>Reid publishes “Observations on the dangers of political innovation” in <em>Glasgow Courier</em>, 18 December</td>
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<td>1795</td>
<td>Adam Smith's <em>Essays on Philosophical Subjects</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>Reid's portrait painted by Raeburn Death of Reid, 7 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Reid’s “University of Glasgow” published in John Sinclair's <em>Statistical Account of Scotland</em>, vol. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805</td>
<td>Death of Reid’s daughter Martha</td>
</tr>
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</table>