The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy provides an introduction to a complex period of change in the subject matter and practice of philosophy. The philosophy of the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries is often seen as transitional between the scholastic philosophy of the Middle Ages and modern philosophy, but the essays collected here, by a distinguished international team of contributors, call these assumptions into question, emphasizing both the continuity with scholastic philosophy and the role of Renaissance philosophy in the emergence of modernity. They explore the ways in which the science, religion, and politics of the period reflect and are reflected in its philosophical life, and they emphasize the dynamism and pluralism of a period which saw both new perspectives and enduring contributions to the history of philosophy. This will be an invaluable guide for students of philosophy, intellectual historians, and all who are interested in Renaissance thought.

James Hankins is Professor of History at Harvard University and editor of Renaissance Civic Humanism: Reappraisals and Reflections (2000, 2004).
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#### PART I CONTINUITY AND REVIVAL

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9.1 Source: *Opera Nicolai Cusae Cardinalis*, Paris 1514, vol. I, fol. XLVI verso  189
I would like to thank Hilary Gaskin of Cambridge University Press, who first proposed this project and who has supported it energetically throughout the editing process; Constantin Fasolt, Jill Kraye, David Lines, and Edward P. Mahoney, who advised on topics and contributors; and Patrick Baker, who helped edit the footnotes and bibliography. Cambridge University Press kindly gave permission to reprint in updated form the short biographies presented in the Appendix, which have been selected and adapted from the biobibliographies published in *The Cambridge History of Renaissance Philosophy* (1988). I should also like to thank Virginia Brown for sharing her editorial expertise as well as for all those ἐπαγγελία that the language of academic prose is inadequate to express.
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E. J. Brill, 2002). He is currently co-editing a volume on Renaissance ethics with Sabrina Ebbersmeyer.

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 Lodn Nauta is Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy at the University of Groningen. His publications include an edition of William of Conches’s Commentary on Boethius in the Corpus Christianorum (Turnhout: Brepols, 1999) and a forthcoming monograph In Defense of Common Sense: Lorenzo Valla’s Humanist Critique of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.

CHRONOLOGY

1304  Birth of Francesco Petrarca (d. 1374)
1327  Condemnation of John of Jandun and Marsilius of Padua for heresy
1348–9  Black Death
1367/70  Petrarca writes *On His Own Ignorance and That of Many Others*
1370  Birth of Leonardo Bruni (d. 1444)
1378  Beginning of Great Schism in the Western Catholic Church
1396  Biagio Pelacani of Parma condemned by ecclesiastical authorities in Pavia for teaching materialistic doctrines
1397–9  Manuel Chrysoloras teaches Greek in Florence
1401  Birth of Nicholas of Cusa (d. 1464)
1403  Birth of Bessarion (d. 1472)
1406  Birth of Lorenzo Valla (d. 1457)
1414–18  Council of Constance marks the end of the Great Schism
1417  Poggio Bracciolini rediscovers the text of Lucretius (1417); Leonardo Bruni initiates the humanist project to retranslate Aristotle with his new version of the *Nicomachean Ethics*
1420  Birth of Nicoletto Vernia (d. 1499)
1431–49  Council of Basel
1433  Birth of Marsilio Ficino (d. 1499); Ambrogio Traversari publishes his translation of Diogenes Laertius
1437–9  Council of Ferrara–Florence brings about a temporary union between the Eastern Orthodox and the Western Catholic Church
1439  First version of Lorenzo Valla’s *Reploughing of Dialectic and Philosophy*
1439–40  Nicholas of Cusa composes *On Learned Ignorance*
1440  Valla attacks the authenticity of the Donation of Constantine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1440</td>
<td>Approximate date of the invention of the printing press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1449</td>
<td>Birth of Lorenzo de’ Medici (d. 1492)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453</td>
<td>The fall of Constantinople to Mehmed II brings an end to the Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1454</td>
<td>Birth of Ermolao Barbaro (d. 1493)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1462</td>
<td>Birth of Pietro Pomponazzi (d. 1525)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1463</td>
<td>Birth of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (d. 1494)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1465</td>
<td>Sweynheim and Pannartz publish the first book printed in Italy, Cicero’s <em>On the Orator</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1466</td>
<td>Birth of Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (d. 1536)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1469</td>
<td>Birth of Niccolò Machiavelli (d. 1527); publication of Bessarion’s <em>Against the Calumniator of Plato</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1470</td>
<td>Birth of Agostino Nifo (d. 1538)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1473</td>
<td>First edition of Lucretius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1473–80</td>
<td>Ermolao Barbaro’s new versions of Themistius spark a rediscovery of the Greek commentators on Aristotle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1478</td>
<td>Birth of Thomas More (d. 1535)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1482</td>
<td>First edition of Ficino’s <em>Platonic Theology</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1483</td>
<td>Birth of Martin Luther (d. 1546)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1484</td>
<td>Ficino’s complete Latin translation of Plato published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1486</td>
<td>Giovanni Pico della Mirandola publishes his <em>900 Theses</em> and the <em>Oration on the Dignity of Man</em>; Flavius Mithridates translates Cabalistic texts for Pico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1489</td>
<td>Ficino publishes his handbook of magic, the <em>De vita</em>, and is investigated by the Inquisition; Pietro Barozzi, the bishop of Padua, forbids public disputation at the University of Padua on the Averroist doctrine of the unicity of the intellect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1492</td>
<td>The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus; the death of Lorenzo de’ Medici; the expulsion of Jews from Spain; birth of Juan Luis Vives (d. 1540); Ficino’s Latin translation of Plotinus is printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1494</td>
<td>Louis XII of France invades Italy; the Medici are expelled from Florence; death of Pico della Mirandola and Angelo Poliziano; foundation of the Aldine Press by Aldus Manutius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1495–8</td>
<td>First collected edition of Aristotle in Greek printed by Aldus Manutius</td>
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<tr>
<td>1499–1526</td>
<td>Works of Simplicius published in Venice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1503–51</td>
<td>Most of Philoponus is published in Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509</td>
<td>Birth of John Calvin (d. 1564) and Bernardino Telesio (d. 1588)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Fifth Lateran Council defines the immortality of the soul as a dogma of the Catholic Church. Return of the Medici to Florence; Machiavelli writes *The Prince*.

1514–19 Works of Alexander of Aphrodisias published in Venice; Machiavelli writes *The Discourses*.

1515 Birth of Petrus Ramus (d. 1572).

1516 Publication of More’s *Utopia*, Erasmus’ edition of the New Testament in Greek, and Pomponazzi’s treatise *On the Immortality of the Soul*; the latter treatise is burned in Venice.

1517 Outbreak of the Reformation following the publication of Luther’s 95 Theses; the teaching of Lucretius is banned in Florence.

1518 Pomponazzi is condemned by the Fifth Lateran Council and recants his errors.

1519–22 Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition circumnavigates the world; Spanish conquest of Mexico.

1526 Francisco de Vitoria, OP, is elected to the chair of theology in Salamanca.

1528 Baldassare Castiglione’s *Courtier* published.

1529 Birth of Francesco Patrizi (d. 1597); Diet of Speyer in which the term “Protestant” is first used of those who protested against the banning of Luther’s teachings.

1531 First publication of Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy*.

1532 First publication of Machiavelli’s *Prince*.

1533 Birth of Jacopo Zabarella (d. 1589) and Michel de Montaigne (d. 1592).

1534 First Greek edition of Themistius (Latin translations 1481 and 1499).

1535 Founding of New Spain in North and Central America and the Caribbean.

1536 John Calvin settles in Geneva and publishes the first edition of his *Institutes of Christian Religion*; birth of Luis de Molina (d. 1600).

1540 The Jesuit Order, founded by Ignatius of Loyola, is approved by Pope Paul III.

1543 Publication of Copernicus’ *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*, Vesalius’ *De fabrica humani corporis*; Petrus Ramus’ attack on Aristotelian logic, the *Aristotelicae animadversiones*.

1545–63 Council of Trent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1547</td>
<td>Birth of Justus Lipsius (d. 1606)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1548</td>
<td>Birth of Giordano Bruno (d. 1600) and Francisco Suárez, SJ (d. 1617)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1553</td>
<td>Michael Servetus is executed in Geneva for heresy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1554</td>
<td>Sebastian Castellio publishes <em>Whether Heretics Should Be Persecuted</em>, supporting freedom of thought and attacking theocracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1559</td>
<td>Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis ends the first phase of the religious wars between Catholic and Protestants; first edition of Marcus Aurelius’ <em>Meditations</em>; first publication of an Index of Prohibited Books by the Roman Inquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1561</td>
<td>Birth of Francis Bacon (d. 1626)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1562</td>
<td>First edition of Sextus Empiricus’ <em>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1562–98</td>
<td>French Wars of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1564</td>
<td>Birth of Galileo Galilei (d. 1642)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1565</td>
<td>First edition of Telesio’s <em>De rerum natura iuxta propria principia</em> is published</td>
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<tr>
<td>1568</td>
<td>Birth of Tommaso Campanella (d. 1639)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1571</td>
<td>Foundation of the Holy Congregation of the Index of Prohibited Books by Pope Pius V</td>
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<tr>
<td>1572</td>
<td>Petrus Ramus killed in the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre</td>
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<tr>
<td>1573</td>
<td>Henri II Estienne publishes the first collection of Presocratic fragments</td>
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<tr>
<td>1576</td>
<td>Francesco de’ Vieri the Younger becomes the first university teacher of Platonic philosophy in Florence; Francisco Sánchez publishes <em>Quod nihil scitur</em>, a standard work of skeptical philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1580</td>
<td>First edition of Montaigne’s <em>Essays</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1583</td>
<td>Birth of Hugo Grotius (d. 1528)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1584</td>
<td>Justus Lipsius’ <em>On Constancy</em> is published, launching a revival of Stoicism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1588</td>
<td>The Spanish Armada attacks England; Thomas Hobbes is born</td>
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<tr>
<td>1591</td>
<td>Francesco Patrizi publishes the <em>Novum de universis philosophia</em>, an attempt to create a systematic Christian Platonism to replace Aristotelianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1592</td>
<td>Birth of Pierre Gassendi (d. 1655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1594</td>
<td>Tommaso Campanella arrested by the Inquisition under suspicion of heresy; he is arrested a second time in 1599 and tried for heresy and rebellion, remaining imprisoned for twenty-seven years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1596 Birth of René Descartes (d. 1650); Telesio’s De rerum natura and Patrizi’s Nova de universis philosophia are placed on the Index

1598 Edict of Nantes, granting full civil rights and religious liberty to Protestants in France (later annulled)

1599 The Ratio studiorum is adopted by the Jesuit Order, becoming the most influential school curriculum in the early modern world

1600 Giordano Bruno burned at the stake for heresy

1601 Pierre Charron’s De la sagesse published

1604 Justus Lipsius publishes Manuductio ad Stoicam philosophiam and the Physiologia Stoicorum, the first comprehensive accounts of Stoicism as a philosophical system

1605 Francis Bacon publishes The Advancement of Learning

1610 Galileo publishes The Starry Messenger, announcing his astronomical discoveries with a telescope

1620 Francis Bacon’s Novum organum

1623 Tommaso Campanella’s City of the Sun published

1632 Galileo’s Dialogue of Two World Systems attacking Aristotelian physics and astronomy is published and condemned by the Church

1637 Descartes’s Discourse on Method

1635 Gassendi’s Syntagma philosophiae Epicuri, reviving the philosophy of Epicurus, is published posthumously