Since its publication in 1677, Spinoza’s Ethics has fascinated philosophers, novelists, and scientists alike. It is undoubtedly one of the most exciting and contested works of Western philosophy. Written in an austere, geometrical fashion, the work teaches us how we should live, ending with an ethics in which the only thing good in itself is understanding. Spinoza argues that only that which hinders us from understanding is bad and shows that those endowed with human minds should devote themselves, as much as they can, to a contemplative life. This Companion volume provides a detailed, accessible exposition of the Ethics. Written by an internationally known team of scholars, it is the first anthology to treat the whole of the Ethics and is written in an accessible style.

Olli Koistinen is professor of philosophy at the University of Turku in Finland. He is the co-editor, with John Biro, of Spinoza: Metaphysical Themes.
The Cambridge Companion to
SPINOZA’S
ETHICS

Edited by
Olli Koistinen
University of Turku
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Abbreviations

A. SPINOZA, BENEDICTUS DE (1632–77)

Collected works (for further details, see the bibliography):


The Ethics:
The Ethics was first published posthumously with the Latin title Ethica Ordine Geometrico demonstrata in Spinoza (1677b). Latin editions of the Ethica are included in Spinoza 1914 and G II. Widely used English translations of the Ethics are Edwin Curley’s in C and Samuel Shirley’s in Spinoza 2002. If not otherwise indicated, in this volume all translations of Spinoza’s works are from C.

The first Arabic number specifies the part of the Ethics. The abbreviations following that numeral are as follows:

- a = axiom
- da = definition of the affects in the third part of the Ethics
- app = appendix
- c = corollary
- d = definition (when not after a proposition number)
- d = demonstration (when after a proposition number)
- le = lemma
- p = proposition
- po = postulate
- pref = preface
- s = scholium

For example, 1p16c1 refers to the first corollary of the sixteenth proposition in the first part of the Ethics.

Other works:

CM = Metaphysical Thoughts (Cogitata Metaphysica).
x Abbreviations

KV = Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being (*Korte Verhandeling van God, de Mensch, en des zelfs Welstand*).

TdIE = Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect (*Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione*).

TP = Political Treatise (*Tractatus Politicus*).

TTP = Theological-Political Treatise (*Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*).

Ep followed by an Arabic number specifies a letter in Spinoza’s correspondence.

B. OTHER SOURCES

