THE PHILOSOPHER IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

In this groundbreaking collection of essays the history of philosophy appears in a new light, not as reason’s progressive discovery of its universal conditions, but as a series of unreconciled disputes over the proper way to conduct oneself as a philosopher. By shifting focus from the philosopher as proxy for the universal subject of reason to the philosopher as a special persona arising from rival forms of self-cultivation, philosophy is approached in terms of the social office and intellectual deportment of the philosopher, as a personage with a definite moral physiognomy and institutional setting. In so doing, this collection of essays by leading figures in the fields of both philosophy and the history of ideas provides access to key early modern disputes over what it meant to be a philosopher, and to the institutional and larger political and religious contexts in which such disputes took place.

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The Philosopher in Early Modern Europe
The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

*A list of books in the series will be found at the end of the volume.*
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Acknowledgements

The papers presented here were produced for an international workshop, ‘The Persona of the Philosopher in Early Modern Europe’, held in Brisbane, Australia on 7–8 July 2004. This workshop was funded by the Australian Research Council as part of a similarly titled five-year grant awarded to the volume editors in the same year. We are thus grateful to the ARC for making this scholarly gathering possible. We are also grateful to the University of Queensland’s Centre for the History of European Discourses and its project officer, Peter White, for the flawless organisation of this event. Thanks are also due to Averil Condren for her work on the index. Chapter 3 is developed from themes in Conal Condren, *Argument and Authority in Early Modern England* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).