

THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROGRESS OF HUME'S *ESSAYS*

For those open to the possibility that philosophical thought can improve life, David Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, and Literary* have something to say. In the first comprehensive study of the *Essays*, Margaret Watkins engages closely with these neglected texts and shows how they provide important insights into Hume's perspective on the breadth and depth of human life, arguing that the *Essays* reveal his continued commitment to philosophy as a discipline that can promote both social and individual progress. Addressing topics such as politics, war, slavery, the priesthood, the development of industry, aesthetics, emotional disorders, egoism, friendship, sexuality, gender relations, and the nature of philosophy itself, the volume examines Hume's purposes and aims against the backdrop of the eighteenth-century society in which he lived. It will be of interest to scholars of modern thought in philosophy, politics, history, and economics.

MARGARET WATKINS is Professor of Philosophy at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. She has published articles on Hume's ethics and aesthetics in journals including *Hume Studies*, *Inquiry*, and *History of Philosophy Quarterly*.

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MARGARET WATKINS

Saint Vincent College, Pennsylvania



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Abbreviations

References to Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, and Literary* indicate volume, essay, and page numbers. I refer to withdrawn or unpublished essays as EWU.

DP	<i>A Dissertation on the Passions</i> (section and paragraph numbers)
EHU	<i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> (section and paragraph numbers)
EPM	<i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> (section and paragraph numbers)
H	<i>The History of England from the Invasion of Julius Caesar to the Revolution in 1688</i> (volume and page numbers)
Letters 1	<i>The Letters of David Hume</i> , Vol. I (recipient, date, and page numbers)
Letters 2	<i>The Letters of David Hume</i> , Vol. II (recipient, date, and page numbers)
Letters 3	<i>New Letters of David Hume</i> (recipient, date, and page numbers)
NHR	<i>The Natural History of Religion</i> (section and paragraph numbers)
T	<i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> (book, part, section, and paragraph numbers)