

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
Introduction	1
1 Some historical considerations	4
(1) Historical synopsis	4
(2) St. Anselm's arguments	7
(a) Chapter 2 of the <i>Proslogion</i>	8
(b) Chapter 3 of the <i>Proslogion</i>	12
(c) Further chapters of the <i>Proslogion</i>	14
(d) Gaunilo's objection and St. Anselm's reply	17
(3) Descartes' arguments	20
(4) Leibniz's contribution to the arguments	24
(5) Hume's objections	26
(6) Kant's objections	29
(a) No existence claims are analytic	29
(b) Existence is not a predicate	32
(c) No negative existentials are self-contradictory	38
(7) The logical positivist critique	39
(8) Concluding remarks	46
2 Definitional arguments	47
(1) Begging the question	53
3 Conceptual arguments	58
4 Modal arguments	65
(1) Modal arguments involving actuality	65
(2) Modal arguments involving necessity	70
(3) Modal arguments involving explicability	79
(4) Modal arguments involving incomprehensibility	81

Contents

5	Meinongian arguments	85
6	Experiential arguments	92
7	“Hegelian” arguments	97
	(1) The neo-Kantian argument	97
	(2) The neo-Platonic argument	101
	(3) Haight’s argument	105
8	Application to historical arguments	108
	(1) The argument from <i>Proslogion</i> 2	108
	(2) The argument from <i>Proslogion</i> 3	111
	(3) The Cartesian argument	113
	(4) General remarks: the general objection	114
9	Are there (other) global objections to ontological arguments?	119
	(1) The missing explanation argument	119
	(2) The Thomistic objections	122
	(3) The use of singular terms	123
	(4) Further attempts	125
10	Is existence a predicate?	130
	(1) Real predicates	130
	(2) Attempted defenses 1: propositions and singular terms	132
	(a) All genuine propositions are about their subjects	132
	(b) All genuine singular terms refer	137
	(c) All genuine singular terms purport to refer	140
	(d) There are no genuine singular terms	143
	(3) Attempted defenses 2: existence	145
	(a) Existence is a second-order predicate	145
	(b) Existence is a quantifier	147
	(c) Existence does not admit of analysis	152
	(d) Existence is not a property	156
	(4) (Maybe) existence is a predicate	158
11	The uses of parody	162
	(1) Beings of kind <i>K</i> than which no greater beings of kind <i>K</i> can be conceived	162
	(2) Most perfect beings of kind <i>K</i>	168
	(3) Necessarily existent beings of kind <i>K</i>	170
	(4) Actually existent beings of kind <i>K</i>	173
	(5) Maximal beings of kind <i>K</i>	179

Contents

(6) Devils, and so on	181
(7) What does parody show?	183
12 Are ontological arguments of any use to theists and/ or atheists?	186
(1) The rationality of theistic belief	187
(2) The irrationality of nontheistic belief	192
(3) The absolute security of theistic belief	194
Conclusion	198
Literature notes	200
<i>Bibliography</i>	337
(1) Sources on ontological arguments	337
(2) Sources on related topics	363
<i>Index</i>	371