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0521273307 - Philosophy in History: Essays on the Historiography of Philosophy

Edited by Richard Rorty, J. B. Schneewind and Quentin Skinner

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IDEAS IN CONTEXT

PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY

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## IDEAS IN CONTEXT

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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.

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*Essays on  
the historiography of philosophy*

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EDITED BY  
RICHARD RORTY  
J. B. SCHNEEWIND  
QUENTIN SKINNER



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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK <http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk>  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA <http://www.cup.org>  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1984

Reprinted 1985, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998

Typeset in Bembo

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

Library of Congress Catalogue Card number: 84-9524

ISBN 0-521-27330-7 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

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*To Maurice Mandelbaum*

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## PREFACE

The lectures published here were delivered as a series with the general title 'Philosophy in history' at the Johns Hopkins University during 1982–3. The series was made possible by a grant from the Exxon Education Foundation, whose president, Dr Robert Payton, did everything a patient and generous friend could do in assisting us at every stage of our venture. His encouragement and faith in the project remained cheering and constant through all the changes in our plans. For his confidence, and for the graciousness of the Foundation, we are deeply grateful.

We wish to thank the Johns Hopkins University for donating the use of its accounting offices and for providing us with facilities for holding the lectures. The practical burdens of arrangements were largely carried by Ms Nancy Thompson of the Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Department, who handled transatlantic complexities and local emergencies with equal skill and patience. We offer her our warmest thanks. We also wish to thank Mr T. Cleveland for his assistance, and to express our deep gratitude to Jonathan Sinclair-Wilson, our Editor at the Cambridge University Press, and to Elizabeth O'Beirne-Ranelagh, who sub-edited our typescript, for the care and efficiency they have displayed at every stage in the production of this book.

In commissioning the essays that follow, we had in mind the desirability of including particular case-studies as well as more general reflections on the relationship between philosophy and its history. We have organized the volume in such a way as to reflect both these interests. Although the division is not a hard-and-fast one, Part I consists mainly of more general essays, while Part II consists of examples taken from ancient, early-modern and more recent philosophy.

While the editors do not think with one mind or speak with one voice, the selection of lecturers and the general ideas expressed in the Introduction are the work of all three of us.

Richard Rorty  
J. B. Schneewind  
Quentin Skinner



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