

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and nonspecialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Francis Bacon (1561–1626) is one of the most important philosophers of the early modern era. His plan for scientific reform played a central role in the birth of the new science. The essays in this volume offer a comprehensive survey of his writings on science, including his classifications of sciences, his theory of knowledge and of forms, his speculative philosophy, his idea of cooperative scientific research, and the providential aspects of Baconian science. There are also essays on Bacon's theory of rhetoric and history as well as on his moral and political philosophy and on his legacy. Throughout, the contributors aim to place Bacon in his historical context.

New readers and nonspecialists will find this the most convenient and accessible guide to Bacon currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Bacon.

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
BACON

OTHER VOLUMES IN THIS SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE
 COMPANIONS:

- AQUINAS *Edited by* NORMAN KRETZMANN *and*
 ELEANORE STUMP *(published)*
- ARISTOTLE *Edited by* JONATHAN BARNES *(published)*
- BERKELEY *Edited by* KENNETH WINKLER
- DESCARTES *Edited by* JOHN COTTINGHAM
(published)
- EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY *Edited by* A. A.
 LONG
- FICHTE *Edited by* GUENTER ZOELLER
- FOUCAULT *Edited by* GARY GUTTING *(published)*
- FREGE *Edited by* TOM RICKETTS
- FREUD *Edited by* JEROME NEU *(published)*
- HABERMAS *Edited by* STEPHEN K. WHITE *(published)*
- HEGEL *Edited by* FREDERICK BEISER *(published)*
- HEIDEGGER *Edited by* CHARLES GUIGNON
(published)
- HOBBS *Edited by* TOM SORELL *(published)*
- HUME *Edited by* DAVID FATE NORTON *(published)*
- HUSSERL *Edited by* BARRY SMITH *and* DAVID
 WOODRUFF SMITH *(published)*
- WILLIAM JAMES *Edited by* RUTH ANNE PUTNAM
- KANT *Edited by* PAUL GUYER *(published)*
- KIERKEGAARD *Edited by* ALASTAIR HANNAY *and*
 GORDON MARINO
- LEIBNIZ *Edited by* NICHOLAS JOLLEY *(published)*
- LOCKE *Edited by* VERE CHAPPELL *(published)*
- MARX *Edited by* TERRELL CARVER *(published)*
- MILL *Edited by* JOHN SKORUPSKI
- NIETZSCHE *Edited by* BERND MAGNUS *and*
 KATHLEEN HIGGINS *(published)*
- OCKHAM *Edited by* PAUL VINCENT SPADE
- PEIRCE *Edited by* CHRISTOPHER HOOKWAY
- PLATO *Edited by* RICHARD KRAUT *(published)*
- PLOTINUS *Edited by* LLOYD P. GERSON
- SARTRE *Edited by* CHRISTINA HOWELLS *(published)*
- SPINOZA *Edited by* DON GARRETT *(published)*
- WITTGENSTEIN *Edited by* HANS SLUGA *and* DAVID
 STERN

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

The Cambridge Companion to
BACON

Edited by Markku Peltonen
Academy of Finland



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, 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

© Cambridge University Press 1996

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1996
Reprinted 1999

Typeset in Trump Mediaeval

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available

ISBN 0-521-43498-X hardback
ISBN 0-521-43534-X paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

CONTENTS

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Textual note</i>	xi
<i>Chronology</i>	xiii
Introduction	
MARKKU PELTONEN	I
1 Bacon's idea of science	
PAOLO ROSSI	25
2 Bacon's classification of knowledge	
SACHIKO KUSUKAWA	47
3 Bacon's method of science	
MICHEL MALHERBE	75
4 Bacon's forms and the maker's knowledge tradition	
ANTONIO PÉREZ-RAMOS	99
5 Bacon's speculative philosophy	
GRAHAM REES	121
6 Bacon as an advocate for cooperative scientific research	
ROSE-MARY SARGENT	146
7 Bacon's science and religion	
JOHN CHANNING BRIGGS	172
8 Bacon and rhetoric	
BRIAN VICKERS	200

vi Contents

9 Bacon and history	
JOHN F. TINKLER	232
10 Bacon's moral philosophy	
IAN BOX	260
11 Bacon's political philosophy	
MARKKU PELTONEN	283
12 Bacon's legacy	
ANTONIO PÉREZ-RAMOS	311
<i>Bibliography</i>	335
<i>Index</i>	365

CONTRIBUTORS

IAN BOX teaches political science at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. He has written articles on Bacon for a number of journals including *History of Political Thought* and *The Seventeenth Century*. He is currently preparing a study of the social criticism of Henry David Thoreau.

JOHN CHANNING BRIGGS is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Riverside. He received his B.A. from Harvard University and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Francis Bacon and the Rhetoric of Nature* (Cambridge, Mass., 1989), winner of Harvard University Press's Thomas J. Wilson Prize.

SACHIKO KUSUKAWA is a research fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge. She is the author of *The Transformation of Natural Philosophy: The Case of Philip Melanchthon* (Cambridge, 1995).

MICHEL MALHERBE is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nantes. He has published several books on Hobbes and Hume. He has copublished a French translation of Bacon's *Novum organum* and has written several articles on Bacon's theory of science and influence on the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophy.

MARKKU PELTONEN is a researcher at the Academy of Finland. His publications include *Classical Humanism and Republicanism in English Political Thought 1570–1640* (Cambridge, 1995).

ANTONIO PÉREZ-RAMOS is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Murcia, Spain. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge and is the author of *Francis Bacon's Idea of Science and the Maker's Knowledge Tradition* (Oxford, 1988).

viii Contributors

GRAHAM REES is Senior Lecturer in the History of Science at the University of Wolverhampton. He has written exclusively on Francis Bacon and is a General Editor of the Oxford English Texts critical edition of Francis Bacon's work, the first volume of which was published in 1996. In connection with his researches on Bacon Dr. Rees has been a Wellcome Trust Leave Fellow (1993–4) and a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellow (1995–6).

PAOLO ROSSI is Professor of the History of Philosophy at the University of Florence and President of Florence Center for the History and Philosophy of Science. In 1985 he was awarded the Sarton Medal for the history of science. In 1988 he was appointed member of the Accademia dei Lincei and of Accademia Europaea. Among his publications are *Francis Bacon: from Magic to Science* (1957; English and Japanese translation, 1968), *Clavis universalis: arti della memoria e logica combinatoria da Lullo a Leibniz* (1960; Japanese, Spanish, and French translations, 1983, 1989, 1993), *Philosophy, Technology and the Arts in the Early Modern Era* (1962; English translation, 1970), *The Dark Abyss of Time: The History of the Earth and the History of Nations from Hooke to Vico* (1979; English translation, 1984), *La scienza e la filosofia dei moderni: aspetti della rivoluzione scientifica* (Torino, 1989), *Paragone degli ingegni moderni e post-moderni* (Bologna, 1989), and *Il passato, la memoria, l'oblio* (Bologna, 1991).

ROSE-MARY SARGENT is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Merrimack College. She has published a number of articles on philosophy of science and on the history of seventeenth-century English science. Her book *The Diffident Naturalist: Robert Boyle and the Philosophy of Experiment* was published by The University of Chicago Press in 1995.

JOHN F. TINKLER has worked extensively on Renaissance humanism, the history of rhetoric, and rhetorical invention. Since moving to the United States, he has taught in both Rhetoric and English departments at the University of California at Berkeley, Towson State University, and the University of Virginia.

BRIAN VICKERS has been Professor of English Literature and Director of the Centre for Renaissance Studies at ETH Zürich since 1975.

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contributors

ix

He is the author of *Francis Bacon and Renaissance Prose* (Cambridge, 1968), editor of *Essential Articles for the Study of Francis Bacon* (Hamden, Conn., 1968; London, 1972), of *English Science, Bacon to Newton* (Cambridge, 1987), and of the volume on Francis Bacon in "The Oxford Authors" series (Oxford, 1996).

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

TEXTUAL NOTE

All references (unless otherwise stated) to Bacon's writings are to *The Works of Francis Bacon*, ed. James Spedding, Robert L. Ellis, and Douglas D. Heath (London: Longman, 1857–74), 14 vols. References to volume and page of this edition are given in parentheses in the text.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1561 Born at York House, London, 22 January, the youngest son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and Ann, second daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke.
- 1573 Goes to Trinity College, Cambridge with his elder brother Anthony in April; matriculated in July.
- 1575 Leaves Cambridge in December.
- 1576 Admitted to Gray's Inn. Travels to the Continent and stays in France for almost three years in the embassy of Sir Amias Paulet.
- 1579 Returns to England after his father's death; commences his studies at Gray's Inn.
- 1581 Sits for the first time in Parliament for Bossiney in Cornwall.
- 1582 Admitted to the bar as an utter barrister.
- 1584 Sits in Parliament for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. Writes his earliest political tract, *A Letter of Advice to Queen Elizabeth*.
- 1586 Becomes a bencher of Gray's Inn; sits in Parliament for Taunton.
- 1588 Gives his first reading at Gray's Inn on Advowsons. Appointed to a committee of lawyers to review existing statutes.
- 1589 Sits in Parliament for Liverpool. Writes *An Advertisement Touching the Controversies of the Church of England*.
- 1592 Writes *Of Tribute, or Giving That Which Is Due* [A Conference of Pleasure] and *Certain Observations Made upon a Libel Published This Present Year, 1592*.
- 1593 Sits in Parliament for Middlesex; opposes the subsidy bill.
- 1594 Appointed Deputy Chief Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster and made Queen's Counsel Extraordinary. Writes *A True*

xiv Chronology

- Report of the Detestable Treason, Intended by Dr. Roderigo Lopez, A Promus of Formularies and Elegancies, and Gesta Grayorum.* Argues in Chudleigh's case.
- 1595 Writes *Of Love and Self-love*.
- 1596 Writes *Maxims of the Law*.
- 1597 Sits in Parliament for Ipswich. Publishes the first edition of *Essayes. Religious Meditations. Places of Perswasion and Disswasion*.
- 1600 Gives his reading on the Statute of Uses.
- 1601 Sits in Parliament for Ipswich. Publishes *A Declaration of the Practices and Treasons Attempted and Committed by Robert, Late Earl of Essex*.
- 1602 Writes *A Confession of Faith*. Argues in Slade's case.
- 1603 Knighted. Publishes *A Brief Discourse Touching the Happy Union of the Kingdoms of England and Scotland*. Writes *De interpretatione naturae proemium, Temporis partus masculus*, and *Valerius Terminus of the Interpretation of Nature*.
- 1604 Sits in Parliament for Ipswich. Publishes *Apology in Certain Imputations Concerning the Late Earl of Essex and Certain Considerations Touching the better Pacification and Edification of the Church of England*. Writes *Cogitationes de natura rerum* and *Cogitationes de scientia humana*.
- 1605 Publishes *The Advancement of Learning*.
- 1606 Marries Alice Barnham.
- 1607 Appointed Solicitor General. Writes *Cogitata et visa, Filum labyrinthi*, and *Partis instaurationis secundae delineatio et argumentum*.
- 1608 Argues in Calvin's case. Writes *Certain Considerations Touching the Plantation in Ireland, In felicem memoriam Elizabethae, Of the True Greatness of the Kingdom of Britain*, and *Redargutio philosophiarum*.
- 1609 Publishes *De sapientia veterum*.
- 1611 Writes *Phaenomena universi, De viis mortis, and De fluxu et refluxu maris*.
- 1612 Publishes the second edition of *Essays*. Writes *De principiis atque originibus, Descriptio globi intellectualis, and Thema coeli*.
- 1613 Appointed Attorney General.

Chronology

xv

- 1614 Sits in Parliament for Cambridge University. Publishes *The Charge Touching Duels*.
- 1616 Becomes a member of the Privy Council. Writes *Proposition Touching Amendment of Laws*. Argues in the case of *de non procedendo Rege inconsulto*.
- 1617 Appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.
- 1618 Granted the title of Lord Chancellor. Created Baron of Verulam.
- 1619 A. Gorges's translation of *De sapientia veterum* published.
- 1620 Publishes the preliminary material of *Instauratio magna* as well as *Novum organum* together with *Parasceve ad historiam naturalem et experimentalem*.
- 1621 Created Viscount of St. Albans. Impeached.
- 1622 Publishes *The History of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh* and *Historia ventorum* in a volume entitled *Historia naturalis et experimentalis*. Writes *Advertisement Touching a Holy War* and *Abecedarium novum naturae*.
- 1623 Publishes *Historia vitae et mortis* and *De augmentis scientiarum*. Writes *Historia densi et rari*.
- 1624 Writes *Considerations Touching a War with Spain, New Atlantis, Magnalia naturae, praecipue quoad usus humanos, and Sylva Sylvarum*.
- 1625 Publishes the third edition of *Essayes or Counsell, Civill and Morall, Apophthegms New and Old, and Translation of Certain Psalms*.
- 1626 Dies at London, 9 April. *Sylva Sylvarum* and *New Atlantis* posthumously published.

Cambridge University Press
052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
Edited by Markku Peltonen
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
BACON

Cambridge University Press
 052143534X - The Cambridge Companion to Bacon
 Edited by Markku Peltonen
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)



William Marshall's title page to Gilbert Wats's translation of the *De augmentis*, 1640. Reproduced by permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library.