

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-78510-5 - Logic, Cause and Action: Essays in honour of Elizabeth Anscombe

Edited by Roger Teichmann

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Logic, Cause & Action

Essays in honour of Elizabeth Anscombe

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY SUPPLEMENT: 46

EDITED BY

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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, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge
Typeset by Michael Heath Ltd, Reigate, Surrey

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

ISBN 0 521 78510 3 paperback
ISSN 1358-2461

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Elizabeth Anscombe was born in 1919. She read Greats at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and went on to become a Research Student at Newnham College, Cambridge. While at Cambridge she attended Wittgenstein's lectures, coming to know Wittgenstein personally, and subsequently translating and editing many of his writings. She was appointed Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford in 1946, becoming a CUF lecturer there in 1951. She remained in Oxford until 1970, when she was appointed Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge, from which post she retired in 1986. She is the author, among other things, of *Intention* and *An Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*; most of her essays are reprinted in *Collected Philosophical Papers* (three volumes).

Nancy Cartwright is Professor of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method and Director of the Centre for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the London School of Economics. She is author of books and articles on the philosophy of science, including *How the Laws of Physics Lie* and *Nature's Capacities and their Measurement*.

Nicholas Denyer was a student of Elizabeth Anscombe's. He is now a College Lecturer in Philosophy and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a University Lecturer in the Faculty of Classics. He is author of various books and articles on philosophy and its history. His edition of Plato's *Alcibiades* is to be published shortly.

Michael Dummett was the Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford University from 1979 to 1992, and is Honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford. He is the author of books and articles on philosophy, the theory of voting, and the history of card games. He was knighted in January 1999.

Philippa Foot is Griffin Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, University of California at Los Angeles, and Honorary Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford. Her book, *The Grammar of Goodness* and an enlarged edition of her *Virtues and Vices* will be published by OUP in 2000.

Peter Geach is married to Elizabeth Anscombe. He was Professor of Logic at Leeds University from 1966 to 1981. His writings cover logic, the history of philosophy, ethics, and more, and include *Reference and Generality*, *Logic Matters* and (with Elizabeth Anscombe) *Three Philosophers: Aristotle, Aquinas, Frege*.

Edward Harcourt is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He has published on ethics, Wittgenstein and philosophical logic. A collection of papers that he has edited, *Morality, Reflection and Ideology*, is forthcoming with OUP.

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Rosalind Hursthouse is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the Open University. She is the author of *Beginning Lives*, and the recently published *On Virtue Ethics* (1999). A teaching text she wrote for the Open University, *Humans and Other Animals*, will be published next year.

Stephen Makin took his PhD. at Cambridge with Elizabeth Anscombe, and teaches at Sheffield University. He is author of *Indifference Arguments*, and has published papers on Aristotelian metaphysics, Aquinas, method in ancient philosophy, and modality. He is currently completing a volume on Aristotle's *Metaphysics Theta* for the Clarendon Aristotle series.

Roger Teichmann is Lecturer in Philosophy at St. Hilda's College, Oxford. He is author of *Abstract Entities* and *The Concept of Time* (Macmillan, 1992, 1995) and a variety of journal articles, especially on logic, language and metaphysics.

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Preface

One of the most striking things about the philosophical writings of Elizabeth Anscombe is their wide range – a range of which one gets some idea from the titles of the three volumes of her collected papers: *From Parmenides to Wittgenstein*, *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind*, and *Ethics, Religion and Politics*. It is sometimes the case that a philosopher who casts his net wide sacrifices something in the way of depth. But this is the last thing that could be alleged of Anscombe's philosophy. One might almost say that depth was one of the more notorious features of her writing. Easy solutions and glib maxims are wholly absent; there is no itch to 'clinch' every argument (supplying the reader with a happy ending), nor to take up a 'position' (enabling the reader to pigeonhole the author). Sometimes this can baffle – but it is always the sort of fruitful bafflement which comes from, and in turn provokes, a real grappling with philosophical problems.

The wide range of Anscombe's work is reflected in the essays in this volume. (Her own essay, 'Making True', appears here in print for the first time.) A number of the contributors, and Anscombe herself, have connections with *Philosophy*. It was in *Philosophy* that one of the most important essays in modern moral philosophy, 'Modern Moral Philosophy', first appeared in 1958. I am very grateful to Anthony O'Hear for agreeing to publish this volume under the auspices of *Philosophy* and of the Royal Institute of Philosophy. The collection has been in the pipeline for some years; a few of the papers are more than a decade old. It was initially being edited by Hide Ishiguro, through the prompting of Jan Szrednicki. Acknowledgement and thanks must be extended to Professor Ishiguro for getting together four of the papers. I am grateful also to Michael Dummett and David Wiggins for their help and assistance.

Roger Teichmann