If there is a movement or school that epitomizes analytic philosophy in the middle of the twentieth century, it is logical empiricism. Logical empiricists created a scientifically and technically informed philosophy of science, established mathematical logic as a topic in and a tool for philosophy, and initiated the project of formal semantics. Accounts of analytic philosophy written in the middle of the twentieth century gave logical empiricism a central place in the project. The second wave of interpretative accounts was constructed to show how philosophy should progress, or had progressed, beyond logical empiricism. Since the 1980s, a new literature has arisen that examines logical empiricism in its historical, scientific, and philosophical contexts, in the belief that its philosophical significance has not been adequately judged, to the detriment of contemporary philosophy. This Companion provides informative overviews and further advances this reconstructive project. The essays survey the formative stages of logical empiricism in Central Europe and its acculturation in North America; discuss its main topics, achievements, and failures in different areas of philosophy of science; and assess its influence on philosophy, past, present, and future.

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LOGICAL
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Contents

Contributors

Introduction

ALAN RICHARDSON AND THOMAS UEBEL

PART ONE: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF LOGICAL EMPIRICISM

1 The Vienna Circle: Context, Profile, and Development

FRIEDRICH STADLER

2 The Society for Empirical/Scientific Philosophy

DIETER HOFFMANN

3 From “the Life of the Present” to the “Icy Slopes of Logic”: Logical Empiricism, the Unity of Science Movement, and the Cold War

GEORGE A. REISCH

PART TWO: LOGICAL EMPIRICISM: ISSUES IN GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

4 Coordination, Constitution, and Convention: The Evolution of the A Priori in Logical Empiricism

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

5 Confirmation, Probability, and Logical Empiricism

MARIA CARLA GALAVOTTI

6 The Structure of Scientific Theories in Logical Empiricism

THOMAS MORMANN

page ix

1

13

41

58

91

117

136
PART THREE: LOGICAL EMPIRICISM AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF
THE SPECIAL SCIENCES

7 The Turning Point and the Revolution: Philosophy of Mathematics in Logical
Empiricism from *Tractatus to Logical Syntax* 165
STEVE AWODEY AND A. W. CARUS

8 Logical Empiricism and the Philosophy of Physics 193
THOMAS RYCKMAN

9 Logical Empiricism and the Philosophy of Psychology 228
GARY L. HARDCASTLE

10 Philosophy of Social Science in Early Logical Empiricism: The Case of Radical Physicalism 250
THOMAS UEBEL

11 Logical Empiricism and the History and Sociology of Science 278
ELISABETH NEMETH

PART FOUR: LOGICAL EMPIRICISM AND ITS CRITICS

12 Wittgenstein, the Vienna Circle, and Physicalism: A Reassessment 305
DAVID STERN

13 Vienna, the City of Quine’s Dreams 332
RICHARD CREATH

14 “That Sort of Everyday Image of Logical Positivism”: Thomas Kuhn and the Decline of Logical Empiricist Philosophy of Science 346
ALAN RICHARDSON

Bibliography 371
Index 419
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