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978-0-521-82242-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Philosophy

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Philosophy is a comprehensive introduction to the central topics and changing shape of philosophical inquiry in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It explores one of the most innovative periods in the history of Western philosophy, extending from Montaigne, Bacon, and Descartes through Hume and Kant. During this period, philosophers initiated and responded to major intellectual developments in natural science, religion, and politics, transforming in the process concepts and doctrines inherited from ancient and medieval philosophy. In this *Companion*, leading specialists examine early modern treatments of the methodological and conceptual foundations of natural science, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, logic and language, moral and political philosophy, and theology. A final chapter looks forward to the philosophy of the Enlightenment. This will be an invaluable guide for all who are interested in the philosophical thought of the early modern period.

DONALD RUTHERFORD is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of *Leibniz and the Rational Order of Nature* (1995), editor (with J. A. Cover) of *Leibniz: Nature and Freedom* (2005), and editor and translator (with Brandon Look) of *The Leibniz-Des Bosses Correspondence* (2007).

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[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521529624

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First published 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

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

ISBN-13 978-0-521-82242-8 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-82242-4 hardback
ISBN-13 978-0-521-52962-4 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-52962-X paperback

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PREFACE

This *Cambridge Companion* aims to serve as an introduction and guide to what has come to be known as “early modern philosophy”—roughly, philosophy spanning the period between the end of the sixteenth century and the end of the eighteenth century, or, in terms of figures, Montaigne through Kant. Its intended audience includes both students of philosophy and those with a general interest in the period who wish to know more about how philosophy relates to contemporary developments in science, religion, and politics. At the same time, it is hoped that the chapters are framed in such a way that even specialists will be offered a fresh look at the philosophical thought of early modern Europe.

Many people have contributed to the production of this *Companion*. Besides the individual authors, to whom I owe a special debt, I would like to thank several anonymous reviewers for the Press, who provided useful suggestions about the contents of the volume. In early work on it, I was aided by Matthew Kisner; valuable assistance was provided later by Kristen Irwin, who also collaborated on the short biographies that are included as an appendix. Helpful advice was offered along the way by Richard Arneson, David Brink, Daniel Garber, Steven Nadler, and Alison Simmons. Throughout the editorial process, Hilary Gaskin has been a source of encouragement and good counsel, for which I am grateful.

My greatest thanks are reserved, as always, for Madeleine Picciotto, who created space, time, and other conditions for the possibility of this book.

ABBREVIATIONS

Full references appear in the bibliography under Primary Sources.

BACON

New Org. *New Organon* (Bacon 2000)

BOYLE

Origin *The Origin of Forms and Qualities According to the Corpuscular Hypothesis* (in Boyle 1991)

DESCARTES

AT *Œuvres de Descartes*, Adam and Tannery (Descartes 1974–86)

CSM *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Cottingham et al. (Descartes 1984–91)

Passions *The Passions of the Soul* (in AT XI and in CSM 1)

Princ. *Principles of Philosophy* (in AT VIII [Latin] and IX [French] and in CSM 1)

HOBBES

Lev. *Leviathan* (Hobbes 1994)

HUME

Treatise *A Treatise on Human Nature* (Hume 2000)

Enquiry *Enquiry concerning Human Understanding* (in Hume 1975)

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Abbreviations

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KANT

Ges. Schr. *Gesammelte Schriften*, Königlich preussischen (later: Berlin) Akademie der Wissenschaften (Kant 1910–).

LEIBNIZ

AG *Philosophical Essays*, Ariew and Garber (Leibniz 1989)

GP *Die philosophischen Schriften*, Gerhardt (Leibniz 1875–90)

L *Philosophical Papers and Letters*, Loemker (Leibniz 1969)

M *The Leibniz–Arnauld Correspondence*, Mason (Leibniz 1967)

Discourse *Discourse on Metaphysics* (in AG and L)

New Ess. *New Essays on Human Understanding* (Leibniz 1981)

Theod. *Theodicy: Essays on the Goodness of God, the Freedom of Man and the Origin of Evil* (Leibniz 1952)

LOCKE

Essay *An Essay concerning Human Understanding* (Locke 1975)

MALEBRANCHE

OC *Œuvres complètes*, Robinet (Malebranche 1958–84)

Dial. *Dialogues on Metaphysics and on Religion* (Malebranche 1997a)

Search *The Search after Truth* (Malebranche 1997b)

TNG *Treatise on Nature and Grace* (Malebranche 1992)

SPINOZA

Ethics *Ethics Demonstrated in Geometrical Order* (in Spinoza 1985)

TTP *Theological-Political Treatise* (Spinoza 1998)

SUÁREZ

Disp. met. *Disputationes metaphysicae* (in Suárez 1856–78, xxv–xxvi)