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Hellenistic and Early Modern Philosophy

Hellenistic and Early Modern Philosophy is a multi-author reassessment of the profound impact of the Hellenistic philosophers (principally the Stoics, Epicureans, and Sceptics) on such philosophers as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, and Locke. These early modern philosophers looked for inspiration to the later ancient thinkers when they rebelled against the dominant philosophical traditions of their day.

In this volume, leading historians of philosophy, utilizing a wide range of styles and methods, explore the relationship between Hellenistic philosophy and early modern philosophy, taking advantage of new scholarly and philosophical advances.

Hellenistic and Early Modern Philosophy will be of interest to philosophers, historians of science and ideas, and classicists.

Jon Miller is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Brad Inwood is Canada Research Chair in Ancient Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

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Edited by

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List of Abbreviations

In addition to the following commonly used abbreviations, other abbreviations appear in some chapters.

A-T plus volume and page numbers = Charles Adam and Paul Tannery, eds., *Descartes' Oeuvres*, vols. I–X (Paris: J. Vrin, 1964–74).

CSM or CSMK plus volume and page numbers = J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, and D. Murdoch (plus A. Kenny for vol. III), eds. and trans., *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, vols. I–III (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985–91).

D.L. plus book and chapter numbers = Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*.

I-G plus page number = Brad Inwood and L.P. Gerson, eds. and trans., *Hellenistic Philosophy* 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1997).

L-S plus chapter and section numbers = A.A. Long and D.N. Sedley, eds. and trans., *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, vols. I–II (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

M = *Adversus Mathematicos* (*Against the Professors*), Sextus Empiricus.

P.H. = *Pyrrhoneae Hypotyposes* (*Outlines of Pyrrhonism*), Sextus Empiricus.

SVF plus volume and item numbers = *Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta*, vols. I–III, H. von Arnim, ed. (Leipzig: Teubner, 1903–5).

Notes on Contributors

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Brad Inwood is Professor of Classics at the University of Toronto. He is the editor of the *Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* and author of *Ethics and Human Action in Early Stoicism* (1985).

Terence Irwin is Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy at Cornell University. He has published several influential books on ancient philosophy (including *Plato's Ethics* 1995 and *Aristotle's First Principles* 1988). He also works on Kant and the history of ethics.

A. A. Long is Professor of Classics and the Irving Stone Professor of Humanities at UC Berkeley. His interests include ancient literature and philosophy, with special emphasis on Stoicism. His most recent book (2002) is *Epictetus: A Stoic and Socratic Guide to Life*.

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Preface

Most of the chapters published here originated at a conference held at the University of Toronto in September of 2000. At the original suggestion of Jon Miller, who was working at the time on the topic of Spinoza and the Stoics, the organizers invited a number of leading scholars working in either Hellenistic or early modern philosophy, and several whose work already spanned both periods, to explore various aspects of the relationship between these two periods. Some chose to deal with historical connections and the transmission of ideas between ancient and modern times, but most focused on the comparisons and contrasts between and among the ideas themselves. Jerome Schneewind and Myles Burnyeat drew the session to a close with a roundtable discussion suggesting provisional conclusions as well as future directions for work. From the outset, the organizers of the conference aimed at including a wide range of styles and methods in the history of philosophy, and that variety is evident in this collection. We would like to think that a project of this kind might encourage communication among those who work in different ways on the history of philosophy, as well as among those who work on different historical periods.

The speakers at the conference were Donald Ainslie (University of Toronto), Gail Fine (Cornell University), Terence Irwin (Cornell University), Anthony Long (University of California at Berkeley), Stephen Menn (McGill University), Phillip Mitsis (New York University), Margaret Osler (University of Calgary), Donald Rutherford (University of California at San Diego), and Catherine Wilson (University of British Columbia). One contributor to this volume, Steven Nadler (University of Wisconsin at Madison), could not attend but graciously sent us his chapter afterwards; Jon Miller's chapter was also added later. The success of the conference was greatly enhanced by the participation of commentators, many of them graduate students from the University of Toronto, and we would like to thank them: Margaret Cameron, Karen Detlefsen, Professor Doug Hutchinson (University of Toronto), Professor Alan Kim (University of Memphis), Peter

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Koritansky, Sarah Marquardt, Professor Fabrizio Mondadori (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee), Tobin Woodruff, and Doug Wright. We would also like to acknowledge financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as the Departments of Philosophy and Classics, the Connaught Fund, the School of Graduate Studies, and the Centre for Medieval Studies, all at the University of Toronto. The editors are grateful for permission from Cambridge University Press to include the chapter by Anthony Long, which will also appear in the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (editor Brad Inwood).