

Cambridge Elements[≡]

Elements in the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein

edited by
David G. Stern
University of Iowa

STYLE, METHOD AND PHILOSOPHY IN WITTGENSTEIN

Alois Pichler
University of Bergen



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-46279-2 — Style, Method and Philosophy in Wittgenstein
Alois Pichler
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009462792

DOI: 10.1017/9781108955485

© Alois Pichler 2023

This publication 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 & Assessment.

First published 2023

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

ISBN 978-1-009-46279-2 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-108-95807-3 Paperback
ISSN 2632-7112 (online)
ISSN 2632-7104 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Style, Method and Philosophy in Wittgenstein

Elements in the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein

DOI: 10.1017/9781108955485
First published online: September 2023

Alois Pichler
University of Bergen

Author for correspondence: Alois Pichler, alois.pichler@uib.no

Abstract: Wittgenstein said, 'really one should write philosophy only as one writes a poem'. This Element provides a comprehensive explanation of what he possibly meant by the statement, and why the statement is a correct description of Wittgenstein's philosophy. It connects the statement with Wittgenstein's idea of philosophical clarification, the methods he uses in it and the masters he acknowledges as the sources for his ways of 'moving his thought'. The Element introduces distinctions that are essential for approaching the multilayered complex of Wittgenstein's oeuvre. One is the distinction between writing philosophical clarifications for himself on the one hand and forming philosophical books for his reader on the other. While poetry was central to both activities, it was mandatory for the second. Indeed, for creating the perfect philosophical book, Wittgenstein thought he lacked precisely what some of his masters possessed: poetic genius.

Keywords: style, method, poetry, writing, philosophical work

© Alois Pichler 2023

ISBNs: 9781009462792 (HB), 9781108958073 (PB), 9781108955485 (OC)
ISSNs: 2632-7112 (online), 2632-7104 (print)

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Writing Philosophy; Forming Philosophical Works	6
2 Methods for the Apt Movement of Thought	23
3 Poetry in Philosophy	41
References	66