

PREFACE

Free logic – i.e., logic free of existential presuppositions in general and with respect to singular terms in particular – began to come into its own as a field of research in the 1950s. As is the case with so many developments in Western philosophy, its roots can be traced back to ancient Greek philosophy. It is only during the last fifty years, however, that it has become well established as a branch of modern logic. The name of Karel Lambert is most closely connected with this development: he gave it its name and its profile as a well defined field of research.

After a development of fifty years, it is time to look back and take stock while at the same time scanning for new perspectives. This is the purpose of the papers collected in this volume. The first paper is written by Karel Lambert himself who also comments on all the papers of the other authors. In an introductory essay we give a survey of the present status of and new directions in free logic.

We would like to thank the authors very much for their contributions and for their patience in awaiting the publication of this volume. In addition we would like to express our great thanks to Dov Gabbay for including the volume in his *Applied Logic* series. We hope that the appearance of the book in this series will afford some satisfaction to the authors after the long delay in publication. Lastly and most importantly we would like to thank Karel Lambert, the founding father of free logic, for his lasting friendship, support and encouragement. To him we dedicate this volume with great respect as a sign of our gratitude and affection.

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The Editors



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