

PREFACE

As with almost all books, this one took much longer to complete than we thought when we started. It began within the research project “Actions and Passions of the Mind from 1200-1700” which was financed by the Nordic Research Council in the Humanities (NOS-H) between 1999 and 2001, but as the topic became clearer the book grew and the final product involves several people outside the original group in the NOS-H project. Many of the papers published here started as talks given at meetings of the project, but no meeting resembles the finished book. Indeed, all the articles are, in the end, written just for this volume.

One of the overarching aims of the NOS-H project was to highlight the continuity between medieval and modern philosophy of mind, and, as editors, we also took this perspective when planning the volume. The individual articles pertain to give an accurate and philosophically interesting treatment of the thinker or period they discuss, but nonetheless the overall picture is one of continuity between not only medieval and early modern psychology of action, but also between late ancient and medieval thinking on emotions and choice.

There are many people we would like to thank. Foremost, some graduate students at Jyväskylä and Uppsala have read and commented various articles in the volume. Jari Kaukua read carefully the whole manuscript commenting especially from the perspective of a doctoral student beginning serious work in the field, and Minna Koivuniemi and Frans Svensson at the Philosophy Department in Uppsala read and gave valuable comments on our introduction. A special thanks to Juhana Toivanen for preparing the indexes.

As editors, we want to express our profound indebtedness to one of our contributors — Lilli Alanen. She was the organizer of the NOS-H project and she has supported both of us in our work over the years. She also lies, in many ways, behind much of the work included in this book.

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