

# Preface

The present volume is the last of the series *Contemporary Philosophy*. As with the earlier volumes in the series, the present chronicles purport to give a survey of significant trends in contemporary philosophy.

The need for such surveys has, I believe, increased rather than decreased over the years. The philosophical scene appears, for various reasons, more complex than ever before. The continuing process of specialization in most branches, the increasing contact between philosophers from various cultures, the emergence of new schools of thought, particularly in philosophical logic and in the philosophy of language and ethics, and the increasing attention being paid to the history of philosophy in discussions of contemporary problems are the most important contributing factors. Surveys of the present kind are a valuable source of knowledge of this complexity. The surveys may therefore help to strengthen the Socratic element of modern philosophy, the intercultural dialogue or *Kommunikationsgemeinschaft*.

So far, 11 volumes have been published in this series, viz. *Philosophy of Language and Philosophical Logic* (Vol. 1), *Philosophy of Science* (Vol. 2), *Philosophy of Action* (Vol. 3), *Philosophy of Mind* (Vol. 4), *African Philosophy* (Vol. 5), *Medieval Age Philosophy* (Vol. 6/1 and Vol. 6/2), *Asian Philosophy* (Vol. 7), *Philosophy of Latin America* (Vol. 8), *Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art* (Vol. 9), *Philosophy of Religion* (Vol. 10), *Ethics or Moral Philosophy* (Vol. 11).

The volumes are, for various reasons, of unequal length. The obvious shortcomings, especially of Vol. 5 on African and Arab Philosophy, have to some extent been compensated for in the volumes on Aesthetics (Vol. 9) and Religion (Vol. 10).

The present volume on *Philosophy of Justice*, containing 21 surveys, shows different approaches with a variety of interpretations (Greek philosophy, Muslim law, European and American philosophical justice).

The chronicles are as a rule written in English, French and German. In the present volume, 3 surveys are written in French and 18 in English. The bibliographical references, with some exceptions, follow the pattern introduced in earlier volumes. The bibliographies themselves usually follow at the end of each chronicle, arranged in alphabetical order. The bibliographies are selected and arranged by the authors themselves.

I am grateful to a number of persons who in various ways have assisted in the preparation of this new series. My thanks are first of all due to Ms. Kari Horn. Without her help, the volume would have been delayed. I am also most grateful to the Secretariat, especially to Ms. Catherine Champniers and Ms. Grace Frank, at the Institut International de Philosophie in Paris. They have done the final proofreading as well as put up the indices.

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