

Preface

One of the most striking things about the philosophical writings of Elizabeth Anscombe is their wide range – a range of which one gets some idea from the titles of the three volumes of her collected papers: *From Parmenides to Wittgenstein*, *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind*, and *Ethics, Religion and Politics*. It is sometimes the case that a philosopher who casts his net wide sacrifices something in the way of depth. But this is the last thing that could be alleged of Anscombe's philosophy. One might almost say that depth was one of the more notorious features of her writing. Easy solutions and glib maxims are wholly absent; there is no itch to 'clinch' every argument (supplying the reader with a happy ending), nor to take up a 'position' (enabling the reader to pigeonhole the author). Sometimes this can baffle – but it is always the sort of fruitful bafflement which comes from, and in turn provokes, a real grappling with philosophical problems.

The wide range of Anscombe's work is reflected in the essays in this volume. (Her own essay, 'Making True', appears here in print for the first time.) A number of the contributors, and Anscombe herself, have connections with *Philosophy*. It was in *Philosophy* that one of the most important essays in modern moral philosophy, 'Modern Moral Philosophy', first appeared in 1958. I am very grateful to Anthony O'Hear for agreeing to publish this volume under the auspices of *Philosophy* and of the Royal Institute of Philosophy. The collection has been in the pipeline for some years; a few of the papers are more than a decade old. It was initially being edited by Hide Ishiguro, through the prompting of Jan Szrednicki. Acknowledgement and thanks must be extended to Professor Ishiguro for getting together four of the papers. I am grateful also to Michael Dummett and David Wiggins for their help and assistance.

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