

PREFACE

I am grateful for the kind support and guidance of many good people during the course of my research and writing about the philosophy of E.A. Burt. Professors Patrick Hutton and Alfred Andrea in the History Department at the University of Vermont pointed me onto the path of scholarship and have continued to hold a candle to light the way for me for the past ten years. Without their faith and encouragement this work would not have been undertaken.

At McGill, in Montreal, Canada, Professor Valentin Boss disciplined my thinking and writing while maintaining valuable enthusiasm for the research. From the first minutes of our initial meeting in 1994 right on through the finished product, Professor Boss has been my best critic and best inspiration.

At the foundation of the published work lies an allegiance to Burt and his memory held deeply by so many who knew him. Friends of E.A. Burt in Ithaca, New York offered me generous hours of conversation. Among the many who welcomed me and my questions, supported me with their encouragement and generosity during the time I spent in Ithaca and afterward, I want to thank especially Frank Pineo, who came upon me unexpectedly at the Burt house one hot summer afternoon, greeted me with Quaker kindness, and has supported me with unwavering enthusiasm ever since. I warmly acknowledge and thank all the members of the Ithaca Society of Friends, who love to remember both "Ned" Burt and his wife, Marjorie. They are Caroline Pineo, Helen and Karl Schantz, J. Anthony (Tony) Gaenslen, Peggy Walbridge and John and Carol Kimball. All were most kind and helpful.

Freddie Burt Brinster, Burt's daughter, has been a great listener and provider of good insight and balance on her father's intellectual and personal life. I thank her for her trust in me to handle her father's intellectual legacy with integrity and fairness.

I also want to thank Frank Moriarty of Australia, who shares an interest in Burt, and Jean Matlock, who shares an interest in both Marjorie and Ned Burt. Both of these good scholars provided me with copies of their own theses on the Burts.

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I owe a lot to Professor H. Floris Cohen of The Netherlands, who has encouraged me in my interest in Burt, both personally and with his own interest and commentary on Burt's historiography of science in his book, *The Scientific Revolution*. Professor Cohen is the first scholar to have established Burt's place among the great historians of science. His faith in my project made it possible to complete it and bring it into publication.

Any work of scholarship and writing makes demands on the family from which the life energy flows into the scholar. My daughter, Emily, and her father, Bernard, have been supportive and patient during the process and I appreciate that very much. Finally, Bernard undertook the tedious task of reading the entire work in order to offer comments and suggestions.

All of these good people have played a part in bringing a book on the life and work of E. A. Burt into print. It has been a long and exciting process for me. E.A. Burt has been an unduly neglected twentieth-century figure. I hope my attention to his work will be just a very small part of the growing interest in Burt studies.

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