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0521018463 - Atoms, Pneuma, and Tranquillity: Epicurean and Stoic Themes in European Thought

Edited by Margaret J. Osler

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This volume brings together scholars from several countries and a variety of disciplines to address the question of the influence that Epicureanism and Stoicism, two philosophies of nature and human nature articulated during classical antiquity, exerted on the development of European thought from ancient times to the Enlightenment. Although certain aspects of the influence of these philosophies on European culture have often been noted – for example, the influence of Stoicism on the development of Christian thought and the influence of Epicureanism on modern materialism – the essays in this volume contribute a new awareness of the degree to which these philosophies and their continued interaction informed European intellectual life well into early modern times.

The influence of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophies on European literature, philosophy, theology, and science are considered. Many thinkers continued to perceive these philosophies as significant alternatives for understanding the human and natural worlds. Having become incorporated into the canon of philosophical alternatives, Epicureanism and Stoicism exerted identifiable influences on scientific and philosophical thought until at least the middle of the eighteenth century.

Even though Aristotelian philosophy may have been left behind after the Renaissance, Reformation, and Scientific Revolution, these alternative ancient philosophies continued to play an active role in Western intellectual life. The history of early modern thought, rather than simply being regarded as the triumph of the moderns, can be understood at least in part as the substitution of one set of ancient models for another.

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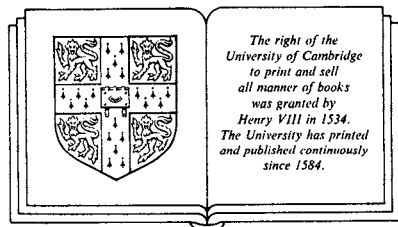
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EPICUREAN AND STOIC THEMES IN
EUROPEAN THOUGHT

Edited by

MARGARET J. OSLER

The University of Calgary



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For Marsha, exemplary friend and colleague

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CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Barker is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Graduate Program in Science and Technology Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has written several articles on the influence of Stoicism on early modern science.

B. J. T. Dobbs is Professor of History at Northwestern University. Her research has primarily concerned the role of alchemy and chemistry in seventeenth-century natural philosophy. She has written two books on Newton's alchemical and theological researches, *The Foundations of Newton's Alchemy, or "The Hunting of the Greene Lyon"* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975) and *The Janus Faces of Genius: The Role of Alchemy in Newton's Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Louise Fothergill-Payne is Professor of Spanish at the University of Calgary. She has published widely on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spanish drama and has edited *Parallel Lives: Spanish and English Drama, 1580–1680* and *Prologue to Performance: Spanish Classical Theater Today* (Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell University Press, 1990). Her recent book *Seneca and Celestina* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988) has expanded her field of inquiry to fifteenth-century intellectual history.

Thomas M. Lennon is Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. He has published many articles and reviews, primarily on the history of seventeenth-century philosophy. His major work involves translation of and commentary upon the philosophy of Nicholas Malebranche. He has recently finished a book-length manuscript, *The Battle of the Gods and Giants: A History of Philosophy, 1655–1715*.

Maristella de P. Lorch is Professor and Chair of the Department of Italian at Barnard College, Columbia University. Her research and writing concerns the Italian Renaissance. Among her books are *A Defense of Life: Lorenzo Valla's Theory of Pleasure* (Munich: Fink, 1985) and (with Ernesto Grassi) *Folly and Insanity in Renaissance Literature* (Binghamton, N.Y.: Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1986).

J. J. MacIntosh is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Calgary. He has wide-ranging interests in philosophy and in the history

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of philosophy, particularly in the seventeenth century. He is presently conducting a major study of Robert Boyle's philosophical views.

Calvin G. Normore is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto and at Ohio State University. He is particularly interested in medieval philosophy and in modal and tense logic. Among his many publications is the article on "Future Contingents" in the *Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy*.

Margaret J. Osler is Associate Professor of History at the University of Calgary. Her research and publications have focused on seventeenth-century philosophies of nature and their relationship to theology. She is presently completing a book, provisionally entitled *Theology and the Mechanical Philosophy: Gassendi and Descartes on Divine Will and the Philosophy of Nature*.

Letizia A. Panizza is Senior Lecturer and Head of the Italian Department at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London. Her research has focused on Italian humanists and ancient philosophical schools, especially Stoicism and Platonism, on Lorenzo Valla, and on debates between rhetoric and philosophy.

Nicholas G. Round is Stevenson Professor of Hispanic Studies at the University of Glasgow. His research interests include fifteenth-century Castilian cultural and political history and the theory and history of translation.

Lisa Tunick Sarasohn is Associate Professor of History at Oregon State University. She is currently writing a book on the moral and political philosophy of Pierre Gassendi. She is also conducting research on the French intellectual community of the 1630s and 1640s.

M. A. Stewart is Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Lancaster, as well as Chairman of the British Society for the History of Philosophy. His research interests include English philosophy in the seventeenth century and the intellectual history of Scotland and Ireland in the eighteenth century.

Gerard Verbeke is Permanent Secretary of the Royal Belgian Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Fine Arts in Brussels. He was formerly Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). Author of many publications on ancient and medieval philosophy, he is particularly interested in the relationship between philosophy and Christianity in Western thought.

John P. Wright, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Windsor, is author of *The Sceptical Realism of David Hume* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983). He is engaged in an extended study of the conceptions of mind, soul, and the body in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century medicine.

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