

# “On What There Was”

## Guidelines for Authors

February 2015

### Formal Structure of Each Volume

#### 0. Introductions (10 pp)

- a. Standard introduction to the series (2 pp)
- b. Specific introduction to the volume (8 pp)
  - Presentation and explanation of the topic (= *T*).
  - Justification of the approach (emphases, aspects left out or considered only marginally, coverage of the three main traditions, as well as of the historical period).
  - Presentation and justification of the selected texts.
  - If the volume aims at showing a specific point (or some specific points), that is: if there is a kind of thesis “behind” the whole thing, then it should be formulated here (and also contrasted with existing views or interpretations).

#### 1. General survey of the topic [historical perspective] (30 pp)

- ❖ In which *texts* is the topic *T* dealt with (authors, places and dates, historical and intellectual contexts)?
- ❖ In which *debates* is *T* dealt with (relations between those debates, importance within philosophy)?
- ❖ Historical background of the respective *texts* and *debates*?
- ❖ How is *T* philosophically present (to what extent, with what importance) in the different traditions, at different times; and why?
- ❖ It might be helpful to include some sort of short “dictionary” introducing the most significant technical terms across the times and cultures (particularly, where core terms change or take on equivocal meanings).
- ❖ If one considers *T* in its multiple expressions in *texts* and *debates* belonging to different, but (often times) parallel traditions, can one see any significant lines of historical development? If yes, what role (if any) did the interaction between the different traditions play in the emergence of these lines of development?
- ❖ Did the respective *texts* and *debates* have a significant impact on the subsequent history of philosophy?

#### 2. Case studies [systematic perspective] (5-6 studies, 150 pp)

- ❖ A case study consists in the presentation of a particularly relevant debate (= *D*) within *T*.
- ❖ Since general considerations concerning the historical and philosophical significance of *T* have been given in part 1, a case study will concentrate exclusively on the “philosophical meat” of *D*. That is:
  - Identification of the question(s) which gave rise to *D*.
  - Analysis of the major positions: theses and arguments (positive and negative).
  - Philosophical evaluation of the positions: *a.* immanent evaluation (coherence); *b.* impact (both historically speaking and with regard to metaphysics); *c.* wherever possible and when the author wishes to, link with modern and/or contemporary debates.
- ❖ Wherever connections between historically or culturally distinct debates must be made explicit in order to facilitate the readers’ understanding, there is the possibility to insert, in small print, succinct sections presenting the relevant contextual elements. It is highly recommendable to avoid integrating more than 4-5 paragraphs (around 10 lines each) per case study.

**3. Texts in original language and translation (80 pp overall)**

- ❖ Selection of at least two core texts per case study (ideally: representing opposite sides in *D*, presenting the central arguments, bringing out the development of *D*, etc.).
- ❖ Further texts, if possible directly linked with *T* but not necessarily with one of the case studies (e.g., texts referred to in the footnotes of several case studies or in the General Survey).

**4. Bibliography (20 pp)**

- ❖ Bibliography for each case study consisting of *a.* the major primary sources of *D* (editions, translations), *b.* general studies in the field of *D*, and *c.* current literature on *D*.
- ❖ The bibliography must cover all authors and topics discussed in the case studies (as well as authors whose writings have been integrated into “3. Texts”), but may refer to further authors and debates of justifiable significance to the case studies.
- ❖ The bibliography will furthermore include sources and texts which the authors of the Introduction and General Survey deem relevant.

**5. Indices (10 pp)**

- ❖ For both the Introduction and General Survey and for the case studies, prepared by the respective authors.
- ❖ Index *nominum*.
- ❖ Index *rerum*.