

Editor's Preface

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Susan Haack is something else; everyone who has heard her deliver a lecture, or read her work with care, knows this. The twenty-six authors who have contributed to this *Festschrift*, prepared for presentation to Professor Haack on the occasion of her seventy-fifth birthday, know it especially well. The articles and testimonials here published are tokens of appreciation and esteem for our honoree and her work. Seven of the authors are students of Haack's, the others grateful fellow thinkers, and discussants and correspondents, encountered along the way. The volume was undertaken at the behest of Leslie Marsh, Managing Editor of *Cosmos and Taxis*, and I am especially grateful to him for this, as for the efficiency and good cheer with which he has seen the project through.

Haack's work covers everything, so the division into four categories that gives this volume its title and organizes the contents of its essays was a matter of discretionary judgement, not evident fact. Still, the headings, and their order, get something right. Haack has advanced philosophy in substantial ways, a tremendous accomplishment, not to mention something that's been deemed virtually impossible, for subtle reasons by good minds; and she has done so with special regard to questions of: the world and our ways of knowing it, the value and values of human life, and justice, truth, and the law.

Reading Haack attentively yields ever greater pleasure and appreciation; skimming is worse than pointless—read with energy and intent or spare yourself the (non)effort! Nevertheless, as Justice Brown so effectively conveys in his *Foreword*, however much you've enjoyed Haack's articulation of her ideas on the page, seeing her present them in person is, well, something else. And the same goes for the move from knowing Susan only from the page or podium to making her acquaintance, and from being her student to being her friend. As I've worked on this volume—and these prefatory words—I've been struck by how comparatively recently many of my co-contributors met Susan, how quickly her dedication, industry, loyalty, patience, candour, breadth and intensity of mind, sense of humour and fun, sharp wit, etc. etc. make a deep and lasting impression.

I've known Susan for almost two-thirds of my life, and haven't the foggiest what I would be without her. In any case, I'm unutterably glad that the scholarship I had won assigned me to the University of Warwick. My undergraduate major had been history, my philosophical views upon beginning my MPhil had a continental accent, and I revelled in Richard Rorty's brash thumbing of his nose at the crabbed analytic establishment. How likely was it that I would write my

thesis under the department's resident logic person?! I'm thankful both for the plasticity of young minds, and the rare luck of encountering a real philosopher. Thank you Susan; my memories of the two of us standing at the blackboard in your Warwick office, after my fellow students had dispersed, going at it hammer and tongs over Rorty, Putnam, Peirce, Kant, whomever, whatever, are indelible and treasured, my gratitude for our philosophical discussions over the telephone, more often than not on more days of the year than not, deep and abiding.

Our contributors represent ten countries and have at least six mother tongues among them. They range widely in age and academic specialty, and, most importantly from Susan's point of view, run the gamut from eminences in their field and country to recently completed PhDs. Susan Haack respects individuals, not reputations or ranks; and cherishes philosophical companions, not academic connections.

Once more with feeling: Susan Haack is something else, both extraordinary and out of the ordinary—extraordinary in the scale and scope of her philosophical accomplishments, out of the ordinary in her manner of achieving them and the example she sets for the rest of us.