

**THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION AND THE ORIGINS
OF MODERN SCIENCE**

Studies in European History

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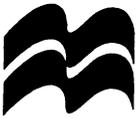
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The Scientific Revolution and the Origins of Modern Science

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For my sister, Kay (1948–1996)
In Memoriam

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A Note on References

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Editor's Preface

The main purpose of this series of studies is to make available to teacher and student alike developments in a field of history that has become increasingly specialized with the sheer volume of new research and literature now produced. These studies are designed to present the 'state of the debate' on important themes and episodes in European history since the sixteenth century, presented in a clear and critical way by someone who is closely concerned with the debate in question.

The studies are not intended to be read as extended bibliographical essays, though each will contain a detailed guide to further reading which will lead students and the general reader quickly to key publications. Each book carries its own interpretation and conclusions, while locating the discussion firmly in the centre of the current issues as historians see them. It is intended that the series will introduce students to historical approaches which are in some cases very new and which, in the normal course of things, would take many years to filter down into the textbooks and school histories. I hope it will demonstrate some of the excitement historians, like scientists, feel as they work away in the vanguard of their subject.

The format of the series conforms closely with that of the companion volumes of studies in economic and social history which has already established a major reputation since its inception in 1968. Both series have an important contribution to make in publicising what it is that historians are doing and in making history more open and accessible. It is vital for history to communicate if it is to survive.

R.J. OVERY

Acknowledgements

As a number of my colleagues know, this little book took me far longer to produce than it should have done. It gives me great pleasure, at last, to be able to thank Richard Overy and Roy Porter for their unfailing patience and encouragement. At Macmillan, first of all Vanessa Graham, and then Simon Winder, also proved endlessly encouraging and unbelievably forbearing as one deadline after another went by. I am very grateful to both of them for this generous treatment. The author's greatest debt when working on a book of this kind, however, is to the authors of all those books and articles upon which he drew in the writing of it. The full list of all these would be longer than the Bibliography upon which this book is ostensibly based. Thanks to these authors I can wholeheartedly concur with Robert Hooke that 'the more you are informed, the more able you are to inquire for and seek after what is considerable to be farther known concerning that Subject'. I very much hope that readers of this book will also feel themselves more able to seek further for a fuller understanding of the origins of modern science. Throughout the writing of this book my sister, Kay, was bravely enduring the ravages of breast cancer and the medical treatment intended to assuage it. She died a matter of weeks before I was able to complete it. We always loved each other very dearly and I dedicate this book to her memory.

JOHN HENRY
Edinburgh, 1996