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par les soins de
GUTTORM FLØISTAD
Université d'Oslo

Tome 10
Philosophie de la religion

Contemporary Philosophy

A new survey

edited by

GUTTORM FLØISTAD

University of Oslo

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Editor

Prof. Guttorm Fløistad
University of Oslo
Institute for the History of Ideas
Svenstoveien 5
0781 Oslo 3
Norway

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PREFACE

The present volume is a continuation of the series *Contemporary Philosophy*. As with the earlier volumes in the series, the present *Chronicles* purport to give a survey of significant trends in contemporary philosophy.

The need for such surveys has, I believe, increased rather than decreased over the years. The philosophical scene appears, for various reasons, more complex than ever before. The continuing process of specialization in most branches, the increasing contact between philosophers from various cultures, the emergence of new schools of thought, particularly in philosophical logic and in the philosophy of language and ethics, and the increasing attention being paid to the history of philosophy in discussions of contemporary problems, are the most important contributing factors. Surveys of the present kind are a valuable source of knowledge of this complexity. The surveys may therefore help to strengthen the Socratic element of modern philosophy, the intercultural dialogue or *Kommunikationsgemeinschaft*.

So far, nine volumes have been published in this series, viz. *Philosophy of Language and Philosophical Logic* (Volume 1), *Philosophy of Science* (Volume 2), *Philosophy of Action* (Volume 3), *Philosophy of Mind* (Volume 4), *African Philosophy* (Volume 5), *Medieval Age Philosophy* (Volumes 6/1 and 6/2), *Asian Philosophy* (Volume 7), *Philosophy of Latin America* (Volume 8), and *Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art* (Volume 9).

The present volume on *Philosophy of Religion* (Volume 10), containing 17 surveys, shows the variety of philosophical approaches to a wide area. It also shows the impact of the ongoing secularization process to religious beliefs, especially to Christianity. Various types of fundamentalism may be regarded as a reaction against the secular world. It goes without saying that a single volume cannot cover the rich variety of religious expression in our time. The intensity of the commercial world may even be regarded as a new religious movement.

The *Chronicles* are as a rule written in English, French and German. In the present volume, 11 surveys are written in English, 5 in French, and 1 in German. The bibliographical references that follow at the end of each chronicle are arranged in alphabetical order. The bibliographies are selected and arranged by the authors themselves.

I am most grateful to a number of persons who in various ways have assisted in the preparation of this new series. My thanks are first of all due to Mrs. Kari Horn, who has typed the *Preface* and the *Introduction*. I am also most grateful to the Secretariat, especially to Ms. Catherine Champniers, at the *Institut International de Philosophie* in Paris. They have done the final proof-reading as well as put up the indices.

My thanks are also due to the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (Paris), and to the *Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines* (UNESCO), and to the staff at Springer Verlag.

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Guttorm FLØISTAD.