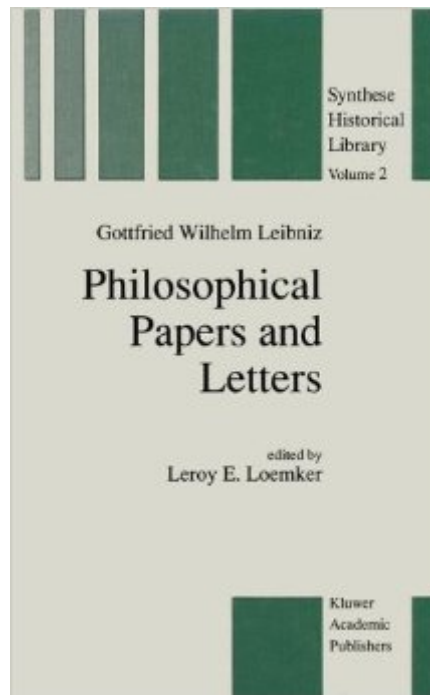


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Philosophical Papers And Letters: A Selection (Synthese Historical Library 2) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

The selections contained in these volumes from the papers and letters of Leibniz are intended to serve the student in two ways: first, by providing a more adequate and balanced conception of the full range and penetration of Leibniz's creative intellectual powers; second, by inviting a fresher approach to his intellectual growth and a clearer perception of the internal strains in his thinking, through a chronological arrangement. Much confusion has arisen in the past through a neglect of the development of Leibniz's ideas, and Couturat's impressive plea, in his edition of the *Opuscules et fragments* (p. xii), for such an arrangement is valid even for incomplete editions. The beginning student will do well, however, to read the maturer writings of Parts II, III, and IV first, leaving Part I, from a period too largely neglected by Leibniz criticism, for a later study of the still obscure sources and motives of his thought. The Introduction aims primarily to provide cultural orientation and an exposition of the structure and the underlying assumptions of the philosophical system rather than a critical evaluation. I hope that together with the notes and the Index, it will provide those aids to the understanding which the originality of Leibniz's scientific, ethical, and metaphysical efforts deserve.

Book Information

Paperback: 736 pages

Publisher: D. Reidel/Springer; 2nd edition (December 31, 1976)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 902770693X

ISBN-13: 978-9027706935

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.7 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

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G.W. Leibniz is not a widely studied philosopher outside of University graduate programs, and even in that setting, he is rarely studied in depth. This book, though expensive at times, is perhaps the best anthology of Leibniz's essays, papers, and correspondences with other Modern philosophers published in the English language. Leibniz only published two works during his lifetime so to have

an anthology that combined many of the great ideas of such an influential German thinker is a magnificent achievement. This book, quite simply, is worth the money for any person interested in painting a better picture of the Modern period! I hope you can find one for under \$50! Best of luck!

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