

MR1976546 (2004c:03011) 03A05 00A30 03-03

Analytic philosophy.

An anthology.

Edited by A. P. Martinich and David Sosa.

Blackwell Philosophy Anthologies, 13.

Blackwell Publishers, Inc., Malden, MA, 2001. x+517 pp. \$41.95. ISBN 0-631-21647-2

This impressive volume is designed to complement a book with the same editors [*A companion to analytic philosophy*, Blackwell Publ. Ltd., Oxford, 2001; MR1873398 (2003a:00010)], providing “an authoritative and comprehensive collection of the essential primary readings” intended for use in courses on analytic philosophy. A total of forty-three papers and three excerpts from Wittgenstein’s books are reprinted here. The selection ranges from Frege’s classic paper “On sense and reference” (1892) to Searle’s “Can computers think?” (1984). The papers are arranged in seven sections covering the main fields of research in the analytic tradition: philosophy of language (pp. 5–97), metaphysics (pp. 99–151), epistemology (pp. 153–234), philosophy of mind (pp. 235–284), freedom and personal identity (pp. 285–342), ethics (pp. 343–399), and methodology (pp. 401–511). At the end of each section a brief list of further reading is provided.

The editors provide a three-page introduction with a quick historical overview of analytic philosophy throughout the twentieth century. They hold that “notwithstanding the nay-sayers who have declared analytic philosophy (or even more indiscriminately, philosophy in general) dead, it is flourishing”. The editors acknowledge the difficulty of summarizing or characterizing philosophy today, “however, what appears to us to be the case, if only as through a glass darkly, is a more widespread scientism. (. . .) Scientific results have become more important to philosophy, and philosophy overlaps with science now more than it has since the seventeenth century.”

For the reviewer this scientistic conclusion of the editors of this book seems blind to the general resurgence of pragmatism during the last decade, developed in the bosom of mainstream analytic philosophy as a reaction to the widespread scientism that they detect.

Regarding the bibliography, it is surprising that the sources and the dates of the texts originally in German (Frege, Wittgenstein) are not provided, only those of their translations into English.

Jaime Nubiola (Pamplona)