POSTSCRIPT

Writing these comments has been very much like having extended conversations with the various authors of the papers, most of whom are colleagues that I have known for a long time and many of whom were at one time graduate students at Stanford. First names are often used, as they would be in a conversation, and the discussion of even rather technical matters is left at an informal level, with just a few exceptions.

It is also characteristic of many of the papers that they set forth technical contributions to topics in which I have been interested. The papers are not really conducting an argument of an extended sort with my own views. Consequently, in many cases what I have to say is less argumentative and dialectical than is characteristic of much philosophical discourse. On the other hand, I do not think that I am known as being reluctant to engage in argument. In fact I rather like as much intensity as is compatible with not taking sharp points personally. In any case, a quick perusal will make it evident that many of my comments are expansions of points, not anything like expressions of disagreement. So, my aim has been a congenial spirit of conversation, which I know I have not succeeded in maintaining at a uniform level, but that is hardly to be expected.

In any case, I have enjoyed reading all of these papers on so many different subjects, and even more the opportunity to write about a variety of philosophical and scientific issues that matter to me, especially when raised by old friends.

Finally, my special thanks to two persons, to Maria Carla Galavotti for organizing the Venice Conference on my work in 1992 - a number of the papers in these two volumes were first presented there – and Paul Humphreys for his work in organizing and editing these volumes.