

## PREFACE

The idea for this book was first developed in August 1996 in the course of a conference at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland which was organized by John E. Murdoch and William R. Newman. This ten-day seminar ran under the same title as this book—“Late Medieval and Early Modern Corpuscular Matter Theories”—and brought together historians of science, philosophy and medicine from three continents.

The conference was sponsored by the *Foundation for Intellectual History* in London, founded and directed by Constance Blackwell, whose characteristic generosity made the meeting possible, who contributed to its ongoing discussions, and who has in various ways encouraged the genesis of this volume. In addition, the *Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza* in Florence contributed financially to the conference.

Although participating in the St. Andrews conference, Roger Ariew, Ugo Baldini, Saul Fisher, Guido Giglioni, and Fred Michael are not present with their own chapter in this volume. However, the contents of their presentations and their contributions to the general discussions have left clear traces in this book. Like Stefano Caroti, who could not be present at the conference, they also participated in the ensuing exchange of papers and thereby helped to shape the contents of certain chapters.

Above all we must thank Stephen Read, of the Department of Logic and Metaphysics at St. Andrews, not only for his presence and contributions to the meeting itself, but who, in the years preceding our conference planned and met with officers of his University in order that all arrangements for the meeting be assured of utmost success. It is to him that our gratitude must be extended for receiving us with such efficiency and courtesy at St. Andrews. During the course of the conference, Chris Lindsay, now of the University of Glasgow as well as St. Andrews, was of assistance in more ways than we can number. Our appreciation must also go to Christine Gascoigne, who greatly facilitated the participants' use of the library at St. Andrews. Lastly, we must thank June Pratt for her efforts in making it possible to hold the final banquet of our conference in the Edwardian mansionhouse Hill of Tarvit.

The actual production of this book would not have been possible without the help and assistance of Julian Deahl and Marcella Mulder

of Brill Academic Publishers, of their staff, and of the anonymous referees of the chapters. Hans Thijssen and Christoph Lüthy, the general editors of the series in which this volume appears, have coordinated its production. Paul Scholey has carefully proofread some of its articles. With admirable diligence and patience, Kim van Gennip has prepared the bibliography, the index, and the manuscripts of the chapters. The book's layout and high quality typography are due to the *Typographica Academica Traiectina*, and we would like to thank in particular Johannes Rustenburg for his energetic and diligent work. The production of this book has been financially sponsored by the *Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy* at Nijmegen University. Like corpuscles, which gather to form a visible body, these many people and institutions have produced the book you have in hand. We would like to thank them all.

The Editors