PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION

In the central and continuing debate of philosophy, that between the Sophists and Socrates, this text attempted what might be called a “socratic realism,” defending the objective and even absolute value of our knowledge, while grounding it in the dialectic of human existence. It is hoped that this approach, and the ensuing encounter with the broad epistemological tradition to which it leads, will continue to be serviceable for those seeking a text in the undergraduate course in theory of knowledge.

The opportunity has been taken to correct a few errors in the text, and a section has been added to the bibliography (see *AD-DENDA*, pp. 300–302) calling attention to some of the significant works appearing in the interim since original publication; as is the case with the main bibliography, this aims to be selective rather than complete, in the belief that this is more useful.

This much might be added: of all the sections departing from familiar or standard issues, the author would regard Chapter 10, “Existential Truth,” as of most philosophical importance.

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE