



**Language, Logic and Method: Papers deriving
from the Boston Colloquium in the Philosophy of
Science 1973-1980 (Boston Studies in the
Philosophy and History of Science)**

R.S. Cohen, Marx W. Wartofsky

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Fundamental problems of the uses of formal techniques and of natural and instrumental practices have been raised again and again these past two decades, in many quarters and from varying viewpoints. We have brought a number of quite basic studies of these issues together in this volume, not linked conceptually nor by any rigorously defined problematic, but rather simply some of the most interesting and even provocative of recent research accomplishments. Most of these papers are derived from the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science during 1973-80, the two exceptions being those of Karel Berka (on scales of measurement) and A. A. Zinov'ev (on a non-traditional theory of quantifiers). Just how intriguing these results (or conjectures?) seem to us may be seen from some brief quotations: (1) Judson Webb: ". . . the abstract machine concept has many of the appropriate kinds of properties for modelling living, reproducing, rule following, self-reflecting, accident-prone, and lucky creatures . . . the a priori logical results relevant to the abstract machine concept, above all Godel's, could not conceivably have turned out any better for the mechanist." (2) M. L. Dalla Chiara: ". . . modal interpretation (of quantum logic) shows clearly that it possesses a logical meaning which is quite independent of quantum mechanics." (3) Isaac Levi: (as against Peirce and Popper) ". . . infallibilism is consistent with corrigibilism, and a view which respects avoidance of error is an important desideratum for science.

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