Foreword

Harold Himsworth, as a scientist and as a physician, sees reality through facts and their logical consequences. In this small and elegant book, he focuses on how philosophers use words and their connotations for establishing truths. Believing that we are more likely to reflect reality by seeing philosophic problems in straightforward ways, he rejects as misguided those arguments that reach for profundity through reasoning based upon unrealistic premises. In particular, Himsworth has no faith in attempts to discern how we think by mere use of words as opposed to careful observation.

In the future, most likely far distant, we shall perceive logic as a branch not of philosophy but of neurobiology, in much the same way that, beginning with Galileo and Newton, natural philosophy became transformed into physics. Until then, the
scientific world is bound to be intrigued by philosophers concerned with how ideas are generated. But here we must not automatically assume that, because their arguments are increasingly subtle, they represent serious advances beyond the commonplace ideas about deduction and induction first formulated so well some three hundred fifty years ago by Francis Bacon. I, like Harold Himsworth, am uncomfortable with much of this unneeded complexity. To see its pitfalls, as well as to enjoy the urban civility of Himsworth’s thought, I most enthusiastically endorse the reading of the words that follow below.

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