

NOTES ON THE TEXT

French titles of Descartes' works have been retained throughout the text. Unless otherwise noted, translations from French, German, Spanish, and Italian texts are my own. My translation of the *Discours* uses the generally excellent version by Donald A. Cress, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980), as a basis of reference and comparison from which it sometimes differs. Similarly, my translation of the *Géométrie* is based on the standard bilingual edition translated by David Eugene Smith and Marcia L. Latham, *The Geometry of René Descartes* (Chicago: Open Court, 1925), with modifications aimed at maintaining original vocabulary.

The use of masculine pronouns in the text usually indicates the autobiographical subject, "Descartes." When, less frequently, they indicate a general subject inferred from Descartes' writings, they should be construed in conformity with the French subject marker, "on."