George Bentham, *Outline of a New System of Logic*, Bristol: Thoemmes Antiquarian Books, Ltd., 1990. x + 287 pp. np.

Reviewed by

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This facsimile reprint of the [*1827*] edition of Bentham's *Outline* is a welcome addition to the small but growing fund of early nineteenth century works currently in print.

George Bentham (1800-1884; a nephew of Jeremy) was one of a group of logicians whose work appeared between the seventeenth century tradition of British text-writers (Robert Sanderson, John Wallis, Henry Aldrich and others), and the algebraic logicians of the later nineteenth century. The earlier group had succeeded in producing stable, widely accepted, but uninspired renderings of traditional syllogistic doctrine, while the latter moved in distinctly new directions. Bentham, Richard Whately, Sir William Hamilton and a few others constituted an interim group whose works contained little formal novelty, but nonetheless rekindled interest in logic by presenting fresh accounts of the theoretical basis of the subject.

The primary work in this period was Richard Whately's *Elements of Logic* [*1826*], a particularly influential work which remained in nearly continuous publication from its first appearance in 1823 until the first decade of the twentieth century. In summary, Whately conceived of logic as an abstract science in which the syllogism, for instance, was no longer considered to be a species of argument but was instead regarded as a pure form which could be used to test the validity of any (actual) argument. In addition, Whately sharply circumscribed the domain of logic by paring away many of the extraneous topics (e.g. method, induction, psychology,