

Frank Plumpton Ramsey. *Notes on Philosophy, Probability and Mathematics*. Edited by Maria Carla Galavotti, Bibliopolis, Naples, 1991. iii + 417 pp.

Reviewed by

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The publication of these notes promises to play a major role in the renewal of studies on the work of F. P. Ramsey which is exemplified, for instance, by the publication of [Sahlin 1990] (reviewed in *Modern Logic*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 87–89), and by the publication of a special issue of the journal *Theoria* devoted to the Philosophy of F. P. Ramsey (vol. LVII, 1991, no. 3, edited by the same editor of the volume we are reviewing here). The texts published in this volume are taken from the “Ramsey Collection” (RC) held in the Hillman Library of the University of Pittsburgh. As the editor informs us, the material to be found in the RC is varied, and covers almost ten years of Ramsey’s life.

Almost all the papers are published here for the first time, but only for a few of them has it been possible to indicate precisely when they were written. They span every field Ramsey’s curiosity and ingenuity went through, but in this review I will limit myself to the more logically based notes.

Even though it is difficult sometimes to discern precisely between what is a mere summary of other people’s papers from what does constitute (a sketch or a first draft of) an original elaboration, it surely can be said that besides being a source of information about the background literature to Ramsey’s thought, the material contained in this volume also contributes to our reconstruction of the debate that was going on among members of the philosophical community: Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, and Johnson being quoted the most. To give the flavor of Ramsey’s theoretical dispositions it should be mentioned that sometimes these quotations are accompanied by some rude remarks, as