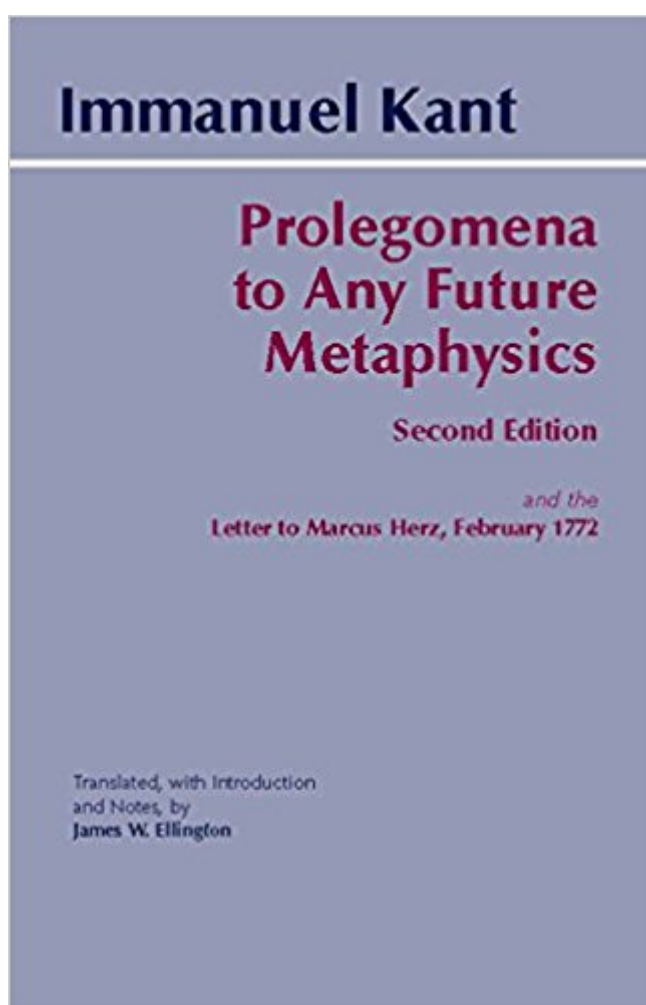


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# Prolegomena To Any Future Metaphysics: And The Letter To Marcus Herz, February 1772 (Hackett Classics)



## Synopsis

This edition of Prolegomena includes Kant's letter of February, 1772 to Marcus Herz, a momentous document in which Kant relates the progress of his thinking and announces that he is now ready to present a critique of pure reason.

## Book Information

Series: Hackett Classics

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.; 2 edition (December 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872205932

ISBN-13: 978-0872205932

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,541 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Textbooks >

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Immanuel Kant; Translated with Introduction and Notes by James W Ellington

"easy" read in the sense that the book is concise, follows a very logical and explicitly laid out progression, and Kant -as he does- repeats points multiple times. The content is actually quite clear and straightforward too, the main difficulties I had were related to his sentence structure and figuring out which pronouns referred to what. Totally accessible for an interested layman once you understand the context of the work. Must read for before the critique

A must read, great for philosophy majors. A awesome basis for learning philosophy. Buy it now you won't regret it.

As far as conciseness goes, you won't find much better, and I love that this series of philosophy

texts is so inexpensive. However, that doesn't make Kant any easier to comprehend. It's tough stuff that requires ample thought while reading, and it doesn't help that this is a translation; as anyone will tell you, things sometimes get lost in translation.

Another insight into metaphysics.

GREAT REFERENCE WORK. MANY MORE SUCH REFERENCE BOOKS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY POST GRADUATE STUDENTS.

Kant wrote the Prolegomena to assist readers who were having trouble understanding his Critique of Pure Reason. Nevertheless, the Prolegomena itself is difficult reading. In contrast to much of contemporary philosophy, however, it is worth the effort. One comes away from the Prolegomena with a different world view. This alternative perspective is not something that one need accept or reject, but a point of view that one may consider, part of our conceptual wherewithal for trying to make some sense of life. Though commonly cast in the role of a philosophical idealist, Kant emphatically agrees that all knowledge is experientially determined. He parts company with philosophical materialists such as Marx, however, when he posits the existence of mind as organized a priori in a specific though unknowable way. Mind, thus, is not a tabula rasa on which our first experiences are inscribed and then used in making sense of what follows. Mind, instead, shapes all our experiences in terms of its inherent organization. This leads Kant to the distinction between noumena, things as they actually are, and phenomena, things as we apprehend them upon their encounter with the organization of mind. This means that we can never know the world as it actually is. Since there is no way to test this claim, we are left in the realm of speculative philosophical thought as an end in itself. Nevertheless, it is worth pointing out that modern linguistics, especially as practiced by Chomsky, makes a comparable assumption. Chomsky observes that the remarkable thing about the world's many languages is not that they are so different, but that in crucial ways they have a great deal in common. This suggests that the functioning central nervous system -- mind -- has a specific and universal structure, that it is organized in much the same way from time to time and place to place. In addition, though Garfinkel might reject this assessment, his ethnomethodological notion of interpretive procedures which enable us to make the social world intelligible for ourselves and each other seems to presuppose a pre-existing cognitive structure. In the words of one critic, they are "psychologisms," mental artifacts that are used by all of us and not socially learned. Again, they seem to be inherent a priori in the

structure of the mind. There is, no doubt, a good deal in the Prolegomena that I've missed or forgotten or misunderstood. If, however, I've gained nothing but insight into the possibility of mind as something other than a primordial blank slate, something that has a structure of its own, I've gained a great deal.

Had to purchase this book for my daughter's class. Not sure how to review it but she got a B in the class.

The cover was really bent and out of shape.

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