



Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language

By Gregory S. Moss

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Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language examines the central arguments in Cassirer's first volume of the *Philosophy of Symbolic Forms*. Gregory Moss demonstrates both how Cassirer defends language as an autonomous cultural form and how he borrows the concept of the "concrete universal" from G. W. F. Hegel in order to develop a concept of cultural autonomy. While Cassirer rejected elements of Hegel's methodology in order to preserve the autonomy of language, he also found it necessary to incorporate elements of Hegel's method to save the Kantian paradigm from the pitfalls of skepticism. Moss advocates for the continuing relevance of Cassirer's work on language by situating it within in the context of contemporary linguistics and contemporary philosophy. This book provides a new program for investigating Cassirer's work on the other forms of cultural symbolism in his *Philosophy of Symbolic Forms*, by showing how the *autonomy* of culture is one of the leading questions motivating Cassirer's philosophy of culture. With a thorough comparison of Cassirer's theory of symbolism to other dominant theories from the twentieth century, including Heidegger and Wittgenstein, this book provides valuable insight for studies in philosophy of language, semiotics, epistemology, pyscholingustics, continental philosophy, Neo-Kantian philosophy, and German idealism.

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Editorial Review

Review

Gregory Moss . . . make[s] a further contribution . . . by focusing our attention on Cassirer's philosophy of language. . . . While Moss is motivated to distance Cassirer's account from a teleology of culture in order to resolve the tension between Verticalism and Horizontalism, it seems that Cassirer can hold that culture as a whole has the end of uniting human beings and building up a common world, while still acknowledging that each symbolic form is able to do this in its own unique way. . . . Moss's broad efforts to untangle this thorny issue remind us that this is a problem anyone interested in Cassirer's philosophy of language and culture must address. (*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*)

It is a welcome event in Cassirer studies to see more work appear in English on the interpretation of *The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms*. Language as a symbolic form is, in many ways, a key to the other symbolic forms, as this interpretation by Gregory S. Moss emphasizes. Students and scholars concerned with the philosophy of language will find this work most useful. (Donald Phillip Verene, Emory University)

Gregory S. Moss offers a careful and insightful treatment of Cassirer's account of language within his broader philosophy of culture. Special emphasis is given on the Kantian and Hegelian roots of Cassirer's philosophy of symbolic forms. This is particularly important since Kant and Hegel are indispensable for any deeper understanding of Cassirer. The book is an inspiring read not only for scholars of Cassirer's philosophy, but also for those interested in the philosophy of culture, and the history of continental philosophy in general. (Guido Kreis, University of Bonn)

About the Author

Gregory Moss is a lecturer in philosophy at Clemson University.

Users Review

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Lonnie Bowers:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for people. The book Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship using the book Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Charles Alexander:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This Ernst Cassirer and

the Autonomy of Language is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

James Murray:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for your requirements is Ernst Cassirer and the Autonomy of Language this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how does the world has grown up. The language styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some research when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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