Table of Contents

Preface vii

Chapter 1 - Introduction 1
   I  Plato's Challenge 1
   II  Two Approaches to Wholes and Parts 6
   III  Illustration of the Idea of a Three-Tiered Whole 17
   IV  The Theoretical Context 30
   V  Outline of the Argument 44

Part One: Wholes

Chapter 2 - Concrete Comprising Entities 51
   I  Preliminaries 51
   II  Ways of Being One 61
      Appendix: Plural Quantification 77

Chapter 3 - Types of Comprising Entities 81
   I  Collective and Distributive Classes 81
   II  Distributive Classes and Concreteness 85
   III  Collections 92

Chapter 4 - Theory and Pre-theory of Wholes 99
   I  The Pre-theoretical Conception 99
   II  Preliminaries to a Theoretical Conception 107

Part Two: Sums

Chapter 5 - Classical and Neoclassical Mereology 117
   I  Principles of Classical and Neoclassical Mereology 117
   II  Limitations of the Notion of a Classical Sum 122
   III  Flexibility of the Notion of a Neoclassical Sum 130

Chapter 6 - Traditional Higher-grade Wholes as Sums 141
   I  Organic Wholes and Gestalts 143
   II  Features of Organic Wholes and Gestalts 150
   III  Organic Wholes and Gestalts as Sums 161
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 7 - Criticism of the Notion of a Neoclassical Sum 167
I Conditioned Sums 168
II Non-unique Sums 173
III Mereologically Varying Sums 181

Chapter 8 - Sums, Collections and All the Parts 189
I Inherent Limitation in the Notion of a Sum 190
II Classical Sums as Identical to their Parts 193

Part Three: Unities

Chapter 9 - A Theory of Unities 211
I Introduction 211
II Unities and Collections 215
III Principles for a Theory of Unities 229
   Appendix: Proofs of Theorems 247

Chapter 10 - Further Elaborations and Applications 253
I Perspectives on the Theory of Unities 253
II Applying a Theory of Unities 267
III The Paradox of Tibbles 277

Bibliography 293
Index 303
Wholes, Sums and Unities
Meirav, A.
2003, VIII, 312 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-4020-1660-8