Preface

The aim of this collection of previously unpublished essays is to address the relation between philosophy, Wissenschaft (in the sense of strict or natural science), and Dichtung (i.e., literature, fiction, or poetry) in the work of Gottlob Frege. What does Frege say about Dichtung in relation to logic and philosophy? What does this tell us about Frege’s conception of philosophy and its relation to the sciences? Does Frege himself use elements of Dichtung in his writings? To which purpose? An important point of comparison here is Wittgenstein, who, in addition to listing Frege as one of his main influences, famously claimed that “Philosophie dürfte man eigentlich nur dichten.” The complex relation between Frege and Wittgenstein is addressed in several of the contributions, and two of the authors (Janik and Venturinha) have a particular focus on Wittgenstein. Our hope is that this anthology will provide stimulating new perspectives on these questions and nuance the received picture of Frege as a strict logicist and propagator of a scientistic view of philosophy.

This anthology has its origin in the international workshop Frege zwischen Dichtung und Wissenschaft, held at the Wittgenstein Archives and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bergen in December 2014, organized by the editors. We want to thank all the participants of that workshop for stimulating presentations and discussions. In addition to papers originally presented at the workshop, the anthology comprises three papers—by Korhonen, Polimenov, and Venturinha—invited by the editors.

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