

Table of contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	7
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	11
1. METHODOLOGY: LESSING AS A PROBLEM	13
A. Interpretations of Lessing's theology; B. Methodology.	
2. THE CONCEPT OF TRUTH IN THE ENLIGHTENMENT. . .	47
A. The problem of certainty; B. The ego as first principle of philosophy; C. ' <i>Mathesis universalis</i> ' as the formal structure of truth; D. The material content of rational truth; E. Reason and the critique of Christianity; F. Criticism of the Bible as a medium of revelation.	
3. THE COGNITIVE CRISIS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT. . .	79
A. The anomaly of existence and the rise of empiricism; B. Empiricism in Germany; C. The cognitive crisis of the <i>Aufklärung</i> .	
4. THE CRISIS IN LESSING'S THINKING.	99
A. The problem of approaching Lessing; B. The rationalistic paradigm; C. The empiricistic paradigm and the crisis in Lessing's thinking; D. The effects of the empiricistic paradigm on Lessing's anthropology; E. The structure of Lessing's cognitive crisis.	
5. LESSING'S ATTEMPTED THEOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS. . .	149
A. Lessing's relationship to Christianity; B. Lessing's principle of reconciliation; C. The rationality of the empirico-historical life of man: (1) The general content of Christian revelation; (2) The formal essence of 'revealed' truths; (3) The origin of the empirical content of revelation; (4) The <i>telos</i> of revelation; (5) The act of appropriation or	

10 G. E. Lessing's theology: A reinterpretation

Lessing's '*ars dialectice cogitandi*'; D. Excursus: Lessing's concept of God.



6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.	235
NOTES.	239
BIBLIOGRAPHY.	271
A. Primary sources; B. General secondary sources; C. Secondary sources on Lessing.	
INDEX OF SELECTED AUTHORS	281