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GÖDEL'S LAST WORKS, 1938-1974: THE EMERGING PHILOSOPHY

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Review of

Kurt Gödel, *Collected Works*. Volume II. *Publications 1938-1974*. Editor-in-chief Solomon Feferman. New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990. xvii + 407.

I

This is the second volume of this impressive series of Gödel's works. Its general characteristics are the same as those of the first volume which appeared in 1986 with the same editorial team. Since I already reviewed those characteristics in my earlier essay-review (*THIS JOURNAL*, 3, (1992), 58–74), I will concentrate here on the particular content we are offered now. As before, my viewpoint will be that of a philosopher, so I will make comments mostly on the philosophical implications of (or the philosophical theses explicitly maintained in) this set of Gödel's works, as well as on the way in which those implications are taken into consideration in the corresponding introductory notes. The reasons for choosing this procedure, already stated in my former review, can be summed up here: while Gödel's technical works have been well studied and have exerted massive influence in the logico-mathematical development of the second two thirds of this century, his philosophical ideas have been rarely taken into consideration by philosophers. Also, I think that much of Gödel's technical results were obtained mostly in search of logico-mathematical support for his philosophical beliefs. In this connection this second volume of his published works is really fundamental, as it was only in this period that Gödel decided to make public some