Contents

Preface xi

1. Introduction 1
   1. Ontology and Metaphysics 5
   2. Modified Realism and Radical Relativity 23

2. Is Frege a Radical Relativist? 39
   1. The Concept of Identity 42
   2. The Concept of Existence 74
   3. Some Relativist Interpretations of Frege 76
   4. Contextualism and Realism 86

3. Frege: Existence Defined as Identifiability 103
   1. The Identity of Objects 104
   2. The Identity of Ideas 109
   3. The Identity of Functions 111
   4. Is Existence Best Defined as Identifiability? 114
   5. Defining Existence as Identifiability 116

4. Russell’s Robust Sense of Reality 123
   1. Russell’s Three Senses of “Real” 124
   2. Against Meinong’s Nonexistents 127
   3. Is Existence a Classificatory Concept? 130
   4. Russell and Parmenides 135
   5. Facts and Propositions 144

5. Russell’s Forty-four ‘No Entity without Identity’ Theories 149
   1. Particulars and Universals 154
   2. Classes and Ontological Commitment 165
   3. Minds and Bodies 186
   4. General Relativity Theory 189
   5. Quantum Mechanics 192
   6. Common Sense Recognition 195
   7. Inference of Events 197
   8. Space, Time, and Events 201