

# Preface

Contributors to the Royal Institute of Philosophy Lectures, 1981–82, were asked to consider what were the important issues arising in the relationship of philosophy and literature. The question presupposes or determines hardly anything. If the vagueness of the request needs defence, it may be found in the richness and variety of the response.

Professor Jacques Derrida's lecture, *Devant la Loi*, was first read in an English translation prepared by Dr Paul Foulkes. Having done so, the author felt that Dr Foulkes' version was too English for publication. The article is therefore published in the original French, edited by Dr Foulkes, with some cuts imposed by limitations of space (marked . . . ). Many thanks are due to Dr Foulkes for his work.

A fourteenth lecture of the series by Professor Anthony Nuttall has already been published, contained in his *A New Mimesis: Shakespeare and the Representation of Reality* (Methuen, 1983), with further material, between pages 8 and 75.