

**THE SOCIAL
PHILOSOPHY
OF RODBERTUS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649287543

The social philosophy of Rodbertus by E. C. K. Gonner

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Cover @ 2017

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THE
SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY
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RODBERTUS

BY
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48263
15/6/00

London
MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED

NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1899

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GLASGOW: PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE AND CO.

TO MY WIFE
IN MEMORY OF AROSA AND BISKRA
WHERE I BEGAN AND WHERE I RENEWED THE STUDY OF
RODBERTUS.

PREFACE.

IN the present volume I have endeavoured to combine into a systematic whole, the social and economic teachings of Rodbertus. The task, I must own, has proved more difficult than I anticipated, since in addition to the work of exposition and definite criticism, it has often been necessary to readjust the emphasis which the author himself, doubtless under the impulse of controversy, placed upon the various parts of his various arguments. As a consequence some few chapters are rather based on Rodbertus than reproductions of what is to be found in his works, while others again are mainly critical; in nearly all much rearrangement has been involved. Controversial matters, as a rule, have been deprived of the prominence given them by Rodbertus. For a similar reason, that is, in order not to embarrass the movement of the main argument, many questions of great interest in themselves, but of special rather than general importance, are dealt with very briefly. It need hardly be added that I have tried to take

Rodbertus at his best, and to interpret him liberally, even when dissenting most from his arguments or conclusions. My attitude is that of expositor and critic.

I welcome this opportunity of thanking Professor Henry Jones of the University of Glasgow for kind criticism and many valuable suggestions, and also my colleague Professor MacCunn, who not only gave me the benefit of his judgment on several points, but undertook the laborious task of reading through the proof sheets. But for their help this book would have been more imperfect than it is, and still less worthy of the eminent thinker with whose theories it deals.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LIVERPOOL,
May 13th, 1899.