This volume provides a comprehensive presentation of the philosophical work of the fifteenth-century Renaissance thinker Giovanni Pico della Mirandola. In essays specially commissioned for this book, a distinguished group of scholars presents the central tropics and texts of Pico’s literary output. Best known as the author of the celebrated “Oration on the Dignity of Man,” a magnificent speech originally intended to introduce a debate of 900 theses to be held in Rome before the Pope, the College of Cardinals, and an international group of scholars, Pico also wrote several other prominent works.

On the Dignity of Man

This is a translation of three mature works by Mirandola: On the Dignity of Man, a document of early Renaissance humanism; One Being and the One, a treatise defending what Pico held to be the agreement between Aristotle and Plato on the relationship between unity and being; and Heptaplus, an interpretation influenced by a blend of cabalism and Christian doctrine of the first verses of Genesis. The collection reflects the remarkable range of interests of a major Renaissance thinker and humanist.