

# Content

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>                                      | 7   |
| <b>I. Introduction</b>                                       | 8   |
| <b>II. Sources of Newton's Inspiration</b>                   | 10  |
| The Hexameral literature and the Bible                       | 11  |
| Philo of Alexandria (15 B.C. – A.D. 50)                      | 14  |
| Ancient Egypt  | 16  |
| Maimonides (1135–1204)                                       | 16  |
| The Cambridge Platonists                                     | 18  |
| Prisca sapientia   | 28  |
| Corpus Hermeticum I.   | 34  |
| <b>III. Newton the Theologian and Historian</b>              | 44  |
| About Theology   | 46  |
| Newton as a theologian of his times                          | 50  |
| Newton the Historian   | 58  |
| <b>IV. Newton the alchemist</b>                              | 62  |
| Newton as an alchemist of his times                          | 74  |
| Summary of chapter IV  | 78  |
| <b>V. Newton – the natural philosopher (scientist)</b>       | 81  |
| <i>De Gravitatione</i>                                       | 86  |
| <i>Principia</i> – Newton's mature methodological approaches | 90  |
| Summary of Chapter V   | 95  |
| <b>VI. Analysis of the <i>Scholium Generale</i></b>          | 97  |
| Previous Research on the <i>Scholium Generale</i>            | 102 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>Scholium Generale</i> and <i>Prisca Sapientia</i> (Hermetic writings, Cudworth and Patrizi) | 103 |
| Summary of Chapter VI.   | 136 |
| <i>Corpus hermeticum II.</i>   | 138 |
| <b>VII. Conclusions</b>  | 143 |
| <b>Zusammenfassung</b>   | 149 |
| Literature   | 151 |
| <b>Appendix 1</b>  | 156 |
| <b>Appendix 2</b>  | 160 |
| <b>Appendix 3</b>  | 166 |