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**Bosetti, Giancarlo**, 'Isaiah Berlin: Monists and the Concoction of the Tragic Omelet', in id., *The Truth of Others: The Discovery of Pluralism in Ten Tales* (Cham, 2023: Springer), 131–46; includes an interview by the author with Berlin about Hamann

### **Abstract**

'Of all the stories told in this book, Isaiah Berlin is the guide who leads us directly and indirectly to discovery. He found some of the most brilliant moments of shooting stars in the words of Machiavelli, Vico, Montesquieu and Herder. During his eventful and intellectual life, in his work for British intelligence, in supporting the creation of Israel, in teaching the history of ideas in Oxford and exploring Russian culture, Berlin paved the way for equipping our world, fresh from Monist adventures and absolute ideological certainties, a shrewd basis for the idea that the moral values and ideal principles one can be inspired by are many and diverse and that conflicts occur even between the best of these principles. The pages of his discovery have the features of an adventure that holds sudden turns and improbable surprises. The treasures of pluralism are inexhaustible, but the Monist temptation is always lurking and is a danger.'

### **Notes by Henry Hardy**

'includes an interview by the author with Berlin about Hamann; together with the introduction, this 11th and last chapter of the book has striking things to say about pluralism, and says them more trenchantly and economically than much of the literature, despite the appalling conduct of the publisher, Springer, who have obscenely overpriced a 166-page book (£99.99 at the time of writing – 11 July 2023) written in a prose crying out for the attention of a native speaker of English'