Philosophers of science and historians of science have long debated the relative strengths of their different approaches to understanding science. In recent decades, largely in response to The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, Thomas Kuhn’s provocative synthesis of historical and philosophical insights, attention has turned to the “marriage” of philosophy and history of science. Is this a sacred and productive intellectual bond? A bond of mere convenience? Or a candidate for annulment?

In this volume, twenty-six leading intellectuals advance the debate by charting and criticizing the work of the philosopher Michael Friedman. Friedman’s influential writings on Kant, Newton, Einstein, and other physicists and philosophers have consistently displayed both technical philosophical sophistication and historical insight and sensitivity. Along with the editors’ “manifesto” for a synthetic approach to history and philosophy of science, and a 230-page, original essay by Friedman that presents his current positions on the issues raised here, these chapters concretely illustrate how a new method like Friedman’s can reinvigorate the marriage of history and philosophy of science and further illuminate our understanding of science, of philosophy, and their shared history.

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