

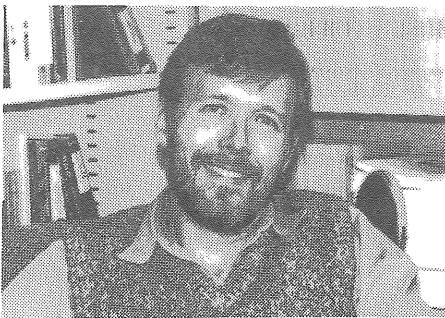


TORONTO PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Wayne Sumner, Chair

I am very pleased to be able to lead off this inaugural issue of *Toronto Philosophy News*. This is a new venture for the Philosophy Department, and one of which we are very proud. For some time now we have wanted some means of reaching out to the many thousands of women and men who, having taken undergraduate or graduate degrees with us, have left the University to pursue their careers elsewhere. Now, finally, we are able to achieve this goal.

Toronto Philosophy News will be published twice a year, once in the fall term of the academic year and once in the spring. In its pages we will try to keep you in touch with significant developments in the Department as they unfold. But we also have some catching up to do. The first couple of issues will therefore include an overview of the main changes in the Department in the past fifteen years or so, besides covering more current events. In this issue we profile some of the Department's luminaries who have retired during that time. In the next issue we will introduce some of the new staff hired over the same period, who have had the difficult job of filling their predecessors' shoes.

But first, some basics. The central Department is still located on the top two floors of 215 Huron Street, which we have inhabited since 1965, although philosophers are also to be found at five of the St. George Campus colleges plus the two suburban campuses at Erindale and Scarborough. Our overall numbers are still robust (approximately 55 tenure stream faculty), though somewhat smaller than fifteen years ago. The quality of a department cannot, of course, be measured by its size alone, although our numbers do enable us to offer a programme which is unrivalled in North America for its breadth and diversity. But our faculty also continue to compile an enviable record of success in competing for prestigious honours and awards (for instance, seven present or past members of the Department have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada). They have also compiled an impressive publishing record (see the account in this issue of the Philosophy Book Launch).

If numbers are any guide, our teaching programmes are also currently thriving, with record levels of undergraduate enrolment on all three campuses. We currently have about 120 graduate students registered in our M.A. and Ph.D programmes, which is slightly below our peak population of 1980 or so. Besides the sheer quantity of our students, we are also proud of their quality. In recent years our graduating Ph.D's have enjoyed outstanding success in competing both for academic jobs and for postdoctoral fellowships, while our graduating B.A.'s have themselves won some very prestigious awards. Last year two of our undergraduate Philosophy specialists won Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities (of four awarded to the entire University). This year one of our special-

ists not only won a Mellon but also a Moss Scholarship, awarded annually to the best all-round student graduating in the Faculty of Arts and Science or at Scarborough College. Clearly we are continuing to attract some of the best and the brightest into Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

Speaking of the best and the brightest, we have also recently launched a Friends of Philosophy programme, in which we approach some of our more illustrious graduates and ask them whether they would be willing to support us in various ventures designed to help us improve our programmes and services. So far the roster of Friends includes such well-known figures as John Bosley (former Speaker of the House of Commons), Ed Broadbent (former leader of the federal NDP and now President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development), John Robert Colombo (tireless literary collector), Don Harron (a.k.a Charlie Farquharson), Mark MacGuigan (former Minister of Justice and now a judge on the Federal Court of Canada), Mavor Moore (long-time friend of the arts), and Clayton Ruby (lawyer and civil libertarian). We are proud to have such Friends and hope that we continue to be worthy of their support.

Our Friends programme is just one example of the efforts which we are currently putting into alumni development. *Toronto Philosophy News* is another. If it is to be successful, however, it must not be a mere monologue. We would like to hear from you as well, whether you write to tell us what you think of *TPN*, or what the philosophy you studied with us has meant to you in later life, or just to correct your address.

We are thinking of you, and we would be happy to know that, even if occasionally, you still think of us.

SPEAKERS PROGRAMMES

Many philosophy departments complain of their lack of a stimulating speaker series. Our problem has been just the opposite. During the academic year we often have two or three talks in a single week-- so many that it is impossible for anyone to take them all in. Most talks are therefore attended by the relatively small group of faculty and students who are particularly interested in the topic at hand. In a sense,



Willard Van Orman Quine

we have become victims of our own success; the very richness of our menu has been undermining one of its main goals--to bring all the members of the Department together.

Three years ago we changed direction, ironically by adding yet another speaker series to the annual lineup. The monthly Departmental Colloquium is the one occasion where we all make a point of going, regardless of the topic. The careful selection of Colloquium speakers makes it a sure bet that we'll hear top-notch talks from prominent philosophers known to be fine lecturers as well as leaders in their fields of research. (The fact that drinks and good eats are served after these functions doesn't seem to have hurt attendance in the least.)

Variety is the spice of the Colloquium's life. Like the Department as a whole, the Colloquium series tries to have something for every taste. So speakers have included William Newton-Smith (Oxford) on scientific realism, Annette Baier (Pittsburgh) on Hume and the virtues, David Gallop (Trent)

on aesthetics, Elizabeth Anscombe (Cambridge) on the soul, Allan Gibbard (Michigan) on ethics, Richard Rorty (Virginia) on Heidegger and Wittgenstein, Crispin Wright (St. Andrews) on meaning and verification, Adolf Grünbaum (Pittsburgh) on Freud, Bas van Fraassen (Princeton) on empiricism, Sandra Harding (Delaware) on the social construction of knowledge, and many many more.

One of the highlights of the Colloquium series came last December when Willard Quine put on a fine show. The occasion was the 40th anniversary of his famous 'Two Dogmas of Empiricism', which he first presented in December 1950 when the Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association were held at the University of Toronto. Quine's 'Two Dogmas' is without doubt one of the most important and influential works of the century. Infamous for its denial of the analytic/synthetic distinction, it is really more important for its holistic account of meaning and of testing (and of how the two are related), which more or less destroyed the existing positivist stranglehold on philosophy.

The occasion was marked by great affection for Quine, now in his 80s. David Savan (who was present at the original talk) did the introduction with grace and warmth, but even he stooped to the remark that the 'Quinean catechism had been set loose among the dogmas'. We were greatly honoured this time around by 'Two Dogmas in Retrospect' which was a wonderful mix of background to the original paper and 'how I'd do it differently now'. (It will appear soon in the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.)

The success of the Colloquium series has had a welcome spinoff, in the shape of a new undergraduate course. Students who sign up for this special seminar prepare in advance for the coming speaker, then meet afterward to hash the issues over. It has proven to be a popular and successful fixture in the undergraduate programme.

Thanks to a generous donation from the family of Jerome K. Simon, the Department mounts the Simon Lectures every two years. This very prestigious series consists of four lectures on a single theme presented over the space of two weeks. (Between

talks, our visitors are welcome gadflies, chatting in the halls, dropping in on classes, and so on.) Our last speaker, Richard Sorabji (King's College, London), proved to be a gifted lecturer on, among other things, rival views on the status of animals in Greek philosophy. Our next Simon Lecturer will be performing in February or March 1992. Keep a watch out for Alison Jaggar (Colorado) on feminism and epistemology.

The Department's graduate students run their own series, called the Forum. This too has been very vigorous in recent years, with a talk about every other week. More often than not, the speakers in this series are drawn from the ranks of the graduate students themselves. Audiences are often treated to highly original research-in-progress--work which will likely soon find its way into a doctoral thesis.

The great bulk of the Department's speakers, however, are provided by subgroups of faculty who are united by their philosophical interests. There are six of these Area Groups in all: Continental Philosophy, Logic and Philosophy of Science, Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and so on. Working with minuscule budgets, these groups nevertheless put on a very rich programme by shamelessly exploiting our philosophical colleagues who happen to be passing through Toronto. Speakers sing for their supper--but they usually get no more than that.

The audience for Area Group talks tends to be specialized, and their typical size of 15-30 allows an intimacy with the speaker (and a research-promoting atmosphere) that could not be achieved in either the Colloquium series or the Simon Lectures, whose audiences are on the order of 75-150. Each of our speaker series therefore serves its own purpose, and seems to serve it well. Together they provide an accurate reflection of both the vitality and the philosophical diversity of the Department.

All of our talks are open to the public, and alumni are particularly welcome. A list of Departmental Colloquia is available in September of each year, and the Simon Lectures are always publicized well in advance. All other events are listed in a Calendar issued monthly during the academic year.

PHILOSOPHY BOOK LAUNCH

Staff and students gathered in Hart House on January 31 to celebrate the twelve books published in the past year by U of T philosophers. Co-sponsored by the University Bookstore, the Philosophy Book Launch was also attended by the President of the University, the Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, some of our Friends of Philosophy, and faculty and students from cognate disciplines. In addition to affording an occasion to congratulate our authors, the Launch also provided them with an opportunity to talk about their recent work and to hawk their wares.

Many attending the event remarked on the extraordinary diversity exhibited both by the authors themselves and by their books. Demographically, the Launch belied an often-repeated claim that academic publication today is mainly undertaken by mid-career professors facing imminent promotion hurdles. The authors ranged from our most senior professor, Joseph Owens, to Cheryl Misak, who is in her first year as a U of T philosopher.

The traditional breadth of the Department's research and teaching was evident in the topics of the books launched and their authors' philosophical orientations. Campus location was also widely distributed:

James Brown edited two collections of essays, *Constructivism and Science* and *An Intrinsic Relation* (both published by Kluwer, 1989). In addition to being Associate Chair of the Department, co-ordinating undergraduate studies, Jim is a philosopher of science whose base is at 215 Huron Street.

The Looking-Glass Self (Praeger, 1990) was launched as the most recent work by Jack Canfield (Erindale College) written from a Wittgensteinian orientation;

Lloyd Gerson, from St. Michael's College, helped to keep strong the Department's reputation in ancient philosophy with his *God and Greek Philosophy* (Routledge, 1990);

Ian Hacking was away in France on sabbatical, and his *The Taming of Chance* (Cambridge, 1990) was presented for him by André Gombay. Ian is a Victoria College philosopher cross-appointed to the

Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology;

Making a philosopher's best use of retirement, John Hunter displayed yet another addition to his lengthy list of books, *Wittgenstein on Words as Instruments* (Edinburgh, 1990);

Elmar Kremer, of St. Michael's College, spent his last leave in Strasbourg perfecting his French to produce a translation of Antoine Arnauld's *On True and False Ideas* (Edwin Mellen, 1990);

Will Kymlicka, who until this year was a Canada Research Fellow in the Department, published his second book, this time a text entitled *Contemporary Political Philosophy* (Oxford, 1990); since Will is currently in Ottawa doing policy analysis for the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, his book was introduced by David Dyzenhaus;

Cheryl Misak comes to Erindale College this year with her new book *Truth and the End of Inquiry* (Oxford, 1990), which continues a long and distinguished history of work on C.S. Peirce by U of T philosophers;

Members of the Pontifical Institute contributed two books, *Towards a Christian Philosophy* (Catholic University of America, 1990) by the amazingly ageless Joseph Owens, and *Being and Knowing* (PIMS, 1990) by Armand Maurer. In Armand's absence, his book was introduced by Calvin Normore.

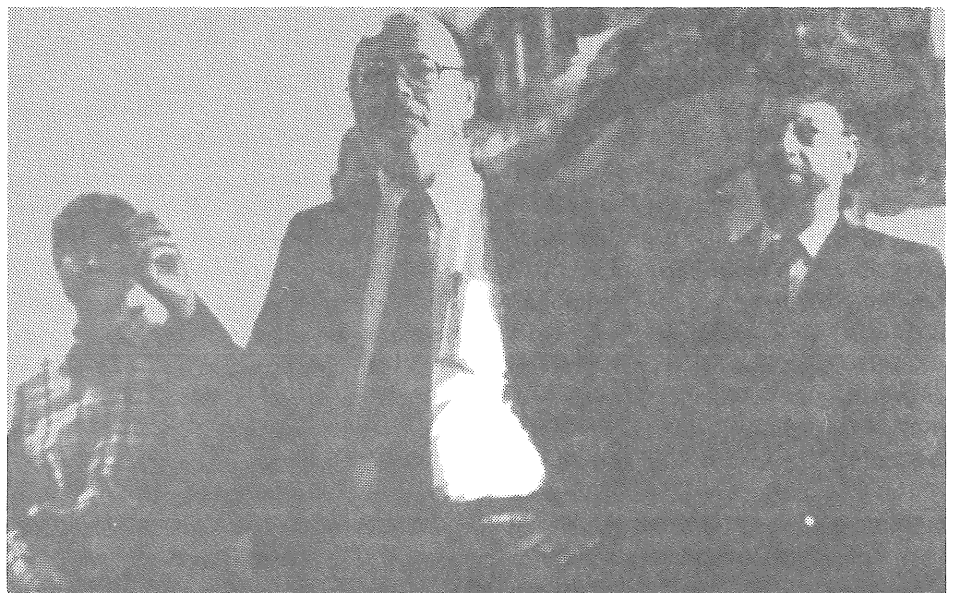
Finally, Fred Wilson (University College) kept it a secret in his comments about *Psychological Analysis and the Philosophy of John Stuart Mill* (University of Toronto Press, 1990) how he can simultaneously be such a prolific scholar and also devote so much time to the Faculty Association and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

This year's event was the fourth annual Philosophy Book Launch, and brings to thirty-four the cumulative total of books launched since the first event in 1987-88. This is a record of research output of which any humanities department should be proud.

CATCHING UP: RETIREMENTS 1975-91

The Department now lists fourteen professors emeriti, and next year the number will increase when Geoffrey Payzant and Francis Sparshott join their ranks.

Thomas A. Goudge retired in 1975 after over thirty-five years in the Department, including service as Chair. Since his retirement Tom has lived in Toronto and kept his hand in the philosophical scene. During the academic year he lunches once a week with three other retired members, Robert McRae, Douglas Dryer, and David Savan, where the current philosophical news is discussed.



Cheryl Misak, Jack Canfield and Fred Wilson enjoying the Book Launch

Bob McRae retired in 1979 and for the next several years he regularly offered a graduate course and regularly visited Sicily during the winter. At present he still makes his annual trip there. After he retired he continued to help compile the lexicon to Leibniz's philosophical works; it was published in 1988. Doug Dryer has also travelled extensively since he retired in 1981. This winter and last he and his wife spent three weeks in Costa Rica; in earlier years they went on walking trips in Nepal. David Savan, another 1981 retiree, has remained very active in philosophical circles. A renowned authority on both Peirce and Spinoza as well as an almost unbelievably wide variety of other topics, he has been invited to read papers and participate in symposia both here and abroad.

Of the activities of George Edison, who also retired in 1981, little is known. A short time after he left us, he and his wife sold their Toronto home and moved to Aurora. Inquiries directed to members of the Trinity College Department have elicited only the fact that he does not visit his old college any more. More is known of Larry Lynch and Tom Lang, both of whom were long-time members of the St. Michael's Department of Philosophy. When Larry retired in 1981 his wife Abbyann resigned her position in the Department to accept appointment as Director of the West-

minster Institute for Ethics and Human Values at the University of Western Ontario. When Abbyann's term of office came to an end, they returned to Toronto from London. She recently accepted a position in the Department of Bioethics at the Hospital for Sick Children. Tom Lang, who left us in 1986, is greatly enjoying his retirement; he spends most of his time pursuing interests for which he did not have time while he was teaching.

Three others who were mainstays of both St. Michael's and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies have all continued their philosophical work. This year Joseph Owens, who retired in 1973, offered his usual year-long graduate course in Aristotle. Armand Maurer, who has been retired since 1980, continues to write, but not to teach, since his hearing is impaired. Edward Synan has regularly taught at least one undergraduate course a year in the St. Michael's programme since he retired in 1983; he also offers graduate seminars in the Centre for Medieval Studies.

Emil Fackenheim, another member of the large retirement class of 1981, carried on full-time teaching for the next three years, an entitlement of his rank as University Professor Emeritus. During that period he made plans to move to Israel, which he carried out in 1984. In Israel he has been

very active in writing, lecturing, conducting seminars, appearing on television, etc. His philosophical interests during recent years have been centred in Jewish philosophy.

Kenneth Schmitz, who retired from Trinity College in 1988, has continued his philosophical work unabated. In both 1988-89 and 1989-90 he spent six months in the Boston area as a Fellow in the Cambridge Center for the Study of Faith and Culture; he continues there as a non-resident Fellow. This academic year he is teaching in the Christianity and Culture programme at St. Michael's College. Meanwhile, Helen Hardy, who retired from Trinity in the same year as Ken, continues to do some philosophy teaching for her old college.

A year ago this summer John Hunter and Bill Huggett retired. John undertook to supervise an advanced student in a reading course this academic year, so he has been in and out of the Department much as usual. Bill seems to have taken no notice whatever of the fact that he is retired. He has been in his office at Erindale College every day, where he is also teaching two courses this year.

Finally, it should be noted that Tom Goudge, Bob McRae, and Emil Fackenheim have all had *festschriften* published in their honour in recent years.