



Berkeley Briefs

January 2009

2008 Full of Berkeley-Related Activities

Even though it was not the 300th anniversary of any major event in George Berkeley's life, 2008 turned out to be quite a year for celebrating his thought. In March the Edinburgh Philosophy Society hosted a symposium (co-sponsored by the IBS) on Berkeley's ideas and idealism; and in April and December, our Philosophy Associations Coordinator **Margaret Atherton** arranged for sessions on Berkeley at the American Philosophical Association meetings in Chicago and Philadelphia. For his graduate seminar in the fall, **Sébastien Charles** (Sherbrooke, Québec) invited Frédéric Brahami, Roselyne Dégremont, **Luc Peterschmitt**, **Stephen Daniel**, **George Caffentzis**, **Roomet Jakapi**, and **Bertil Belfrage** to speak about Berkeley's *Alciphron*. And in October **James Van Cleve** was part of Brown University's kick-off of its lecture series to mark 2009 as the 300th anniversary of Berkeley's *New Theory of Vision*.

The highlight of the year, though, was a three-day conference in June at the Redwood Library and Athenæum in Newport, Rhode Island. Organized by **Steve Daniel**, **Maureen Lapan**, **Nancy Kendrick**,

Nancy Bredbeck, **Joanne Dunlap**, and **Vince Arnold**, the event brought together 56 scholars and participants from North America and Europe to share ideas about Berkeley's work. Special treats included a talk by **Sean Berkeley** (an Aussie descendant of the "good bishop") on a John Smibert portrait of the young Berkeley owned by his family; a demonstration by **Cynthia Grund** (U Southern Denmark) on visiting Berkeley's home in Newport (Whitehall) online in "Second Life"; a walking tour of Newport and Trinity Church (where Berkeley preached) guided by **John Hattendorf** (Naval War College); and a bus tour of Berkeley-related sites near Newport that ended with a dinner at Whitehall.

In appreciation for the Redwood's hospitality, Steve Daniel and Maureen Lapan created a three-panel brochure ("George Berkeley in Newport") for the Library to give to visitors. The brochure, which describes points of interest in the area, is also available at Whitehall and at the Old Narragansett Church and Smith's Castle in Wickford.



Cheryl Helms, Director of the Redwood Library, welcomes participants to the June 2008 Berkeley Conference in Newport

2008 Business Meeting Focuses on Finances

At last January's annual meeting, IBS Secretary-Treasurer **Nancy Kendrick** announced that in 2007 the Society's income rose significantly. Payment of dues nearly doubled, Whitehall library contributions more than doubled, and contributions to a new fund to support research increased our ability to support publishing and conference work. The number of members contributing to the Whitehall library rose from 27 in 2006 to 77 in 2007; and 20 members contributed to the new research fund. The increases, Kendrick noted, are linked to two factors: email and surface mail reminders by Membership Secretary **Genevieve Migely** and the introduction of online dues renewal and donation payments with PayPal.

In 2007 the Society received \$1487 in dues, \$483 in Whitehall library donations, and \$235 in research contributions. The sale of cards and miscellaneous items added another \$35, so our overall income was \$2240. The expenses for the year (\$1539) included a \$500 subvention for the publication of *Reexamining Berkeley's Philosophy*, edited by Stephen Daniel (Toronto University Press), \$400 for a conference on Berkeley in Gaeta, Italy, a \$200 donation to the Colonial Dames of America to support their efforts at Whitehall, \$321.78 for a Verizon wireless internet hookup at Whitehall for scholars in residence, \$43.73 mailing costs, and \$53.49 for a file cabinet. Thanks to the support of the philosophy departments at Texas A&M University and Cornell College (Iowa), costs for mailing and copying have been cut substantially. At the end of 2007 the IBS had \$7273.65 in its

New Whitehall Website

Nancy Bredbeck has set up a website for Whitehall (<http://whitehallmuseumhouse.org/>) that provides a wealth of information about Berkeley and the house he built. You might also want to check out Elisabeth Herschbach's "George Berkeley in Middletown" in *Rhode Island Home, Living, & Design* [vol. 4, #7 (July 2007), 12-14].

Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009

The annual meeting of the IBS will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the La Forge Restaurant, 186 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI. If you plan to come, please notify Steve Daniel (sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu; 979-846-4649) or Nancy Bredbeck (nancpb@yahoo.com; 401-849-3672) by **Thursday, January 22**, so that we can let the restaurant know how many people to expect.

accounts: \$1992.63 committed to the Study Center Fund, \$535 committed to the Staley Research Fund, and \$4746.02 in uncommitted funds.

In the past, members who had not paid their dues for several years were kept on the membership list. Now only those who have paid dues in the last three years are retained. Initially, this change in record keeping resulted in a drop in membership from 150 to about 100. But the Society now has 118 active members, with another 20 arrears in dues payments.

Half of our members are involved in teaching and research (mostly in philosophy), and half are either retired academics or non-academicians interested in Berkeley (especially his time in Rhode Island). Two-thirds live in the U.S.; the rest live in England, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Finland, México, Sweden, Switzerland, Scotland, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Japan, Australia, and Russia.

Keep In Touch

If you have news you think might be of interest to other members of the Society, send it to the Texas A&M University address listed in the IBS logo on the first page of the *Briefs*. Or email Steve Daniel at sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu. Our website is <http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu>.

Berkeley Sessions at APA Central, Eastern Meetings

This year's American Philosophical Association Central Division meeting will be at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago. The IBS session will occur on Thursday, February 19, 2009, 5:15-7:15. It features Peter Baumann (Aberdeen U), who will speak on "Molyneux's Question and the Berkeleian Answer" (comment by Robert Schwartz, U of Wisconsin, Milwaukee); and **Keota Fields** (U of Massachusetts, Dartmouth), who will speak on "The Role of Predication in Berkeley's Immaterialism" (comment by **Larry Nolan**, California State U, Long Beach). For more information, contact the session chair, **Lisa Downing** (Ohio State U) at downing.110@osu.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS: The IBS will also sponsor a session at the Eastern Division meeting of the APA at the New York Marriott Times Square. It is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 28, 2009, 5:15-7:15. If you would like to be considered for the program, please send your paper to **Margaret Atherton** (atherton@uwm.edu) no later than **Thursday, April 20, 2009**. Papers should deal with some aspect of Berkeley's philosophy and be no longer than 3,500 words. Also, please contact Margaret if you would like to be a commentator.

Donating Materials to Whitehall

Most of the books and articles in the IBS library at Whitehall were donated by supporters or authors themselves. Such donations allow us to use our limited resources to fill in gaps in the collection. If you have publications that could enhance the collection, please send them to the International Berkeley Society, Honyman Hall, Queen Anne's Square, Newport, RI 02840, USA.

A list of current holdings at Whitehall can be found at <http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu/whlibrary.pdf>. For more details, contact **Nancy Kendrick** at 508-286-3677 or nkendric@wheatonma.edu.

Brown University Lectures on Berkeley's New Theory of Vision

Brown University (Providence, RI) is hosting a series of lectures on Berkeley's *New Theory of Vision* this spring. Included are talks by Gary Hatfield (U Pennsylvania), "Berkeley's New Theory: Embodiment, Perception, and Action," Feb. 6; Jessica Riskin (History, Stanford), Apr. 1; Michael Turvey (Psychology, Connecticut), Apr. 13, Peter Tse (Brain Science, Dartmouth), Apr. 21; and a capstone colloquium on May 2 featuring **Margaret Atherton** and Robert Schwartz (both Wisconsin, Milwaukee), **Martha Brandt Bolton** (Rutgers), and **Kenneth Winkler** (Yale). For information, go to www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/berkeley_lectures08.htm or contact **Katherine Dunlop** at katherine_dunlop@brown.edu.

Neuchâtel Berkeley Conference, 6-9 April 2010

An international conference will be held at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, April 6-9, 2010, on the occasion of the tercentenary of the publication of Berkeley's *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (1710). Speakers will discuss aspects of Berkeley's philosophy that highlight a distinct connection of their topic with the *Principles*. The conference is sponsored by the International Berkeley Society and the Swiss FNRS.

A number of speakers have already been invited, but others (especially doctoral students or persons who have recently defended a doctoral dissertation) are encouraged to submit papers by **May 2009** to the conference organizer, Richard Glauser (Richard.Glauser@unine.ch). Authors of selected papers will be notified by December 2009. Direct enquiries to:

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Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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Karlsruhe Conference on Berkeley, 17-20 August 2009

George Berkeley contributed to a wide range of academic disciplines: from philosophy to mathematics and empirical psychology, theology to political economy and monetary policy. To celebrate the 300th anniversary of Berkeley's *Essay towards A New Theory of Vision* (1709), distinguished scholars have been invited to give a diversified account of Berkeley's works with respect to his broad range of interest. The conference, which takes place at the Institute of Philosophy, the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, is sponsored by the International Berkeley Society. The conference schedule includes sightseeing on the afternoon of August 16, a tour of Heidelberg on August 21, and receptions after each day of the conference. Scheduled speakers:



- Timo Airaksinen (Helsinki): “Two Types of Meaning in Berkeley’s *Theory of Vision*”
- Bertil Belfrage (Lund): “Berkeley’s Way from Naive to Analytical Commonsense (1707-1709)”
- Dominique Berlioz (Rennes): “Berkeley’s Reception in France: George Lyon’s Anti-Reidean Reading”
- Talia Bettcher (Cal St, Los Angeles): “Analogy, Heterogeneity, and the Entire Distinction”
- Wolfgang Breidert (Karlsruhe): “On Motion and Alteration in Berkeley’s *Theory of Vision*”
- Richard Brook (Bloomsburg, PA): “Why Tangible Figures in Geometry?”
- Geneviève Brykman (Paris X, Nanterre): “Shortsightedness and Longsightedness in Berkeley”
- George Caffentzis (Southern Maine): “Locke and Berkeley’s Responses to Molyneux’s Two Problems”
- Sébastien Charles (Sherbrooke): “Berkeley on Imagination”
- Stephen H. Daniel (Texas A&M): “Berkeley and Spinoza”
- Georges Dicker (SUNY Brockport): “‘An Idea Can Be Like Nothing But An Idea’ - Another Try”
- Mykolas Drunga (Vytautas Magnus, Lithuania): “Berkeley: Idealist or Phenomenalist?”
- Keota Fields (Massachusetts, Dartmouth): “Heterogeneity and Prediction in Berkeley’s *Theory of Vision*”
- Laura Benitez Grobet (U Nac. Autó. México): “The Critical Revision of the Structure of Scientific Knowledge in G. Berkeley and R. Boyle”
- Marc Hight (Hampden-Sydney.): “Imaging, Imagining, and Conceiving: Untangling Berkeley on Perception”
- Jørgen Huggler (Aarhus): “The Reception of Berkeley’s *Theory of Vision* in Danish psychology - B E. Rubin & E. Tranekjaer Rasmussen”
- Roomet Jakapi (Tartu): “Berkeley on Time and Eternity”
- Tom Jones (St Andrews): “Berkeley and the Value of the Arts”
- Lothar Kreimendahl (Mannheim): “Anwendungen von lemmatisierten Index-Prozeduren [The Use of Key-term Indices in Berkeley Studies]”
- George Pappas (Ohio State): “Berkeley’s Positive Epistemology”
- Ville Paukkonen (Helsinki): “Berkeley on Judgments Connecting Ideas of Sight and Touch”
- José Robles (U Nac. Autó. México): “Natural Philosophy and Religion: The Cases of Boyle, Newton and Berkeley”
- Katja Saporiti (Zürich): “Berkeley on Space in the *Theory of Vision*”
- Eric Schliesser (Leiden): “Education in the Cave: Berkeley’s Platonizing Response to Newton’s Challenge”
- Orla Slattery (Mary Immaculate C, Limerick): “Inseparability and Heterogeneity: Berkeley’s *Theory of Vision* Considered as an Exercise in Epistemological De-Constructivism”
- Tom Stoneham (York): “The Phenomenology of Looking at a Mirror Image”
- Marta Szymanska (Jagiellonian U, Poland): “Has the *Theory of Vision* Influenced Berkeley’s Social Ethics?”
- James Van Cleve (Southern California): “Seeing Size and Distance”
- Andrea Wilke (Bonn): “George Berkeley as Predecessor of a Philosophy of Style?”

For more information contact the conference organizers:

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Symposium on Berkeley's Alciphron, Ottawa, May 25-28

The date has not been finalized, but on one of the days of the meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (May 25-28, 2009) at Carlton University in Ottawa, Ontario, there will be a symposium on "New Readings of Berkeley's *Alciphron*/ Nouvelles Lectures de l'*Alciphron* de Berkeley." Presenters include:

- Sébastien Charles (Sherbrooke): "Berkeley et le scepticisme: relecture d'*Alciphron* VII"
- Stephen H. Daniel (Texas A&M): "Spirit, Force, and Wisdom: Berkeley's Rejection of Divine Analogy"
- Antonio Carlos Dos Santos (U Fédérale de Sergipe): "Berkeley face à Mandeville: de *La Fable des abeilles* à la *Letter to Dion*"
- Marc Hight (Hampton-Sydney): "The *Alciphron*: How Immaterialism Can Save Your Soul"
- Roomet Jakapi (Tartu): "Berkeley on Religious Language"
- Mitia Rioux-Beaune (Ottawa): "Beauté sensible et beauté morale dans le troisième dialogue de l'*Alciphron*: Berkeley face à la naissance de l'esthétique"
- Pascal Taranto (Nantes): "*Alciphron* ou la théorie du complot"

For information, contact [Sébastien Charles](mailto:sebastien.charles@usherbrooke.ca) (sebastien.charles@usherbrooke.ca) or consult the CPA website at <http://www.acpcpa.ca/home.htm>.

Julia Berkeley Portrait

James Harmer Berkeley Colquhoun Paterson of Cardiff, UK, has written to ask if anyone in the IBS might help in identifying this young lady. He reports that the painting has been in his family for many years and has always been described as being of Bishop Berkeley's daughter, Julia. He writes: "Apparently on my mother's side (who came from Ireland) we have some connection to Bishop Berkeley. My grandfather was born in Passage West, County Cork, and bore the Christian names Edward Berkeley, as did his son Harmer Berkeley, my mother's brother. . . . So far while searching my family in Ireland I have not found what our connection might be. I have got Atkins (my grandfather's name), Cotters, Bond, and Meara. What I would like to know is this: do you know of any other portraits of Julia Berkeley?"

Can anyone help James on this? If so, contact Steve Daniel (sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu).

