



Berkeley Briefs

July 2009

Conferences, Publications Increase as 300th Anniversaries Begin

2009 is the 300th anniversary of the publication of George Berkeley's *Essay towards a New Theory of Vision*, and next year will be the 300th anniversary of his *Treatise concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*. Conferences are celebrating the events, resulting in an increase in publications on Berkeley.

Brown University kicked things off last October with a year-long lecture series on Berkeley's theory of vision. That culminated in a conference on May 2 that brought together scholars **Margaret Atherton** and **Robert Schwartz** (both Wisconsin, Milwaukee), **Martha Bolton** (Rutgers), and **Kenneth Winkler** (Yale). On May 9, Atherton joined **Georges Dicker** (SUNY Brockport), **Melissa Frankel** (Syracuse), and others for a Berkeley workshop at Cornell University. In conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association in Ottawa, on May 27, **Sébastien Charles** (Sherbrooke, Québec) hosted a bi-lingual symposium on Berkeley's *Alciphron*. The day-long event included presentations by Charles, **Marc Hight** (Hampden-Sydney), **Pascal Taranto** (Nantes), **Mitia Rioux-Beaune** (Ottawa), **Stephen Daniel** (Texas A&M), and **Antonio Carlos Dos Santos** (Sergipe, Brazil). Their essays will be published next year in an issue of the Canadian journal *Science et Esprit*.

Margaret Atherton organized IBS sessions at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division's December meeting in Philadelphia and the Central Division's February meeting in Chicago. Georges Dicker presented ten lectures on Berkeley this summer in a series of courses at Soochow University (Tapei, Taiwan). The series included talks by **Michael Ayers** and Peter Millican (both Oxford) on Locke and Hume. Berkeley experts from Europe and North America will meet next month in Karls-

ruhe, Germany for a conference focusing on the *New Theory of Vision*.

Meanwhile, several essay collections are scheduled to be published next year. **Bertil Belfrage** (Lund) and **Timo Airaksinen** (Helsinki) are completing a volume based on presentations at the 2007 Berkeley Helsinki conference; and **Silvia Parigi** (Cassino) is wrapping up an edition of essays on Berkeley based on the 2007 conference in Gaeta, Italy. **Geneviève Brykman** (Paris X) is editing a set of articles for an issue of the *Revue philosophique de la France et de l'étranger*.

Last year Cambridge University Press published a collection of some of Berkeley's works edited by Desmond Clarke. Continuum Press has published a group of introductory books on Berkeley—*Starting with Berkeley* (by Nick Jones), *Berkeley: A Guide for the Perplexed* (by **Talia Bettcher**), and *The Empiricists: A Guide for the Perplexed* (by **Laurence Carlin**)—along with Reader's Guides to the *Principles of Human Knowledge* (by Alasdair Richmond) and the *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (by Aaron Garrett). These and other planned books (such as Lisa Downing's *Berkeley*) reveal how, even though publishers are cutting back on projects, work on Berkeley continues to grow.

Berkeley Studies Call for Essays

Issue #20 of *Berkeley Studies*, a web-based, peer-reviewed annual journal devoted to the study of Berkeley's life and thought, will appear in September at <http://people.hsc.edu/berkeleystudies/>. Please send materials for possible publication to the senior editor, **Stephen Daniel** (sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu), no later than **August 28, 2009**.

Meeting Place and Time, Reports Topics of 2009 Business Meeting

The IBS business meeting in Newport in January included the usual reports on membership, finances, Society-sponsored events, and Whitehall. But this year's get-together might be the last one held there for a while if future meetings are arranged to coincide with international Berkeley conferences.

The change is based on a shift in the demographics of the organization. Since its founding mainly by Rhode Islanders in 1975, the Society has met almost every year on or near January 23rd to commemorate the arrival of the Berkeleys on that date in 1729. As the Society grew, it added members who live outside the United States, so that now roughly one-third of the 156 current members are international. For them and many Americans, the trek to Newport in January has been all but out of the question. So when the By-Laws of the organization were revised in 2006, provisions were made to allow the annual meeting to be held in conjunction with a major Berkeley conference. Locals will still meet on the hallowed date to raise a toast to the Dean and his bride. But next year the business meeting will occur in April at the Berkeley Conference in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Reports. In her 2008 financial report, Secretary-Treasurer **Nancy Kendrick** (Wheaton College, MA) indicated that dues, donations for the Whitehall Library and Staley Research Funds, and registration and banquet payments for last June's International Berkeley conference in Newport amounted to \$5244. Expenses included the conference costs (\$2560.96), reimbursement for IBS support to the 2007 Helsinki conference (\$400), sponsorship of a Berkeley mini-

conference at the University of Edinburgh (\$200), a donation to the Colonial Dames of North America for their efforts at Whitehall (\$200), and costs for an internet connection, mailing, state fees, DVD cases, and bank fees (\$164.78): total \$3632.87. We began the year with \$2167.37 in our business checking account and ended with \$3778.50. From 2006 to 2008 dues income doubled (\$856.79 to \$1740.00), Whitehall donations tripled (\$180 from 27 members to \$544 from 65 members), and research fund contributions went from \$0 to \$610 from 45 members.

Membership secretary **Genevieve Migely** (Cornell College, Iowa) reported that about one fifth of our roughly 150 members had not paid 2008 dues. [As of today, 60 members have not paid their **2009** dues.]

President **Steve Daniel** (Texas A&M) reported that three members had asked about paying dues several years in advance. The Society currently has no policy regarding multi-year dues payments. The concern is that if members pay for multiple years, they may be less inclined to contribute annually to the Whitehall and Research Funds. A motion passed to handle such requests on a case by case basis.

Berkeley Sessions at APA Eastern, Central Meetings

This year's APA Eastern Division meeting will be at the Marriott Marquis in New York. The IBS session will be on Monday, December 28, 2009, 9:00-11:00. Speakers are **Kenneth Winkler** (Yale), topic: "The First Person in Vision," and **Martha Bolton** (Rutgers), topic: "Is the Doctrine of a Visual Language Integral to Berkeley's Theory of Vision?" For info, contact the session chair, **Stephen Daniel** (Texas A&M) at sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS: The IBS will also sponsor a session at the Central Division meeting of the APA at the Chicago Palmer House Hilton (February 17-20, 2010). Papers (less than 3500 words) should be sent to **Margaret Atherton** (atherton@uwm.edu) no later than **August 15, 2009**. Also, please contact Margaret if you would like to be a commentator.

Keep In Touch; Dues

If you have news or questions for other members of the Society, please contact the *Briefs* editor, Steve Daniel, at sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu or at the Texas A&M University address listed on the first page of the *Briefs*. The Society website is <http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu>, where you will find links for paying annual dues by PayPal.

New Donations to Whitehall

The IBS library at Whitehall houses many books and articles on Berkeley's life and ideas. Most resources were donated by supporters or authors themselves. Recent author donations include:

- David Berman, *Berkeley and Irish Philosophy* (2005)
- Richard Glauser, *Berkeley et les philosophes du XVIII^e siècle: perception et scepticisme* (1999)
- Marc Hight, *Idea and Ontology: An Essay in Early Modern Metaphysics of Ideas* (2008)
- Caterina Menichelli, *L'ordinato Discorso Della Mente Infinita. Sul Monismo di George Berkeley* (2004)
- Christia Mercer & Eileen O'Neill (eds.), *Early Modern Philosophy: Mind, Matter, and Metaphysics* (2005)
- Peter Walmsley, *The Rhetoric of Berkeley's Philosophy* (1990)

These donations allow us to use our resources to fill in gaps in the collection. Please send donations to Dr. **Nancy Kendrick**, IBS Secretary-Treasurer, Wheaton College, Dept. of Philosophy, Norton, MA 02766, USA; email address: nkendric@wheatonma.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 tercentenary of the publication of Berkeley's *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* (1710). The conference is sponsored by the IBS and the Swiss FNRS.

A number of speakers have been invited, but others (especially doctoral students or graduates who have recently defended a doctoral dissertation) are encouraged to submit papers by **September 15** to the conference organizer, Richard Glauser (Richard.Glauser@unine.ch). Authors of selected papers will be notified by December 2009. Direct enquiries to:

Richard Glauser
Institut de philosophie,
Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
Université de Neuchâtel
1, Espace Louis-Agassiz
CH-2001 Neuchâtel
Switzerland / Suisse

2009 Whitehall Resident Scholars

Each July and August IBS members spend about two weeks at Whitehall, Berkeley's Rhode Island home. 2009 visitors were: Nicholas Wade (Psychology, Dundee, Scotland) and his wife Christine (July 1-15); **Michael Ipgrave** (Archdeacon, Southwark, South London), his wife Julia and son Ben (July 17-31); **Richard Brook** (Bloomsburg) and his wife Susan (July 31-Aug. 9); and **Cynthia Grund** (Southern Denmark) and her husband Haagen Cumlet (August 13-31). To be a resident scholar, contact Joanne Dunlap at randjdunlap@cox.net or 401-847-7951.

Sukjae Lee Wins Turbayne Berkeley Essay Prize

The winning essay in this year's Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Prize is "Berkeley on the Activity of Spirits" by **Sukjae Lee** (Philosophy, Ohio State University). An expanded version of it is forthcoming in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

Established by the Turbaynes in conjunction with the Philosophy Department of the University of Rochester, the \$2000 prize is awarded every two years. The next deadline for submissions is November 1, 2010; the winner will be announced on March 1, 2011. Past winners are listed on the [IBS website](#).

Submitted essays (in English) should be on some aspect of Berkeley's philosophy, unpublished, and not exceed 5,000 words. References should be to Luce & Jessop, using the MLA or a similar format for notes. Submissions, which are blind reviewed by a panel selected by the Philosophy Department, University of Rochester, can be sent to mphladmin@philosophy.rochester.edu, or by surface mail to

Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Rochester
P.O. Box 270078, Lattimore 532
Rochester, NY 14627-0078

Karlsruhe Conference on Berkeley, 17-20 August 2009

By far, the largest Berkeley event this year is the international conference at the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the publication of Berkeley's *Essay towards A New Theory of Vision* (1709), the IBS-sponsored event will include scholars from Europe and North America who, in addition to exchanging ideas about Berkeley's thought, will enjoy a walking tour of Karlsruhe, a bus tour of Heidelberg, and receptions at the end of each day.



August 17, Monday

- 09:00 Opening of Conference
09:15 Bertil Belfrage (Lund, Sweden): "A New Theory of Vision (1709): The Foundation for Berkeley's Philosophy 1710-1721"
10:00 Richard Brook (Bloomsburg State, USA): "Is Geometry about Tangible Extension?"
11:00 Wolfgang Breidert (Karlsruhe, Germany): "On Motion and Alteration in Berkeley's *Theory of Vision*"
11:45 Orla Slattery (Mary Immaculate, Limerick, Ireland): "Inseparability and Heterogeneity: Berkeley's *Theory of Vision* considered as an Exercise in Epistemological De-Constructivism"
14:30 James Van Cleve (Southern California, USA): "Reid versus Berkeley on Three Puzzles of Vision"
15:15 Jørgen Huggler (Aarhus, Denmark): "The Reception of Berkeley's *Theory of Vision* in Danish Psychology in the 20th Century: E. Rubin & E. Tranekjaer Rasmussen"
16:15 Ville Paukkonen (Helsinki, Finland): "Berkeley on Judgments Connecting Ideas of Sight and Touch"

August 18, Tuesday

- 09:00 Timo Airaksinen (Helsinki, Finland): "Two Types of Meaning in Berkeley's *Theory of Vision*"
09:45 Geneviève Brykman (Paris X, France): "Short-sightedness and Long-sightedness in Berkeley"
10:45 Georges Dicker (SUNY, Brockport, USA): "'An Idea Can Be Like Nothing But An Idea' – Another Try"
11:30 Marc Hight (Hampden-Sydney, USA): "Imaging, Imagining, and Conceiving: Untangling Berkeley on Perception"
14:30 Mykolas Drunga (Vytautas Magnus, Lithuania): "Berkeley: Idealist or Phenomenalist?"
15:15 Sébastien Charles (Sherbrooke, Canada): "Berkeley on Imagination"
16:15 George Pappas (Ohio State, USA): "Berkeley's Positive Epistemology"

August 19, Wednesday

- 09.45 Laura Benítez Grobet (Nac. Autó. de México): "The Critical Revision of the Structure of Scientific Knowledge in G. Berkeley and R. Boyle"
10.45 Luc Peterschmitt (CNRS-Lille III, France): "Berkeley's Method in the *Theory of Vision*: Observations, Experiments, Thought Experiments"
14.30 José Robles (Nac. Autó. de México): "Natural Philosophy and Religion: The Cases of Boyle, Newton and Berkeley"
15.15 Tom Stoneham (York, England): "The Argument from Mirrors"
16.15 Katia Saporiti (Zürich, Switzerland): "Berkeley on Perception, Space and Time"

August 20, Thursday

- 09.45 Marta Szymańska (Jagiellonian, Poland): "Did the *Theory of Vision* Influence Berkeley's Social Ethics?"
10.45 Tom Jones (St Andrews, Scotland): "Berkeley and the Value of the Arts"
11.30 Andrea Wilke (Bonn, Germany): "George Berkeley as Predecessor of a Philosophy of Style?"
15.00 Eric Schliesser (Amsterdam, Netherlands): "Education in the Cave: Berkeley's Platonizing Response to Newton's Challenge"
15.45 Stephen H. Daniel (Texas A&M, USA): "Berkeley and Spinoza"

For information contact
the conference organizers:

Bertil Belfrage
Villan, S-57162
Bodafors, Sweden
Belfrage.research@telia.com

Wolfgang Breidert
Baumgartenstrasse 9
D-76316 Malsch, Germany
Wolfgang.Breidert@gmx.de