



Berkeley Briefs

March 2013

In Memoriam: Raymond W. Houghton

It has been almost two years since our previous issue of *Berkeley Briefs*, but we did not want to let the occasion pass without recognizing the contributions of **Raymond W. Houghton** to the International Berkeley Society. Ray died on April 30, 2011 in Providence, Rhode Island at the age of 85. He was a co-founder of the IBS (1975) and its first president—a position he held for ten years. In 1979 and 1985 he helped organize international conferences on Berkeley in Newport, wrote *The World of George Berkeley* (1985), and with Maureen Lapan and David Berman, published *Images of Berkeley* (1986). For 35 years he worked to promote the study of Berkeley's life and thought. Thanks to his leadership and counsel, the Society now has members in twenty-five different countries. He was intrigued by the Anglican bishop's Irish roots and influential stay in Newport from 1729 to 1731, and he inspired residents of Rhode Island who were interested in the history and culture of colonial New England to contribute to the activities of the Society. Today Ray's legacy is embodied in the international conferences we sponsor and in the Society's support of scholars throughout the world.



In 2006 Ray received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Rhode Island College in Providence for his work in teacher education and promoting educational opportunities for disadvantaged urban youth. A long-time member of the faculty at the College, he was also recognized for his teaching, research, and service at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, and for founding and serving as Director of the Free University of Ireland. He actively promoted Rhode Island civic organizations such as Notre Dame Hospital, the Salvation Army, the Rhode Island chapter of the American Guidance and Personnel Association, the Rhode Island Educational Theater Association, and the Rhode Island Philosophical Society. But for those of us who study Berkeley, Ray Houghton will always be the person responsible for making the IBS the organization that links us internationally. We owe him a lot.

John Roberts New Coordinating Editor of Berkeley Studies

This summer **John R. Roberts** (Florida State) takes over as coordinating editor of *Berkeley Studies* from **Marc Hight** (Hampden-Sydney). For the past eight years, Marc has managed the peer-reviewed annual journal, guiding its transition from a small newsletter to a respected web-based outlet for Berkeley scholarship (people.hsc.edu/berkeleystudies/). Submissions for possible publication in November's issue should still be sent to the senior editor, **Stephen Daniel** (sdaniel@tamu.edu) by **September 1, 2014**.

Time to Pay 2013 Dues

The date to renew your IBS membership dues is **March 12**, Berkeley's birthday. Send checks (\$25 US/yr) to the Texas A&M University address listed above or use PayPal on-line (<http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu/form.html>). You do not have to have a PayPal account to pay dues on-line (a standard credit card is sufficient). You are encouraged to make donations to the Staley Research fund (so that we can support conferences, publications, and travel expenses to conferences by younger scholars) and the Whitehall Library fund (so that we can purchase books to add to our holdings at Berkeley's home in Newport, RI).

2012 Montréal Conference Focuses on Berkeley's Moral Thought

On June 1-4, 2012 a bilingual English/French conference commemorated the 300th anniversary of the publication of Berkeley's *Passive Obedience* (1712). The event, which was held at the University of Sherbrooke, Longueuil, Québec (near Montréal), was organized by **Bertil Belfrage** (Lund, Sweden),

Sébastien Charles (U Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, QC), and **David Raynor** (Ottawa), focused on Berkeley's moral, social, religious, economic, and aesthetic thought. Sébastien plans to publish revised versions of some of the presentations in a collected volume, *Berkeley on Moral and Social Philosophy*.



Participants at the University of Sherbrooke/Longueuil conference (left to right): Adam Grzeliński, Richard Van Iten, Steve Daniel, Scott Breuninger, Miłowit Kuniński, Ofra Shefi, Melissa Frankel, Nancy Kendrick, Daniel Flage, Marta Szymańska-Lewoszewska, Ville Paukkonen, Pascal Taranto, Artem Besedin, David Raynor, Bertil Belfrage, Paul Olscamp, Timo Airaksinen, Jérémy Girard, Heta Gylling, Ahmed Mellah, Sébastien Charles, Luc Peterschmitt, Hugh Hunter, and Marc Hight.

IBS 2011-2012 Financial Reports

Secretary-Treasurer **Nancy Kendrick** reports that in 2011 the IBS had an income of \$3440: dues (\$1680), contributions to the Staley Research fund (\$1070), and donations to the Whitehall Library (\$690). This was the first year in which members could pay dues for more than one year, so as expected, a sizable portion (\$1045/1680, 75%) of the 2011 dues income was earmarked for 2012 and 2013 dues. In 2012 new members and renewing members accounted for an additional \$770.54 in dues payments, along with \$135 for the Research Fund and \$90 for the Whitehall Library.

2011 expenses (\$2220.79) included grants to three young scholars to participate in the Zürich conference (\$903.27), internet costs at Whitehall (\$636.52), support for the Zürich conference (\$400), a donation to the Colonial Dames for Whitehall (\$200), January Newport celebration (\$50), state fees (\$22), and bank fees (\$9). Of the \$14,731.02 in our accounts at the end of 2011, \$1790.73 was committed to research (conferences, publications) and \$2550.65 to Whitehall.

In 2012 the IBS had a total of \$2030.05 in expenses. That included \$300 grants to **Artyom Besedin** (Moscow), **Ville Paukkonen** (Helsinki), and **Marta Szymańska-Lewoszewska** (Jagiellonian, Kraków) to help cover their participation in the Montréal conference, internet costs at Whitehall (\$383.15), support for the Montréal conference (\$400), donation to the Colonial Dames for Whitehall (\$200), IRS (\$100), Rhode Island Secretary of State (\$40.90), and bank fees (\$6). Of the \$13,848.56 in our accounts at the end of 2012, \$625.73 was earmarked for research and \$2257.50 for Whitehall.

APA Sessions 2011-2013

The December 2011 American Philosophical Association Eastern Division meeting in Washington, D.C. was the setting for presentations by **Hugh Hunter** (Toronto) on Berkeley's doctrine of mind, **Kenneth Pearce** (Southern California) on Berkeley's view of skepticism, and **Luc Peterschmitt** (Lille, France) on Berkeley's theoretical chemistry. In February 2012 **Margaret Atherton** (Wisconsin, Milwaukee) organized an IBS APA Central Division session in Chicago with papers by **Katia Saporiti** (Zurich) on

Berkeley's concept of time and by **David Raynor** (Ottawa) on Berkeley's view of divine archetypes. Margaret also joined **Samuel Rickless** (UC San Diego) in a session on **Georges Dicker's** *Berkeley's Idealism*. At April's APA Pacific Division meeting, **Tom Stoneham** (York) and **John Roberts** (Florida St) replied to a paper on God and human freedom by IBS president **Stephen Daniel** (Texas A&M).

The IBS session of the December 2012 APA Eastern Division meeting in Atlanta included presentations on Berkeley's Master Argument by **Keota Fields** (Massachusetts, Dartmouth) and **John Grey** (Boston U). The February 2013 Central Division meeting in New Orleans featured a roundtable in which **John Roberts** (Florida State), **Marc Hight** (Hampden-Sydney), **Scott Breuninger** (South Dakota), Steve Daniel, Keota Fields, and **Georges Dicker** (SUNY Brockport) responded to published comments about their work on Berkeley. And as president of the APA Central Division, **Margaret Atherton** presented a plenary address on "Dr Johnson Kicks the Stone, or Can the Immaterialisms of Berkeley's *Principles* and *Three Dialogues* Be Reconciled?"

Berkeley Portrait Displayed at UC Berkeley Library

After having been in storage for 15 years, an 1873 life-sized portrait of Berkeley by John Weir has been put on permanent display in the Doe Memorial Library at the University of California at Berkeley. The portrait, based on a detail from John Smibert's "Bermuda Group," was given to the University in 1873 by college trustee Frederick Billings (who is credited with suggesting that the campus be named after Berkeley), and it hung in the administration building and the chancellor's home until the early 1990s. In 2010 **Sean Berkeley** (an Australian descendent of George Berkeley's brother Robert) and his family visited the campus and were treated to a special viewing of the portrait at the Berkeley Art Museum. That prompted Steve Finacom, president of the local Berkeley Historical Society, to contact folks at the Berkeley Art Museum and the

University Library to see how making the portrait accessible to the public again could be part of the Doe Library's 2012 Centennial. Everything worked out, so on January 15, 2012 the portrait was hung in the Library's Heyns Reading Room.

In February 2012 Finacom published an account of the painting in the [Berkeley Daily Planet](http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2012-02-03/article/39274?), describing Weir's involvement and the portrait's subsequent history (<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2012-02-03/article/39274?>). He notes that Weir includes Berkeley's line, "Westward the course of empire takes its way," in the painting at the base of the marble column and makes other subtle revisions of Smibert's original. Finacom also points out how Berkeley's quote was misused by proponents of Manifest Destiny, and he remarks on the irony of juxtaposing Berkeley's portrait in the Heyns Room with Emmanuel Leutze's "Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth."



Portrait of George Berkeley by John Weir (after John Smibert), 1873. Doe Library, UC Berkeley

2011 Conference Draws Berkeley Scholars to Zürich

On June 22-24, 2011 **Katia Saporiti** hosted a very successful international conference at the University of Zürich. Scholars from throughout Europe and North America shared their work on Berkeley's views on mind, perception, and our knowledge of nature, the self, and God. The IBS helped sponsor the event and, as part of its program to encourage research on Berkeley by young scholars, gave \$300 travel grants to **Matthew Holtzman** (Washington College), **Kenneth Pearce** (Southern California), and **Piotr Szalek** (Catholic U, Lublin, Poland).

2012, 2013, 2014 Summer Whitehall Resident Scholars

Each summer IBS members spend from two to four weeks at Whitehall, Berkeley's Rhode Island home, in the "philosopher in residence" program. The 2012 residents included the Rt. Rev. **Michael Igrave** (Bishop of Woolwich, Church of England) and his wife Julia, **John Roberts** (Florida State) and his wife Alicia and daughter Ella, and **Timo Airaksinen** and **Heta Gylling** (Helsinki). The Igrave visit was the first time a bishop has stayed at Whitehall because Berkeley himself did not become a bishop until after his return to England.

In 2013 residents will stay at Whitehall not only in July and August (as they have done in the past) but also during the last two weeks of June. **Seth** and **Michelle Bordner** (Alabama) start things off, **Alan Baker** and Shelley Costa (Swarthmore) follow, then **Richard** and Susan **Brook** (Bloomsburg), and finally **Nancy Kendrick** (Wheaton). In 2014 the Igraves and Timo Airaksinen and Heta Gylling already have indicated their intent to return.

Resident scholars give short tours of the house when visitors occasionally drop by; otherwise they are free to enjoy the balmy summer days (internet



Celebrants at the Zürich conference banquet (each row, l to r, starting from top): Piotr Szalek, Georges Dicker, Katia Saporiti, George Pappas, Breaux Daniel, Wolfgang Breidert, Marlene Breidert, Margaret Atherton, Ville Paukkonen, Tom Stoneham, Matthew Holtzman, Robert Schwartz, Kenny Pearce, Richard & Susan Brook, Luc Peterschmitt, David Raynor, Keota Fields, Bertil & Birgit Belfrage, Steve Daniel. Not shown: Richard Glauser, Sam Rickless.

access provided). For a nice account of what it's like to live at Whitehall, check out Alan Baker's essay on being a "philosopher in residence" (www.swarthmore.edu/x9389.xml). If you are interested in being a resident scholar in 2014, contact **Joanne Dunlap** at randjdunlap@cox.net or 401-847-7951.

Want to present a paper at an IBS session of the Baltimore APA (Dec. 28, 2013) or the Chicago APA (Feb. 27, 2014)? Send Steve Daniel (sdaniel@tamu.edu) a 500-word abstract by May 1 or July 15.

Thomas Curtin Wins Turbayne Essay Prize

The 2012 winning essay of the Turbayne Prize is “Berkeley’s Conception of Causal Power” by **Thomas Curtin**, philosophy instructor at Suffolk County Community College, NY, and recent PhD graduate from Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Post-doctoral research fellow Stefan Storrie at TCD was the 2010 winner, so that means that the last two Turbayne prizes have gone to scholars there. Past winners are listed on the IBS website (<http://george.berkeley.tamu.edu/turbayne.htm>).

The \$2000 prize-winning essay is chosen every two years by a panel selected by the University of Rochester Philosophy Department. Fewer than 15 essays are usually submitted. The next deadline for submissions is November 1, 2014; the winner will be announced on March 1, 2015. Essays less than 5,000 words (in English) should be on some aspect of Berkeley’s philosophy, unpublished, and set for blind review. References should be to Luce-Jessop, using the MLA or a similar format. Send submissions to phladmin@philosophy.rochester.edu, or Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, P.O. Box 270078, Lattimore 532, Rochester, NY 14627-0078.

April 2014 Conference in Dublin: Call for Abstracts

Trinity College Dublin will host a conference on Berkeley’s *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* on **April 4-6, 2014**. It will include talks by **Lisa Downing** (Ohio St), **John R. Roberts** (Florida St), and **Tom Stoneham** (York). Abstracts of papers on any aspect of the *Dialogues* are invited. Accepted papers may be eligible for selection for a projected Cambridge University Press volume on the *Three Dialogues*. Prospective participants should send the TCD department head, Vasilis Politis (vpolitis@tcd.ie), a 1200-word abstract prepared for blind review no later than **June 30, 2013**. Submissions should indicate whether they should also be considered for the volume.

Harry Bracken (1926-2011)

Long-time Berkeley scholar and IBS member **Harry M. Bracken** died on December 15, 2011 in Apache Junction, Arizona; he was 85. His career took him to the University of Iowa (where he graduated as Richard Popkin’s first PhD), the University of Minnesota, UC San Diego, Arizona State, McGill, and the U of Groningen.

In IBS circles Harry is best known for *The Early Reception of Berkeley’s Immaterialism: 1710-1733* (1965) and especially *Berkeley* (1974). The latter work’s thesis—that Berkeley was much more an Irish Cartesian than a British empiricist—still provokes thoughtful debate. He was also the author of *Mind and Language: Essays on Descartes and Chomsky* (1984) and *Descartes* (2002); and his essays on Descartes, Malebranche, Bayle, and Reid appeared in numerous respected journals and collections.

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:

- Keota Fields, *Berkeley: Ideas, Immaterialism, and Objective Presence* (2011)
- Adam Grzeliński, *Człowiek I Duch Nieskończony Immaterializm George’a Berkeleyya* [(Polish): *Man and Infinite Spirit: The Immaterialism of George Berkeley*] (2010)
- Adam Grzeliński, trans. *Próba stworzenia nowej teorii widzenia i inne eseje filozoficzne* [Polish translation of the works on vision, *Passive Obedience*, correspondence with Johnson] (2011)
- Stefan Storrie, “Berkeley’s Apparent Cartesianism in *De Motu*.” Turbayne Essay Prize winner (2011)

These donations allow us to use our resources to fill in gaps in the collection. Please send donations to Nancy Kendrick, IBS Secretary-Treasurer, Wheaton College, Dept. of Philosophy, Norton, MA 02766, USA; email: nkendrick@wheatonma.edu.

Kraków Conference on Berkeley's Dialogues *August 19-22, 2013*

This year's main Berkeley conference will commemorate the 300th anniversary of the publication of his *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous* (1713). The IBS-sponsored event at the Collegium Maius at Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, will include more Eastern European Berkeley scholars than any previous gathering. Contact organizers **Bertil Belfrage** (belfrage.research@telia.com) or **Miłowit Kuniński** (m.kuninski@iphils.uj.edu.pl) for more information. Presentations at the conference include:



- Bertil Belfrage (Lund): "A New Approach to Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*"
- Martha Brandt Bolton (Rutgers): "Berkeley on the Autonomous Epistemic Authority of Immediate Present Perception"
- Wolfgang Breidert (Karlsruhe): "Immaterialism and Illusionism: Berkeley in Poetry—A Continuation"
- Richard Brook (Bloomsburg, PA): "Berkeley and the Primary Qualities: Idealization vs. Abstraction"
- Stephen Daniel (Texas A&M): "Berkeley and Locke on Substance and Personal Identity"
- Georges Dicker (SUNY Brockport): "Reply to my Critics"
- Mykolas Drunga (Vytautas Magnus, Lithuania): "Is 'The Fiction of Our Brain' Just 'A False Imaginary Glare'?"
- Keota Fields (Massachusetts, Dartmouth): "Berkeley's Master Argument Reconsidered"
- Daniel Flage (James Madison): "On Knowing Berkeley's Minds"
- Adam Grzeliński (Nicolaus Copernicus): "Berkeley's Immediate Perception and the Theory of *Minima Sensibilia*"
- James Hill (Prague): "The Notion of Spirit in Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*"
- Roomet Jakapi (Tartu): "On the Creation of Plants in a Desert"
- Miłowit Kuniński (Jagiellonian, Kraków): "Is the Passivity of Perception the Proper Justification of Berkeley's Immaterialism?"
- George Pappas (Ohio State): "Berkeley's Immaterialism and Competitive Advantage"
- Ville Paukkonen (Helsinki): "Berkeley's Rejection of the Bundle Theory of the Self"
- Kenneth L. Pearce (Southern California): "How Berkeley's Gardener Knows His Cherry Tree"
- Arnaud Pelletier (Catholic U, Leuven): "Berkeley's Notion of the Possible in the *Three Dialogues*"
- Luc Peterschmitt (Lille): "Berkeley's Apologetical Concept of Nature in the *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*"
- Timothy Quandt (California State, Fullerton): "Making (Non) Sense of Future Rewards? Berkeley's Criterion of Meaning in the Second *Dialogue Between Hylas and Philonous*"
- Katia Saporiti (Zürich): "Abstract Ideas in Berkeley's *Three Dialogues*"
- Przemysław Spryszak (Jagiellonian, Kraków): "Berkeley on Certainty: A Dilemma"
- Tom Stoneham (York): "Mediate Perception and Knowledge of the Physical World"
- Piotr Szalek (Catholic U, Lublin, Poland): "Berkeley's Pragmatism"
- Marta Szymańska-Lewoszewska (Jagiellonian, Kraków): "The Nature of Berkeley's Propositions on Morality in 1713"
- Anna Tomaszewska (Jagiellonian, Kraków): "Berkeley and McDowell on Perceptual Experience"
- Bartosz Żukowski (Lodz): "The Alleged Realism of Berkeley's Philosophy"

Berkeley's "Feast Day" July 16

For decades the Episcopal Church in America celebrated occasions other than major Holy Days with readings commemorating the lives of saints and model Christians. In 2009 the collection of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* was tentatively replaced by *Holy Women, Holy Men*, and George Berkeley joined the 18th century

philosopher-theologian Joseph Butler for special recognition on **July 16** (the date of Butler's death). In 2012 the Church's General Convention in Indianapolis voted to continue using the readings and prayers in the volume until the next convention in 2015. So at least until then, Berkeley's spiritual "feast day" is July 16.
