



# Berkeley Briefs

April 2011

## *April 2010 Neuchâtel Conference Features Papers and IBS Meeting* Actions Taken on Elections, Dues, Student Funding

On April 6-9, 2010 scholars from Europe, Japan, and North America converged on the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berkeley's *Treatise concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*. Organized by Richard Glauser (Neuchâtel), the meeting featured four days of presentations ([georgeberkeley.tamu.edu/conferences](http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu/conferences)), a Palais du Peyrou reception, and the first official meeting of the International Berkeley Society outside Newport, Rhode Island.

At the meeting officers of the Society were elected to three-year terms:

**Stephen Daniel** (Texas A&M), president  
**Timo Airaksinen** (Helsinki), vice-president  
**Nancy Kendrick** (Wheaton Coll), sec'y/treasurer  
**Genevieve Migely** (Cornell Coll), membership sec'y  
**Keota Fields** (U Mass, Dartmouth), recording sec'y  
**Maureen Lapan** (North Kingston, RI), archivist  
**Margaret Atherton** (Wisconsin, Milwaukee),  
philosophy coordinator

A motion also passed that allows members to pay up to three years of their \$15 annual dues in one \$45 payment. Attendees raised concern that multi-year payments might discourage members from contributing annually to the Whitehall Library fund and our research fund. So the impact of the new policy will be monitored, and if there is a significant drop in other contributions, we will reconsider the issue. The [online PayPal dues payment option](#) has now been modified to accept multi-year payments.

A proposal was approved to authorize awards up to \$300 to help defray travel costs of students and recent graduates who make presentations at open-call, blind-reviewed conferences sponsored by the Society. Only students who are writing dissertations on Berkeley or graduates who have defended a dissertation on Berkeley within the previous two years are eligible. Up to three awardees will be selected by conference organizers. This expenditure supplements the \$400 usually given to organizers to help cover the expenses of such conferences.



Neuchâtel participants (left to right): Laurent Jaffro, Wolfgang Breidert, Timo Airaksinen, Martha Bolton, Luc Peterschmitt, Heta Gylling, Sébastien Charles, Silvia Parigi, Richard Glauser, Claire Schwartz, Laura Berchielli, Stephen Daniel, Tom Stoneham, Margaret Atherton, Georges Dicker, Petr Glombicek, Samuel Rickless, Katia Saporiti, Reed Winegar, Talia Mae Bettcher, Richard Brook, Marc Hight, Jani Hakkarainen, James Hill, Nancy Kendrick, Dominique Berlioz, David Raynor, Ville Paukkonen, Geneviève Brykman, Keota Fields, Bertil Belfrage, Timothy Quandt.

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## *Aussie Berkeley Descendents Visit Rhode Island, California*

In September, Brisbane, Australia residents Sean and Marguerite Berkeley, along with their daughters Harriet, Lily, and Prue, visited Newport, Rhode Island and Berkeley, California. Sean is a direct descendant of George Berkeley's brother Robert, and his family's stop at the University of California was the first time relatives of the Irish bishop had visited the campus or city that bear his name. While in Newport the Aussies were honored guests at a 25-person dinner hosted by Nancy Bredbeck and were given a tour of Berkeley's house at Whitehall.

At the University of California the Berkeleys were greeted by Paolo Mancuso (philosophy department chair), shown rare copies of Berkeley's works in the UC Library, and saw a larger-than-life size portrait of their ancestor at the Berkeley Art Museum. On a tour of campus they learned how the city and university were named by founders for the author of the "Verse on the Prospect of Planning Arts and Learning in America," in which Berkeley wrote, "Westward the course of empire takes its way." The family's visit is chronicled at the UC news website (<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2010/10/01/bishop>).



Lily, Marguerite, Prue, Harriet, and Sean Berkeley (l to r) at a reception for them in Newport at the home of Nancy Bredbeck

## *Berkeley Studies Call for Essays*

Issue #22 of *Berkeley Studies*, a web-based, peer-reviewed annual journal devoted to the study of Berkeley's life and thought, will appear in November at <http://people.hsc.edu/berkeleystudies/>. Please send materials for possible publication to the senior editor, **Stephen Daniel** ([sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu](mailto:sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu)), no later than **September 1, 2011**.

## *Time to Pay 2011 Dues: Now!*

The date for renewing your membership in the International Berkeley Society is **March 12**. To pay your dues, either send a check (\$15 US/yr) to the Texas A&M University address listed on the first page of the *Briefs*) 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). This year you can pay dues for three years. You are also encouraged to make donations to the Whitehall Library fund (so that we can purchase books to add to our holdings at Berkeley's home in Newport, RI) and the Research fund (so that we can support conferences and publications).

## *Jan. 22 Dinner Commemorates Berkeleys' Arrival in Newport*

In keeping with a tradition established in the 1970s, 25 IBS-supporters commemorated the anniversary of George and Anne Berkeley's arrival in Newport on Jan. 23, 1729 with a pot-luck dinner on Jan. 22, 2011. Organized by **Joanne Dunlop** and **Nancy Bredbeck** at Honyman Hall, Trinity Church, the event included a brief talk on Berkeley's theory of causation by **Nancy Kendrick** (Wheaton College, MA).

## *IBS 2010 Financial Report*

Secretary-Treasurer **Nancy Kendrick** reports that in 2010 the IBS had an income of \$1523: dues (\$807), contributions to the Staley research fund (\$519), and donations to the Whitehall Library (\$197). Expenses (\$1337.78) included internet costs at Whitehall (\$560.88), a donation to the Colonial Dames of North America for Whitehall efforts (\$200), support for the Neuchâtel conference (\$200), poster framing (\$146.10), state fees (\$22) and mail costs (\$8.80). Of the \$11,464.83 in our accounts, \$2024 is committed to support research (e.g., conferences, publications), \$2496.65 is earmarked for Whitehall, and \$6944.18 is uncommitted. We hope that members pay their 2011 dues soon to support the work of the Society.

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## *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:

- Dominique Berlioz, ed. *Berkeley: Langage de la perception et art de voir* (2003; two copies)
- Tom Jones, *Pope and Berkeley: The Language of Poetry and Philosophy* (2005)
- Laurent Jaffro, Geneviève Brykman, and Claire Schwartz, eds., *Berkeley's Alciphron: English Text and Essays in Interpretation* (2010)

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: [nkendric@wheatonma.edu](mailto:nkendric@wheatonma.edu).

## *2010 Whitehall Resident Scholars*

Each July and August IBS members spend about two weeks at Whitehall, Berkeley's Rhode Island home. 2010 residents were **Timo Airaksinen** and **Heta Gylling** (Helsinki); **Robert** and **Anne Tully** (Salisbury Mills, NY); and **Alan Baker** and **Shelley Costa** (Swarthmore). In his essay on being a "philosopher in residence" ([www.swarthmore.edu/x9389.xml](http://www.swarthmore.edu/x9389.xml)), Alan Baker provides a glimpse into what it's like to live at Whitehall. Scholars give short tours of the house when visitors occasionally drop by; otherwise they are free to enjoy the balmy summer days (internet access provided). Residents this year will include **Paul Medeiros** (Providence), **Nancy Kendrick** (Wheaton) **Richard** and **Susan Brook** (Bloomsburg); and **Timothy Quandt** (Fullerton). To be a resident scholar, contact Joanne Dunlap at [randjdunlap@cox.net](mailto:randjdunlap@cox.net) or 401-847-7951.

## *2010 Western Ontario Conference*

On September 24-25, 2010 **Benjamin Hill** and Corey Dyck hosted a conference on Berkeley's theory of mind at the University of Western Ontario. The IBS-sponsored event attracted two dozen scholars from North America and Europe intent on clarifying one of the most puzzling aspects of Berkeley's thought.

## *APA Eastern Sessions 2010-11*

Despite a massive snow storm that disrupted travel to Boston, **Nancy Kendrick** and **Richard Brook** (Bloomsburg, PA) were able to make presentations at the Berkeley Society session of the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division meeting on Dec. 28, 2010. **Margaret Atherton** ([atherton.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:atherton.margaret@gmail.com)), IBS Philosophy Coordinator, hopes that the weather will be better for this year's Dec. 27-30 meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. IBS members are encouraged to submit papers (less than 3500 words) for consideration to her no later than **May 1, 2011**.

### *Stefan Storrie Wins Turbayne Berkeley Essay Prize*

The winning essay in this year's Colin and Ailsa Turbayne Berkeley Essay Prize is "Berkeley's Apparent Cartesianism in *De Motu*" by **Stefan Storrie** (Trinity College Dublin). Author of the 2009 *Literary Encyclopedia* entry on Berkeley, Storrie has also written articles on Berkeley's and Barrow's views on geometrical construction and Kant's understanding of idealism.

The \$2000 prize-winning essay is chosen every two years by a panel selected by the Philosophy Department of the University of Rochester. The next deadline for submissions is November 1, 2012; the winner will be announced on March 1, 2013. Past winners are listed on the IBS website (<http://georgeberkeley.tamu.edu/turbayne.htm>).

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 [phladmin@philosophy.rochester.edu](mailto:phladmin@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

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## *Conference on Berkeley: Mind, Perception, and Knowledge June 22-24, 2011; Zürich, Switzerland*

This year's main Berkeley conference will occur at the University of Zürich June 22-24. Its focus on Berkeley's epistemology will consider his concepts of mathematical, perceptual, scientific, common-sense, and moral knowledge, along with knowledge of nature and natural laws, knowledge of God, self-knowledge, and knowledge of other minds.

Papers will be presented by scholars from Europe and North America, including **Margaret Atherton**, **Bertil Belfrage**, **Martha Brandt Bolton**, **Wolfgang Breidert**, **Richard Brook**, **Stephen Daniel**, **Georges Dicker**, **Richard Glauser**, **George Pappas**, **David Raynor**, **Samuel Rickless**, **Katia Saporiti**, **Robert Schwartz**, and **Tom Stoneham**.

### *June 2012 Montréal Conference on Berkeley's Moral Philosophy*

On June 4-7, 2012 a bilingual English/French conference will commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berkeley's *Passive Obedience* (1712). The event at the University of Sherbrooke, Longueuil, Québec (near Montréal), Canada, will focus on Berkeley's moral and social thought (see [pages.usherbrooke.ca/berkeley/](http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/berkeley/)). Anglophone contributors should send abstracts of proposed papers no later than **June 1, 2011** to **Bertil Belfrage** ([belfrage.research@telia.com](mailto:belfrage.research@telia.com)); Francophone contributors should send abstracts to **Sébastien Charles** ([Sebastien.Charles@USherbrooke.ca](mailto:Sebastien.Charles@USherbrooke.ca)). Doctoral students and recent graduates are eligible for \$300 IBS travel awards.

Others who would like to participate should send an abstract (750 words, prepared for blind review) and a short CV to Carmen Dürsteler ([duersteler@philos.uzh.ch](mailto:duersteler@philos.uzh.ch)); deadline: **17 April**; notification of acceptance: 2 May. Speakers will receive partial compensation for travel costs. The IBS will offer awards of \$300 each for up to three awardees to defray the travel costs of graduate students who are writing their doctoral dissertations on Berkeley or who are within two years of having defended their doctoral dissertations on Berkeley. For more information, contact Katia Saporiti ([msaporiti@philos.uzh.ch](mailto:msaporiti@philos.uzh.ch)) or Laura Saller ([saller@philos.uzh.ch](mailto:saller@philos.uzh.ch)). The conference website is <http://www.philosophie.uzh.ch/institut/lehrstuehle/geschichte/berkeley.html>.

### *2013 Kraków Conference on 300th Anniversary of Dialogues*

To celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berkeley's *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, **Bertil Belfrage** ([belfrage.research@telia.com](mailto:belfrage.research@telia.com)) and **Milowit Kuninski** ([kuninski@iphils.uj.edu.pl](mailto:kuninski@iphils.uj.edu.pl)) have called for papers for a conference at the Collegium Maius, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, August 19-22, 2013. The deadline for abstract submissions is **February 29, 2012**, but prospective participants should contact the organizers early. As with other IBS-sponsored conferences, awards of up to \$300 will be given to as many as three doctoral students or graduates who have defended their dissertations less than two years prior.

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