

Berkeley Briefs

News from the **International Berkeley Society**
Department of Philosophy, Wheaton College, Norton, MA 02766 USA

Conference and Event Highlights 2015-2016

Scholars from around the world met at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in January 2016 for a four-day conference on Berkeley's philosophy. (Click [here](#) for the complete program.) Yaron Wolf, an Oxford Ph.D. student, received a Young Scholars Travel Award from the Society and presented "Alciphron and Berkeley's Theory of Sense Perception" at the conference. More than two dozen scholars participated in the meeting, which was organized by Meir Buzaglo (Hebrew U) and Bertil Belfrage (Lund).

Also in January, the IBS held a session at the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Washington, DC. Melissa Frankel (Carlton, Canada) presented "Descartes and Berkeley on Sensory Perception" and Nathan Sheff (Connecticut) presented "Berkeley's Dilemma for Temporal Absolutists." IBS Past-President Steve Daniel chaired the sessions.

January also saw a celebration marking the 287th anniversary of Berkeley's arrival in the American colonies. Art historian R. Tripp Evans (Wheaton College, MA) gave a slide-show presentation and lecture on "Berkeley's Influence on Art and Architecture in America" at the White Horse Tavern in Newport, Rhode Island. Forty guests attended



R. Tripp Evans

the event, including IBS notables Maureen Lapan (founding member) and Louis Alfonso (Past-Past President), as well as Benedict Lica, Executive Director of the [Redwood Library](#) and Norah Diedrich, Executive Director of the [Newport Art Museum](#). The evening was co-sponsored by the IBS and the Whitehall Committee of the Colonial Dames of America.

Samuel Rickless (UCSD) was the inaugural guest in December 2015 for a new video series on recent work in the history of early modern philosophy hosted by Benjamin Hill at the University of Western Ontario. Rickless discussed his book *Berkeley's Argument for Idealism* (Oxford, 2013). The series is a cross between an "author meets critics" session and a journalistic interview and provides a virtual Master class on a given text. Questions for the author are collected from Western researchers and students, from published book reviews, and from invited experts from around the world. The queries are shared with the author and presented in an on-line videoconference that is recorded and posted to Western's website and youtube channel. The aim is to encourage authors to expand, clarify, explain, and defend their texts in response to critical questioning. Click [here](#) for links to the video of Rickless's discussion and for more information about the series.

Upcoming Conferences

The International Berkeley Society will co-sponsor three conferences over the next two years. Please contact the organizers for details.

- Conference on *The Querist*, University of Lyon, France, 1-4 February 2017. Contact: [Roselyne Dégremont](#), [Daniel Carey](#) or [Bertil Belfrage](#).
- Conference on “Berkeley’s philosophy after the *Principles* and the *Three Dialogues*,” Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland, 21-24 August 2017. Contact: [Adam Grzelinski](#) or [Bertil Belfrage](#).
- Conference on “Berkeley and his Contemporaries,” Newport, RI, USA, June 2018. Contact: [Keota Fields](#), [Bertil Belfrage](#), or [Nancy Kendrick](#).

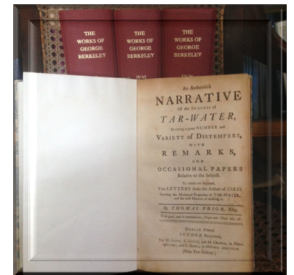
The IBS Session at the Eastern Division Meeting of the [American Philosophical Association](#) promises to be engaging. Jennifer Marušić (Brandeis) will give a talk on “Berkeley on the Objects of Perception”; Samuel Rickless (UCSD) will present “Is Shepherd’s Pen Mightier than Berkeley’s Word?”; and Seth Bordner (Alabama), will speak on “The Master Argument.” Amanda Whooley (Ogelthorpe) and Piotr Szafek (Catholic U of Lubin) will chair the session. The APA meetings will be in Baltimore, 4-7 January 2017.

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Whitehall News

The IBS Study Center at Whitehall has received a gift of over 70 books, pamphlets, articles, and ephemera from the libraries of Maureen Lapan and the late Raymond

Houghton. Lapan and Houghton, along with three other Rhode Island historians, founded the International Berkeley Society in 1975; Houghton was the Society’s first president. The donation includes a set of Berkeley’s *Collected Works* edited by Fraser, a set of the *Works* edited by Luce and Jessop, several edited volumes of commentary on Berkeley’s philosophy, and a rare copy of Thomas Prior’s *Authentick Narrative of the Success of Tar-Water*, published in 1746 (Dublin printed, London re-printed). Prior’s text includes “Two LETTERS from the Author of SIRIS.” For a complete list of the holdings at Whitehall, click [here](#).



If you would like to make a work of your own available to researchers who use the IBS Study Center at Whitehall, please contact [Keota Fields](#) at the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth.

The Colonial Dames and the IBS continue their joint sponsorship of philosophers-in-residence at Whitehall during July and August. The resident scholars for 2016 are:

- July 1-10: Professors Alan Baker and Shelley Costa, Swarthmore College
- July 11-17: Professor Nancy Kendrick, Wheaton College, Massachusetts
- July 18-31: Professors Alan Baker and Shelley Costa, Swarthmore College
- August 1-8: Professors Julie Walsh (Wellesley College) and Spencer Hey (Harvard)
- August 8-Sept. 8: Professors Timo Airaksinen and Heta Gylling, University of Helsinki



Whitehall Museum House

Philosophers-in-residence give tours of Berkeley's house Wednesday through Sunday and enjoy the cool Atlantic Ocean breezes every day. For information about the resident scholar program at Whitehall, contact [Nancy Kendrick](#) or [Hope Alexander](#)

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2015 Financial Report

IBS Secretary-Treasurer Keota Fields reports that dues payments for 2015 were \$2025, while expenditures for the year were only \$352. The Society did not provide financial support to any conferences during the 2015 calendar year, and it did not fund any young scholars. The bulk of 2015's expenses (\$330) were connected with co-sponsoring a dinner and lecture on "Berkeley's Influence on Art and Architecture in America" at the start of 2016. The remaining \$22 was a registration fee paid annually to the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

Donations to Whitehall and to the Research Fund declined dramatically in 2015! Only 19 members contributed to the Whitehall Fund, for a total of \$110, and only 18 members contributed to the Research Fund, for a total of \$180. This is in sharp contrast to 2014, when the Whitehall Fund received \$375 and the Research Fund, \$830. Please consider [donating to these funds](#), even if you have already paid your dues for this year.

The International Berkeley Society is pleased to provide financial support for academic mini-conferences and other events celebrating the life and/or works of George Berkeley. Please contact [Nancy Kendrick](#) for further information.

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Turbayne Essay Prize

The deadline for submitting a paper to the Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize competition is November 1, 2016. The biennial competition is overseen by the Philosophy Department at the University of Rochester. For more information, click [here](#).

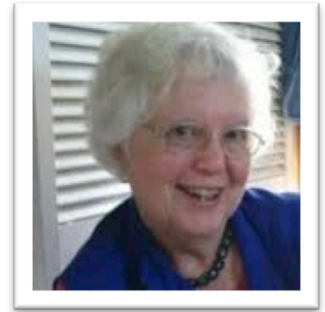
In Memoriam



Paul J. Olscamp died in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in October 2014. He was the author of *The Moral Philosophy of George Berkeley*

and, with Thomas Lennon, the editor/translator of Malebranche's *The Search After Truth*. He served as president of Bowling Green State University from 1982 until his retirement in 1995. In retirement, he was an interim president of the University of South Dakota and of Mayville State University in North Dakota. Born in Montreal, Aug. 29, 1937, Olscamp earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Western Ontario and a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. He began his academic career in the philosophy department of the Ohio State University and went on to hold administrative posts at a number of American universities. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and children, Rebecca and Adam.

Nancy Preston Bredbeck, of Newport, Rhode Island, died April 5, 2016. A tireless champion of Whitehall,



Nancy served as President of the Rhode Island chapter of the Colonial Dames and organized scores of gatherings at Berkeley's eighteenth-century residence. She worked closely with the IBS in planning Newport conferences and in recruiting resident scholars for Whitehall. Born on December 25, 1940 in Detroit, MI, Nancy earned a bachelor's degree from Occidental College and masters' degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Wayne State University. She was an artist and a teacher at the Newport Art Museum. Nancy was the wife of the late Captain William J. Bredbeck (U.S.N., Ret.) and is survived by her children, William and Katherine, and several grandchildren.

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