

Editorial Note

The Editor wishes to thank warmly Robert Bernasconi and Stephen Houlgate who have shared the editorial work with him on this issue of the Bulletin.

Announcements and Reports

Conference on Hegel in Australia

The growing interest in Hegel among philosophers in Australia was well reflected at the first Australian Conference on Hegel, held by the Department of Philosophy, The University of Newcastle, from Friday 9 November to Sunday 11 November, 1984. It was organised by Bill Doniela.

Although the conference did not focus on a particular theme, the papers rather naturally fell under a limited number of headings. Systematic aspects were discussed by Richard Campbell (Canberra): 'The True as a Result'; Franco Schiavoni (Melbourne): 'The Unification of Knowledge as Encyclopaedia of the Sciences: Hegel's Legacy'; and Bill Doniela (Newcastle): 'Hegel on the Unity of Reason: Cognitive, Social, Ethical'. One of the features of the attendant discussion was the quite understandable question whether Hegel's system is coherent and if not, what are its vulnerable shortcomings.

Socio-political aspects were taken up by Zbigniew Pelczynski (Oxford and Canberra, in absentia): 'Civil Society as an Ethical Environment in Hegel'; Michael Jackson (Sydney): 'The Bureaucracy in Hegel's Theory of the State'; and Simon Cowen (Melbourne): 'Hegel, the Young and the Old Marx'. Discussion was, of course, wide-ranging though the centre of gravity tended to shift to the distinction between Moralität and Sittlichkeit.

An interesting contrast was provided by two papers on Hegel's philosophy of religion. A panentheistic interpretation was offered by Raymond Williamson (Newcastle): 'Does Hegel Escape Pantheism?', but an immanentist conclusion was drawn by Lisabeth During (Macquarie): 'Hegel's Critique of Transcendence'. Further Hegelian connections were explored by Max Deutscher (Macquarie): 'Sexual Bias in Hegel and Sartre: Lapse or Systematic Distortion?' and by Glenn Albrecht (Newcastle): 'Hegel and Darwin'.

The conference may be described as quite successful. While the organisers expected an attendance of 25-30 participants, the eventual number was 49. It is very likely that another Australian Hegel conference will be held in the second half of 1986.

Bill Doniela

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British Society for the History of Philosophy

The inaugural conference of the society was held at Westwood Hall, University of Leeds on 12 and 13 April 1985. Information about the BSHP, its activities and the method of joining can be obtained from George McDonald Ross, Department of Philosophy, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT.