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BWS website home

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Nota Bene

This spring marks the 60th anniversary of Wittgenstein's death on 29 April 1951.

Jane Dorner outlines the year's various tributes to the ongoing influence of his philosophical work.

From 18 March to 13 June Contextualizations of a genius runs at the Schwules Museum Berlin where his life and work are presented in a broad-based cultural and historical exhibition. It centres round his native Vienna, his studies and teaching activities in Cambridge, and his retreat in Skjolden, in Norway. The exhibition illustrates the various locations that affected his life and thought, along with his respective circle of friends and the peer groups amongst whom Wittgenstein discussed his thoughts. The exhibition is in co-operation with the Wittgenstein Archive in Cambridge and the Brenner Archiv in Innsbruck.

Then (fittingly) on 29 April is the deadline for a Call for Papers for this year's University of Southampton annual one-day Graduate Conference titled 'Wittgenstein after Sixty Years' Conference to be held on on 21 May.

Contributions concerning any aspect of Wittgenstein's work and influence in contemporary philosophy are welcome. Papers are invited from graduate students and they are hoping to attract a wide external audience. Papers should be not more than 3,000 words in length, suitable for a 20-minute presentation followed by discussion. Please submit to: G.M.E.Schoenbaumsfeld@soton.ac.uk. Papers should be accompanied by a covering email, but should not contain any self-identifying references in the text.

Also following the anniversary theme is a conference 'In Wittgenstein's Footsteps' at the University of Iceland from 14-16 September 2012 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the visit of the youthful Ludwig Wittgenstein and his friend, David Pinsent, who travelled in and around Iceland.
between 12 and 30 September 1912. As a part of this event, a guided tour will be offered, re-tracing the route taken by Wittgenstein and PinSENT in the south and southwest of Iceland. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 June this year. Abstracts of 400-500 words should be submitted as email attachments to Professor Mikael M Karlsson: mike@hi.is.

Then there is a theatrical event: a world premier of an usual and experimental production celebrating Wittgenstein's life on 19 April-17 May. It's called The Crooked Roads by William Lyons and runs in Studio 3 at Riverside Studios, London, England. Fleet Productions - Supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum and the American Philosophical Association. Directed by Nick Blackburn with assistance from Christoph Rainer. A BWS outing to this will be organised; please email ian.ground@sunderland.ac.uk if you would like to be included.

BWS also has a deadline of 15 June as part of our own celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Wittgenstein's death which will culminate at our Fourth Annual Conference at Gregynog. See the Competition box below.

But we'll reserve our best energies for a set of celebrations for 26 April 2014 when it is the 125th anniversary of his birth. Suggestions welcome. I know that I personally hope to organise a type of re-enactment of the evening of Wittgenstein's Poker fame.

BWS Commemoration

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of Ludwig Wittgenstein, BWS is running a competition. Write an essay or a poem of no more than 1500 words on the theme: 'Wittgenstein Sixty Years On'. It can be a personal view or you might like to try your hand at a little pastiche of Wittgenstein's writing - look at http://stevepetersen.net/personal/wittgenstein-fog.html. You could outdo Michael Frayn by producing your own affectionate tribute along the same lines: a piece that reads like Wittgenstein whilst evidently being something wittily different.

The winner will be invited to attend the BWS annual conference in Gregynog (see Conference box) where they will read out their essay, poem or pastiche. A selection of entries will also be published on the website.

The deadline is 15 June. Please send entries as email attachments to bws@herts.ac.uk. Entries will be judged by the Executive Committee. Results will be announced by end of June. (Prize includes conference registration fee, accommodation and all meals. Should the winner have already registered for the conference, s/he will be fully refunded.)

International Conference on Memory

BWS President, Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, will be leading a Wittgensteinian delegation to the 5th International Conference on Memory (ICOM 5), taking place at the University of York 31 July - 5 August 2011. The symposium, entitled 'Wittgenstein on Memory', is partly sponsored by the BWS. Symposium participants are:

Peter Hacker
Michel ter Hark
Daniele Moyal-Sharrock
Eric Myin
David Stern
Michael Tissaw.

ICOM5 is attended by the world's leading psychologists, neuropsychologists, and neuroscientists
on memory, and the delegation’s aim is to bring to light Wittgenstein’s conceptual elucidations of memory: his discrediting of the storage and imprint models of memory, his dissolution of the conceptual link between memory and mental images or representations, and his emphasis on the context-sensitivity of memory. A Wittgenstein-inspired conception of extended memory will also be presented.

Doctorates

We are delighted to report that Ian Ground, BWS Secretary, was recently awarded a PhD (by existing published work). Ian’s doctoral thesis, entitled The Inside of the World: Applications of the Thought of Ludwig Wittgenstein in the Philosophies Of Art and Mind, comprises a selection of work he has published in the fields of aesthetics and nonhuman minds. Many congratulations, Dr Ground.

If you’ve just been awarded a PhD on a Wittgenstein-related topic, please drop us a line with your contact details, thesis title and a couple of paragraphs on your research topic; we’ll feature it on our website and in our next Newsletter.

BWS annual conference 2011

The Fourth BWS Annual Conference, on ‘Wittgenstein and the Swansea School’ will take place at the University of Wales’ Gregynog Conference Centre on 16-17 July 2011.

The conference is organised by Professor David Cockburn and Dr Mario von der Ruhr.

Confirmed speakers:

- Brian Davies (Fordham) and Andrew Gleeson (Flinders)
- DZ Phillips (on God and Evil)
- Anniken Greve (Tromso University, Norway): Rhees and literature
- Rai Gaita (Kings College London; Australian Catholic University): Title TBA
- Michel le Du (Strasbourg): Wittgenstein & Winch on nature and convention
- Lars Hertzberg (Abo Akademi): Rhees and conversation
- Cora Diamond (Virginia): Criticism of a form of thought from ‘outside’ (Dilman, Winch)
- James Conant (Chicago): Title TBA
- Olli Lagerspetz (Abo Akademi): Peter Winch on Political Legitimacy
- Mikel Burley (Leeds): Mounce on understanding a primitive society

Conference Proceedings will be published in a special issue of Philosophical Investigations.

In order for us to reserve sufficient rooms at Gregynog, we ask that you please register for the BWS annual conference as soon as possible. Note that the Welsh Philosophical Society conference will follow and it is possible to book for both on the same registration form.

The lecture series

We have a date now for the sixth in the BWS lecture series and a date for the seventh will follow:

- 9 May 2011: Professor Sandra Laugier
  Title: The Importance of Importance: Cavell and Diamond on ethics
  venue: the University of Hertfordshire, (de Havilland Campus, Room R110).
- Autumn 2011: Professor Bernard Harrison
Title: Wittgenstein, Reality and the Novel

All lectures will be followed by a wine reception. These are complimentary, but advance registration is required once the announcement has been sent, so do check back to the website for details.

Publishers' discounts

Three publishers are offering members of the British Wittgenstein Society a 20% off Philosophy titles: OUP, Routledge and Wiley-Blackwell.

The promotion page on the OUP website is www.oup.com/uk/sale/WEBBWS. This link triggers the promotion code which will automatically apply the 20% discount. The discount will be applied automatically as long as members follow this link, or go to the promotion page by typing in the URL. However, the discount may not be triggered if you navigate to the page in other ways, such as by following a bookmark or favourite.

Routledge has set up a new discount code for members: 'Wittgenstein10' which is available until the end of this year. Go to www.routledge.com and apply the code when ordering philosophy titles.

There is a bespoke webpage for the society at www.wiley.com/go/BWS which contains full details about how members can claim the discount.

New books by all publishers are on the Publications page. If you would like to review any of them, contact BWS@herts.ac.uk and we'll see if we can get it for you.

The BWS website

Updates

Your web editor (who isn't a philosopher, but enjoys language games) notes that the year is peppered with language game dates.

Wittgenstein might have enjoyed this year's possibility of numerical date games with almost every month in this year, 2011, capable of being rendered as a palindrome (depending where you live and how you write it). This newsletter has a particularly appealing date: 11:02:2011. And every month this year can be written as a palindrome (in Europe), starting with 1:1:11 and finishing with a magical 11:11:11 (when we hope to send out the third BWS newsletter).

The exception is October, which has instead 9:10:11 and December which won't play. It is different, of course, in America, where the convention changes to month-day-year, but they have 9 thrilling days beginning November and their own 9:10:11 in September.

The events page is constantly updated, so check to see what's new. There are a whole array of Spring and Summer conferences, seminars and exhibitions. Note particularly the Calls for Papers. We are also regularly adding to the links pages. And the year has started with several new books, some of them reissues in paperback, and editions for the Kindle and iPad are just
starting to hit the presses. Not many of them are cheaper than the print editions, however. But speaking as a new convert to these electronic readers myself, I think it will prove the way of the future.

The BWS website is designed and maintained by Jane Dorner.

BWS Executive Committee

Dr Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, President
University of Hertfordshire
Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB

Dr Ian Ground, Secretary
The University of Sunderland
Sunderland SR1 3SD

Prof. Daniel D Hutto, Treasurer
University of Hertfordshire
Hatfield
Herts AL10 9AB

Dr Constantinos Athanasopoulos, Editor
Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies
Wesley House, Jesus Lane Cambridge, CB5 8BJ

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