

From: British Wittgenstein Society [bws@herts.ac.uk]

Subject: Newsletter no.2

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BWS Newsletter Issue no 2

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Nota Bene

by Dr Danièle Moyal-Sharrock

Dear members,

For those of you who were there, it's no secret: the BWS Inaugural Conference was a great event.



Entitled 'The Third Wittgenstein', the conference was held at the University of Hertfordshire on June 7-8, and welcomed 78 delegates from universities all over the UK and all over the world: Canada, China, Germany, Holland, Italy, Israel, Spain, USA.

A stellar cast of guest speakers – John V. Canfield, Frank Cioffi, H.-J. Glock, Laurence Goldstein, Peter Hacker, Michel ter Hark, Dan Hutto, Nigel Pleasants, Avrum Stroll and Crispin Wright – delivered papers focused on *On Certainty*, the philosophical psychology, and *Remarks on Colour*. Andrew Eddy, Head of Communications at Shell UK, opened the conference with a supportive and invigorating send-off ([see below](#)).

There were plenty of victuals throughout the conference – our thanks to Ashgate for treating us to a celebratory pre-dinner libation. Discussion was intense and the spirits high. If I were pressed to single out a moment, it would for me be Frank Cioffi's magisterial talk on Wittgenstein and Freud. Frank filled the room with his presence, his erudition, his humanity, entwining the strands of philosophy, psychology, literature and science as only a Renaissance man could. It was indeed a privileged moment.

About BWS

BWS is a British focal point for research and exchange of ideas among Wittgenstein scholars and students throughout the world.

This Newsletter will be sent exclusively to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.

With so many close readers of Wittgenstein gathered, there was a remarkable level of insightful and impassioned interaction – in the conference hall and out. Delegates comments, during and after the event, reiterated that the conference, and the establishment of the BWS, gave them renewed confidence in the strength and importance of Wittgenstein studies.

So for those who couldn't make it this year, don't miss next year. We decided to hold the conference in Hertfordshire one more time before moving the venue to other universities. The conference title for 2009 is 'Wittgenstein and Naturalism' – we'll give you more information in due course, but you can count on the same excellent hotel, and the promise of some pretty exciting philosophical company.

Breaking news

We are delighted to announce that Dr Constantinos Athanasopoulos (Costas, for short) has joined the BWS Executive Committee, as Editor. Costas will be the editor of two important additions to the Society's resources:

1. a Book Reviews page, called [BookNOTES](#). This page now has a list of books available for review. These will be published to the site.

2. an online annotated bibliography of works relating to Wittgenstein: the BWS Annotated Bibliography. This is a collaborative project whose long-term aim (approximately 2 years) is to produce a comprehensive annotated list of works in Wittgenstein scholarship on a searchable website. Please visit: <http://wittgensteinbibliography.wikidot.com>

Of course, for all of Costas's good will and efforts, this can't be a one-man show. For both of these projects to be successful, your collaboration, as members of the BWS, is essential. So please visit these pages, post some entries and ask for books to review ...

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Bursary news

We are delighted to announce that the first recipient of the BWS bursary is Britt Harrison.

Britt Harrison came to philosophy as a mature student, after A Levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, and a first undergraduate degree in Art History, at the Courtauld Institute of Art.



Whilst working in the film industry, as a script consultant, she began studying in the evenings at London University's Birkbeck College, where she took her BA in Philosophy, (achieving a First Class Honours). She followed this with an MA, again at Birkbeck, (gaining a Distinction), for which she offered a thesis that took a Wittgensteinian look at religious belief.

Britt will commence PhD research at the University of Hertfordshire in September 2008. The working title of her PhD dissertation is 'Implications for Epistemology in the work of Wittgenstein: particularly the relation between knowing-how and knowing-that.' We wish Britt a successful and rewarding exploratory journey into the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

The lecture series

We have decided to hold the BWS Ludwig Wittgenstein Lecture Series (LWLS) biannually. You can find details about Sir Anthony Kenny's inaugural lecture in November on our new [Lecture Series page](#). As for the Spring Lecture, it will be delivered by Professor Paul Horwich (more in our next Newsletter).

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Member benefits

BWS has joined the British Philosophical Association. This means BWS members can now join the BPS as associate members (£8, instead of £15 for full individual membership). Associate members get the same book and journal discounts as full members; they just don't have voting rights. You can join by filling in the relevant form in the 'join us' section of the website. Go to: http://www.bpa.ac.uk/join_the_bpa

Call for papers

Call for papers deadline: 15 October 2008 for the [Tenth annual meeting of the North American Wittgenstein Society](#) will be held in Westin Bayshore, Vancouver on 8-12 April 2009. The committee has an open remit, and is especially interested in papers which discuss Wittgenstein's philosophy of language and mind, and Wittgenstein's connection with ordinary language philosophy.

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BWS Executive Committee

The Editor joins the Executive Committee.



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The BWS website

Updates

On our video clip webpage, we've added a video clip of Barry Smith of Birkbeck College talking to David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton about Wittgenstein's conception of philosophy. It lasts just over 20 minutes. Find it on this [link](#).



- The [Recent Books](#) page is constantly expanding - latest additions are now added to the top of the page.
- BookNOTES - see [above](#)
- We now have a new [Lecture page](#)

The BWS website is designed and maintained by [Jane Dörner](#).

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The sponsor's welcome

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Andrew Eddy, I am a Director of and head of communications for Shell in the UK. I'm very excited to be here today and to be a part of the official launch of the British Wittgenstein Society. And I'm particularly pleased to stand here representing Shell – the sponsor of this society. Shell sponsors the British Wittgenstein Society because we believe that an acute, inquiring mind helps people, institutions and companies to examine their goals and activities, with an eye on calibrating the congruence between intentions and outcomes. Inquiry into the fundamental aspects of integrity – robust thought processes and action and its consequence – is the job of philosophers, and of those members of the British Wittgenstein Society, here today.

Shell is one of the largest multi-national companies in the world, with operations in over 110 countries, employing around 104,000 people directly. As an industry, the

energy sector is facing the exceptionally difficult challenge of meeting accelerating energy demand whilst reducing CO2 emissions and environmental impact. Our business is an extremely careful balancing act between meeting local and global needs, value for the customer, value for the shareholder and value for society. Such a business needs robust cause and effect thought processes and intellectual rigor. Philosophy is the driving force behind business; our economy is a bustling mixture of democracy, capitalism, socialism, humanism, and other 'isms'... . It is important that we don't rest, that we seek the constant betterment of society through continued philosophical inquiry. That's why Shell supports this society.

We would like to wish you all a most successful inaugural conference of the British Wittgenstein Society.

Andrew Eddy
British Wittgenstein Society
7th June 2008



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