

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

Subject: Newsletter no. 20

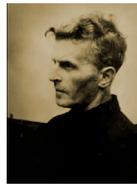
[BWS website home](#)



April 2014
BWS Newsletter Issue no 20

Contents

- [Pdf version](#) (194 Kb)
- [Nota Bene](#)
- [BWS conference](#)
- [Other events](#)
- [Postings](#)
- [Lecture series](#)
- [Housekeeping](#)
- [Executive committee](#)



Nota Bene

by Ian Ground

Portraits of Wittgenstein, edited by F.A Flowers III first appeared in 1999 under Thoemmes Press. A definitive anthology of almost all the personal memoirs in English of Wittgenstein's relatives, friends, pupils and acquaintances, it illuminated the many features of Wittgenstein's character and the power of his personality. Contributors included Hermine Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell, G. E. Moore, David Pinsent, Paul Engelmann, Rudolf Carnap, Julian Bell, Fania Pascal, F. R. Leavis, Iris Murdoch, A. J. Ayer, Norman Malcolm, Karl Popper, G. H. von Wright, Rush Rhees, M. O'C. Drury and many more.



These often moving portraits show how much genuine friendship meant to Wittgenstein, his warmth and kindness and the life-long influence he had on the lives of those he met. The fascinating and lucid

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to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.

recollections and impressions, often at odds with each other, also revealed Wittgenstein's charm and wonderful sense of humour, as well as his suffering and despair. Sadly the four-volume edition has been out of print for some time.

The BWS is therefore delighted to be working with Bloomsbury Academic to bring to press a new revised edition of the anthology and in a more accessible format. As BWS Secretary, I have assisted Bloomsbury to contact the original editor and am acting with F. A. Flowers III as co-editor of the new edition. It is excellent news that this essential resource is to be made newly available. The original edition by F. A. Flowers was a great achievement – not least

for the Herculean task of tracking down and obtaining all the permissions required. The current plan is to reissue it in a two-volume edition in hardback with paperbacks to follow. We also hope to include photographs from the relevant periods. That should make the anthology far more accessible and able to reach out to a wider audience.

We intend to preserve the integrity and focus of the original edition on first-hand accounts but we are anxious to ensure that the new edition remains as definitive as possible. Though we are pretty confident that the original edition included all the relevant material in English, we would like to call on the BWS membership worldwide for help with this. If BWS members have any suggestions about any material that may have emerged since 1999, do please get in touch with me via the [BWS website](#). Under present plans we intend to preserve the emphasis on recollections in English, but we are open to suggestions for especially valuable pieces originally published in other languages and which might be considered for translation and inclusion.

Colleen Coalter, Commissioning Editor for philosophy at Bloomsbury Academic, commented:

We are absolutely thrilled to be working with the BWS on a new edition of *Portraits of Wittgenstein*, a one-of-a-kind collection. The quality of the contributions F. A. Flowers brought together in 1999, together with their range, is truly impressive. Not only do they paint an intimate portrait of Wittgenstein, they provide revealing insights into some of the major figures of the twentieth century.

With the help of Ground and Flowers, we are looking forward to enhancing the original collection where possible: bringing it up-to-date, adding images, maps and overviews, not to mention making it available as an ebook and paperback. The goal is to ensure that this time *Portraits of Wittgenstein* finds the global readership it deserves.

BWS Conference

5-6 June 2014

Sixth BWS Annual Conference: Wittgenstein and Epistemology

Hosted by the Eidyn Research Centre
Conference organisers: Professor Duncan Pritchard
 & Dr. J. Adam Carter



Confirmed speakers:
[Annalisa Coliva](#) (Modena)
[John Greco](#) (St.Louis)
[Allan Hazlett](#) (Edinburgh)
[Martin Kusch](#) (Vienna)
[Michael P. Lynch](#) (Connecticut)
[Danièle Moyal-Sharrock](#) (Hertfordshire)
[Dr Genia Schönbaumsfeld](#) (Southampton)
[Michael Williams](#) (Johns Hopkins)
[Pascal Engel](#) (Geneva)

[Claudine Tiercelin](#) (College de France)

This promises to be an informative and dynamic conference. Philosophers on either side of the Wittgenstein divide will give their take on his epistemology - which means the conference will be mostly devoted to *On Certainty*. There are several readings of that work, and the debate about its content and its importance should not be missed by anyone interested in understanding Wittgenstein's third masterpiece. We look forward to seeing many of you in Edinburgh in June.

To register, and for conference information, please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/bws2014edinburgh/>

[Back to top](#)

Other important Wittgenstein events

Conferences, symposia and seminars on Wittgenstein are booming. Here are a few:
25-27 April 2014

The [50th Meeting of the Welsh Philosophical Society](#) with the BWS-supported Wittgenstein Lecture on The Universalisability of Moral Judgements will be taking place at Gregynog Hall, Wales.

30-31 May 2014

The 5th Symposium of the Nordic Wittgenstein Society [Wittgenstein and Phenomenology](#), will take place at the University of Stavanger, Norway. The aim of the symposium is to throw light on the relatively underexplored relations between Wittgenstein's philosophy and the phenomenological tradition.

Keynote speakers are: Kevin Cahill (University of Bergen), Juliet Floyd (Boston University) and Søren Overgaard (University of Copenhagen)

And don't miss this, next year:

The Norwegian-French-Austrian Wittgenstein Seminar is a yearly gathering of Wittgenstein researchers from the University of Bergen, the University of Paris, and the University of Vienna. Each year participants from all three groups meet in the home city of one of the seminar members.

Last year the conference was held on 17-18 October in Vienna. The conference details are on this link '[Lebensform-Darstellungsform/Form of Life-Form of Representation](#)'.

The next meeting will be in Paris. Further information will be given at a later date.

[Back to top](#)

Postings

Ordinary Language Philosophy & Literary Studies Online

Melvyn Bragg and his guests on *In our time* discuss Ordinary Language Philosophy, a school of thought with its roots in the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein. The audio of this broadcast is online until November 2014. It is 43 minutes duration, and can be heard at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03ggc19>

Wittgenstein and Steve Reich

The composer Steve Reich wrote an undergraduate thesis on Wittgenstein, and a musical manifesto in a similarly aphoristic style, 'Music as a Gradual Process'.

[The piece *Proverb* can be heard on this link.](#)

It used a line from Wittgenstein's writings – 'How small a thought it takes to fill a whole life!' – as its lyrical inspiration.



Documentary on Wittgenstein's Sense of Religious Beliefs

Exploring and promoting religious faith as a human creation.

[A 22-minute BBC video podcast is on this link.](#)



Rudolf Haller (1929-2014)

Rudolf Haller, Professor of Philosophy, Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria, died on 19 February 2014 after a long illness. His book, *Questions on Wittgenstein*, first published in 1988, had just been re-issued as a [Routledge Revival](#). The [obituary on this link](#) is in German.



[Back to top](#)

The Lecture Series

The next in the BWS lecture series are:

27 May

Professor Charles Altieri



Title: [Doubt and Display: A Foundation for a Wittgensteinian Approach to the Arts](#)

venue: The University of Hertfordshire, (de Havilland Campus) Room 115 at 5 p.m.

Registration is now open.

Autumn

Professor Gavin Kitching



Title: [What is the use of my teaching you these techniques...?:](#) Contemporary Wittgensteinian Philosophy and the Really Rough Ground of Politics

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.

[Back to top](#)

Housekeeping

To unsubscribe or inquire about posting news please email bws@herts.ac.uk. Please inform us of changes in your email address so that we can keep our list up to date.

[Back to top](#)

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



Dr Constantinos Athanasopoulos,
Editor
Research Affiliate, Department of
Philosophy
Open University, UK

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

[Home](#)

[Back to top](#)

