

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

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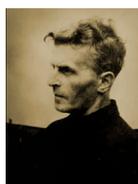
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June 2014
BWS Newsletter Issue no 21

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Nota Bene

Open Access to Wittgenstein Nachlass

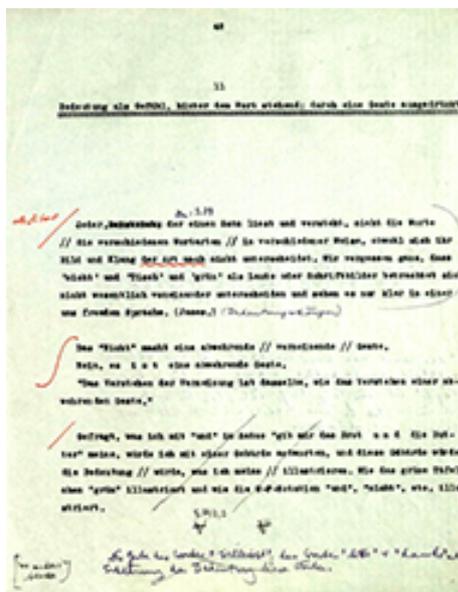
Trinity College Cambridge in co-operation with the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen is producing a new *Nachlass* facsimile of Wittgenstein originals which will be made freely available online.



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to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.



Click on the image (above) to enlarge a sample of the facsimile pages made available in this important initiative made possible through a partnership between Trinity College Cambridge, the University of Bergen and the Stanhill Foundation.

A new facsimile edition of the entire *Nachlass*, using cutting edge technology, is in the process of being completed, and it is anticipated that the first images will be available by the end of September 2014. Importantly, the *Nachlass* will be made available on an open-access basis. The project has been planned for some considerable time.

Professor Alois Pichler (pictured above), the head of the Wittgenstein Archive said: 'The University of Bergen has continued to support the Bergen Electronic Edition, but we have always known that a new edition that takes full advantage of new technology would have to be created. That the new facsimile will be free for all who wish to access it is an amazing gift to Wittgenstein scholarship. I must thank Trinity for their ongoing cooperation. We all know how important Wittgenstein has been to the intellectual development of the 20th century, but being able to share that knowledge would not be possible without the support and guidance of Trinity College. I would also like to thank Ilyas Khan for his unstinting support and for providing the financial means to enable this project to proceed.'

Jonathan Smith, Archivist and Modern MSS Cataloguer at the Wren Library at Trinity College, said: 'The Wittgenstein archives contain some of the most important philosophical material produced in the 20th century. Providing a new version of the works by utilizing the most up to date technology is very exciting, and a great additional resource for Wittgenstein scholars all over the world.' He added: 'We have a long standing working relationship with the Wittgenstein Archives in Bergen, and this cooperation is simply a reflection of our trust and admiration for their expertise and our shared commitment to Wittgenstein.'

Ilyas Khan, Chairman and Founder of the Stanhill Foundation, commented: 'The Foundation has a long-standing tradition of supporting research and scholarship into the work of Wittgenstein. It's been such a privilege being part of this project from inception, and to now see it come alive is utterly amazing. A whole new generation of Wittgenstein scholars will have free, total and unmediated access to the Nachlass as a whole, which is exactly how it should be. I am greatly indebted to Trinity College Cambridge for being the essential enabler here. It is a noble act of great generosity that should not be underestimated.'

The Stanhill Foundation supports the BWS, and we are extremely grateful for its further support in enabling a project that so invaluablely extends to the whole community of Wittgenstein students and scholars.

Report on the BWS Annual Conference: 'Wittgenstein & Epistemology

by Daniel Scott Lintott

Undergraduate student in Philosophy and Editor-in-Chief of The Journal at the University of Edinburgh



Ludwig Wittgenstein was and still is a divisive figure in philosophy. Notorious for his often-enigmatic writing style, his work seems to instil either love or hate in those who read it. This is a man who claimed to have solved all of philosophy's problems in one book, only to later realise he may have made some small errors. The British Wittgenstein Society (BWS) is dedicated to celebrating and furthering the work of this influential and controversial philosopher by holding annual conferences based around a specific theme each time. One of the most fascinating parts of Wittgenstein's philosophy is its ability to permeate almost all studies in wider academia as well as professional philosophy.

The president of the society, Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, says that one of the most rewarding parts of running these conferences is the 'dissemination of Wittgenstein's impact in philosophy and other disciplines, such as psychology,

neuropsychology, education, sociology, aesthetics, religion'. This aspect is arguably the real broad appeal of Wittgenstein as a thinker, not just as an academic philosopher.



Conference delegates © Dr Constantinos Athanasopoulos

The annual conference is in its 6th year now, and the BWS in its 7th. Moyal-Sharrock says her main motivation to start the society 'sprang primarily from the frustration I felt about Wittgenstein's image in the UK... He was not considered a serious philosopher, often not even taught'.

'I thought it was time someone proactively set about rehabilitating Wittgenstein from his quietist image, and made sure non-Wittgensteinian philosophers became aware of his substantive and often ground-breaking contributions to philosophy and other disciplines'.

Wittgenstein is such an odd figure in philosophy because he is often viewed as not providing solutions to philosophical problems, but instead suggesting dissolution of philosophy through therapeutic discussion.

This year's conference was held at the University of Edinburgh and centred on Epistemology and how Wittgenstein's work can impact the study of knowledge. The conference was co-organised by a member of the Edinburgh philosophy department and specialist in Epistemology, Duncan Pritchard who has been influenced by a neo-Wittgensteinian view in his forthcoming book on scepticism. The event saw a range of speakers and delegates all interacting and participating in what felt like the cutting edge of philosophy. Hearing all of the speakers mention at least one person in attendance directly and then have follow up questions, we are reminded of why most people are interested in university and academia in the first place.

Indeed Moyal-Sharrock says she treasures 'the many moments, particularly at BWS conferences, where I see philosophers of such contrasting views as David Papineau and Peter Hacker debate over a drink at the conference bar'. Being able to attend one of these events is a great opportunity for any academic, student or enthusiast. To be able to sit in front of some of the experts in your field, ask them questions and attempt to call them up (mostly unsuccessfully) on mistakes is a pretty amazing experience. From Wittgenstein veteran Michael Williams to epistemologist and Wittgenstein enthusiast John Greco, the conference managed to bring together a broad range of interests and perspectives. That is the real beauty of the BWS's event that anyone can attend and a great variety of speakers are there and more than willing to engage. Often offering up ideas they themselves are not completely sold on yet. Greco said he would see how he felt about his talk 'after the next 45 minutes or so!'

Looking forward, the BWS aims 'to be able to offer a BWS PhD scholarship again, and to devote more time and effort to the Online BWS Annotated Bibliography'. The society continues to expand and has many members from all over the world. The president says she sees 'close, concerted collaboration with the Austrian, German, Nordic and Chinese Wittgenstein societies, with some joint conferences on the horizon', which would be a great step forward to growing the society and a more positive approach of Wittgenstein's work.

The fundamental and important goal is 'to get his philosophy out in the mainstream where it has a chance of making the resounding impact it ought to be making'. This aim is really important to the study of philosophy and to academia in general, as despite the hubris of Wittgenstein's initial remarks, it is increasingly clear that in certain areas of philosophy, there are solutions to some of the most vexing problems to be found in the pages of his works.

Videos of the talks should soon be available on the website

All conference papers will be included in a special double issue of the *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* under the title *Hinge Epistemology: Basic Beliefs after Moore and Wittgenstein*. Contributors will include: Thomas Baldwin, Yves Bouchard, Annalisa Coliva, Pascal Engel, H.-J. Glock, John Greco, Allan Hazlett, Martin Kusch, Michael Lynch, Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, Luigi Perissinotto, Duncan Pritchard, Genia Schönbaumsfeld, Ernest Sosa, Claudine Tiercelin, Michael Williams, Crispin Wright.

See the [Conference page](#) for details of the talks.

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Postings

Laurence Goldstein (1947-2014)

Laurence Goldstein, professor of philosophy at the University of Kent, died on Monday 19 May, after a short illness. He was a man and philosopher of extraordinary humanity, lucidity and wit, much loved and admired by his friends, colleagues and students. [Read the full obituary...](#)

A six-month licence has been granted for the following article: Laurence Goldstein, [Wittgenstein's Ph.D Viva-A Re-Creation](#) *Philosophy*, (4) pp 499-513, 1999 © Royal Institute of Philosophy, published by Cambridge University Press



The Lecture Series

Autumn 2014

Twelfth BWS Lecture

[Professor Gavin Kitching](#)

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

University of Hertfordshire, UK



Spring 2015

Thirteenth BWS Lecture

[Dr Mikel Burley](#)

[Title: tba](#)

University of Hertfordshire, UK



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.

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Nordic Wittgenstein Review

The [Nordic Wittgenstein Review](#) (NWR) publishes original contributions on all aspects of Wittgenstein's thought and work. Each issue includes an invited paper, an interview, a peer-reviewed articles section, a section in which seminal works are re-published or where previously unpublished archival materials are presented, as well as a book review section. The journal is published by the Nordic Wittgenstein Society (NWS).

Don't forget to submit your papers.

The deadline for the 1st 2015 issue is 31 August 2014.

The NWR also has a [Magazine](#) on Facebook.

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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.

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