AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
ANNUAL REPORT 1973

Staff

Professor and Head of Department:
Professor J.A. Passmore, MA Syd.

Professor of Social Philosophy:
Professor P.H. Partridge, MA Syd.

Professorial Fellow:
Mr. S.I. Benn, BScEcon Lond.

Senior Fellows:
Dr. R.R. Brown, BA New Mexico, PhD Lond. (till April)
Dr. E.M. Curley, AB Lafayette Coll., PhD Duke
Mr. F.R. Routley, MA N.Z., Dip.Hon. N.Z., MA Princeton

Senior Research Fellow:
Mr. M.K. Rennie, BA Syd., MA N.E.

Research Fellows:
Dr. J.B. Maund, MSc W.A., BA (Hons.) W.A., PhD Cantab.
Mr. G.W. Mortimore, BA, BPhil Oxon. (till June)
Dr. S.H. Voss, AB Wheaton Coll. (Ill.), PhD Stanford University, Stanford, Cal.

Research Assistants:
Mrs. J. Murray, BA, MAT, MA, Manhattanville Coll., New York
Mrs. J.J. Norman, BA, De Paul University, Chicago,
Licence en philosophie, Institut Supérieur de Philosophie, Louvain, Belgium.
During 1973, the philosophy of the social sciences remained one of the main foci of the Department of Philosophy's concerns. One book, on laws and rules in sociology, reached publication; another, on philosophical problems related to psychosis, was completed. A third, a collection of original essays on the concept of rationality in the social sciences, will be completed early in 1974. Interest in moral and philosophical problems arising from environmental issues led to the completion of two books in this field, which now promises to become an important growing point among the department's interests. A new appointment supported by the School Research Fund, to be made in 1974, is expected to develop this concern in the direction of a semantical theory of choice to sustain an environmentalist ethic. Besides the direct research involvement of the department in this area, its head has been, and remains, closely associated with the planning of the Botany Bay Project, representing the Australian Academy of the Humanities on its planning and executive committees.

Work in metaphysics, logic, and formal semantics, resulted in publication of a text for high-school and first year university classes, and an associated guide to the teaching of logic; follow-up works are in preparation. Research work has gone ahead in a number of areas, for instance on the semantics of entailment, on the logic of non-significance and other kinds of discourse failure, on the logic of existence, and so on. A monograph on applications of type theory to the semantics of natural language has been brought close to completion. A second new appointment in 1974 to be supported by the School Research Fund is expected to develop further the work going ahead on the semantics of natural languages.

Work continues in two other fields that have long been central to the department's interests: in the history of philosophy, a book on Descartes is close to completion; in moral and political philosophy, work continues on a book on freedom, and a thesis has been completed on Toleration. A related interest, in education, is manifest in one member of the department's membership of the AUC and his very extensive involvement in the forming and administration of educational research and development policies. Another member of the department continues to work on the philosophy of education and delivered a number of papers on the topic in London and Bulgaria. 

During different periods of 1973, four senior members of the department took study leave, during which three visited universities in the United Kingdom and Israel, two attended and read papers to the XVth World Congress of Philosophy in Bulgaria, one held a visiting fellowship at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and another a Visiting Professorship at Johns Hopkins University.
3.

The number of scholars is now at its lowest point ever; while applications continue, there appears to be a decline in standards, perhaps a consequence of the turbulence of the last few years, which has often had a special effect on philosophy departments, and a degree of uncertainty, now evident, about where philosophy is moving.

The staff situation is very easy at the Research Fellowship level, especially now the department has adopted a policy of advertising through the American Philosophical Association. But it is very difficult to obtain senior staff of real eminence in the field in which the department would like to concentrate.

Publications

Benn, S.I.


Benn, S.I. & Weinstein, W.L.*


Brady, R. & Routley, F.R.

'Don't Care was made to Care', Australasian Journal of Philosophy, vol. 51, 211-225.

Brown, R.R.


Curley, E.M.


'Spinoza's Moral Philosophy', ibid, 354-376.


Meyer, R.K. & Routley, F.R.

'Algebraic analysis of entailment I', Logique et Analyse, vol. 15.
Partridge, P.H.


Passmore, J.A.


'Man and Technology', Proceedings of the XVth World Congress of Philosophy, vol. 1, 247-249.

'The Revolt against Science', The International Art Review, Lugano, vol. 17, No. 1, 53-58. [Revised Reprint.]

Rennie, M.K. & Girle, R.A.


Routley, F.R.


Routley, F.R. & Meyer, R.K.

'The semantics of entailment I' in Truth, Syntax and Modality (edited H. Leblanc), North Holland, Amsterdam, 199-243.
5.

Routley, F.R. & Meyer, R.K.†


Routley, F.R. & Routley, V.†


'Ideal objects on a Meinongian theory of universals', Proceedings of the XVth World Congress of Philosophy, Varna, Bulgaria, vol. 5.

*Based on work done while a Visiting Research Worker.

†Not a member of this University.