THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HISTORY OF IDEAS UNIT
ANNUAL REPORT 1985

Professor and Head of Unit: E. Kamenka, BA *Syd.*, PhD *ANU*, FASSA, FAHA

Professorial Fellow: R.R. Brown, BA *New Mexico*, PhD *Lond.*, FASSA, FAHA

Senior Fellow: S.L. Goldberg, BA *Melb.*, Blitt *Oxon*, FAHA

Senior Research Fellow: A. Walicki, Dr. *Warsaw*, Dr. habil. *Polish Academy of Sciences*

Senior Research Fellow (Research Fellow till 1 July): K. Haakonssen, Mag.Art. *Copenhagen*, PhD *Edinburgh*

Visiting Fellows:

Emeritus Professor J.A. Passmore (Australian National University)

Mr. G. Bradshaw (St. Andrews)

Professor Cai Sheng-ning (Institute of Marxism, Leninism and Mao-Zedong Thought, Peking)

Dr. Mark Francis (University of Canterbury)

Emeritus Professor R.E. Lane (Yale University)

Dr. Michael Tanner (Cambridge)

Mr. Yu Xing-zhong (Northwest School of Politics and Law, Xian)

Research Assistants:

Mrs. E.Y. Short, MA *Edinburgh*

Miss A. Lane BA *Qld.*, MA *Adel.*, (part-time)

Secretary: Mrs. V. Wetselaar

Secretarial Staff: Mrs. W. Woods (temporary)
The History of Ideas Unit, throughout its life, has been a very active and "visible" part of the University, with recent changes in the balance of its work and new initiatives indicating a continuing vitality, the Committee appointed to review the Unit reported to the Research School of Social Sciences and the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies in September 1985. The Committee, consisting of Professor Max Neutze (Chairman), Professor Paul Bourke, Dr L.J. Hume, Professor Dame Leonie Kramer and Dr T.H. Rigby, said that full-time members of the Unit have produced a large volume of books and articles and have been active in other ways in academic life. The Unit has been particularly enterprising and successful in securing distinguished visitors from overseas, sometimes for periods extending over several months, and sometimes in small groups with shared and overlapping interests, who have been able to provide the basis for seminar series on particular themes. A number of them have embarked on or completed books while working within the Unit. It has also enabled and encouraged many of those visitors to visit other Australian universities and to deliver public lectures in Canberra. At the same time it has provided facilities for visitors from elsewhere in Australia, has organised numerous conferences on academic topics and has undertaken the supervision of postgraduate students on about the same scale as other departments in the Research School of Social Sciences. On the whole, external submissions have been very appreciative and complimentary; the former visitors have acknowledged the encouragement and stimulus that they received from the members of the Unit, while others have equally welcomed what it has shared with them or made available to them.

The Review was occasioned by the retirement on 31 December 1985 of Dr Robert Brown, appointed as Professorial Fellow in the Unit from a Senior Fellowship in the Department of Philosophy, R.S.S.S. in 1973. During thirteen years as an active, greatly respected and devoted member of the Unit, Dr Brown has been associated with almost all aspects of its work, frequently serving as Acting Head of the Unit and making a substantial contribution to its reputation. From 1973 to 1977 he edited the Australasian Journal of Philosophy from the Unit. His publications during that period and since have included Rules and Laws in Sociology (London, 1973) and The Nature of Social Laws (Cambridge, 1984). A study of love and jealousy, completed early this year, is currently being considered by publishers in the United Kingdom. He has also published other studies on the concept of mental illness and mental health, on the new criminology, sociological theory, the structure of social sciences and philosophical disputes in the social sciences. The Unit hopes that Dr Brown will continue his association with the School after his retirement, when he plans to work on the second volume of his The Nature of Social Laws, continuing his history of thinking about such laws into the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The vacancy created by Dr Brown's retirement led to the Unit review, which ended with the recommendation that the Unit should have at least the level of staffing it has at present, that it needs three tenured members and that there is a strong case for making it possible to appoint at a senior level. With the Review Committee's endorsement the Unit is now seeking permission to advertise a tenured post across the range from Professorial Fellow to Fellow; it is hoped that that post will be advertised early in 1986. In the meantime Dr Andrzej
Walicki has been granted a year's leave of absence from January 1986 to take up a professorial post in the University of Notre Dame and the Unit will also be advertising a one-year non-tenured appointment tenable during 1986 to fill that gap.

Work in the History of Ideas Unit during 1985 has continued to focus on theoretically complex ideas, theories and ideologies concerned with 'man' (or the human), culture and society in the modern world. Such work has covered major topics and developments in the history of social and legal thought, in Marxism, revolutionary ideology and contemporary socialism and Communism, the development, promotion and protection of human rights and the relationship between literature and ideas, especially moral ideas. Work has ranged from the sixteenth century to the present and from the United Kingdom and western Europe to eastern Europe, the USSR, India and China, though emphasising the universal aspects and pretensions of the ideas and ideologies studied. The Unit has also continued to collaborate with the Australian Academy of the Humanities in the project promoting critical work in the history of culture in Australia.

Much of the Unit's work, as always, has concentrated on the production of scholarly books. Professor Passmore's *Recent Philosophers* was published during the year, as were *Alien Powers* by Professor Kenneth Minogue, who worked on the book while a Visiting Fellow in the Unit, *Prophets of Extremity*, by Dr Allan Megill, who worked on the book as a Research Fellow in the Unit and Dr J.W. Burrow's *Gibbon*, completed while he was working in the Unit as a Visiting Fellow. Mr Goldberg produced during the year the 1985 issue (no.27) of The *Critical Review*, edited by him, and the 1985 issue (no.4) of *Australian Cultural History*, edited by Mr Goldberg and Dr F.B. Smith of the History Department, RSSS, and devoted to the theme 'City, Town, Country'. Books currently in the press include Dr Walicki's *The Legal Tradition of Russian Liberalism*, to be published by Cambridge University Press; the Australian Academy of the Humanities Symposium *Utopias*, edited by Professor Kamenka for Oxford University Press in Melbourne; *Human Rights for Australia* prepared by Professor A.E.-S. Tay of the University of Sydney with the collaboration of Professor Eugene Kamenka and a number of research workers then working in the History of Ideas Unit and her Department of Jurisprudence, being published by the Australian Government Publishing Service as Monograph no.1 in the Australian Human Rights Commission Monograph series. Dr Haakonssen has completed two and a half years' work on the MS. lectures on natural jurisprudence by the Scottish philosopher Thomas Reid (1710-96). Mr Goldberg has been continuing work on a book on Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, considering it as a drama of ideas, and a study of evaluative judgement and ideas about judgement in English literary criticism since the Renaissance (with some reference to ethics and political philosophy). Professor Kamenka has been preparing his study of bureaucracy for the series *Perspectives on the Past* being published by Blackwell's, Oxford, and collaborating with Professor Tay on their forthcoming books *Human Rights and Freedoms in Australia* (Sydney University Press) and *Law and Legal Theory in the Peoples' Republic of China* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London). Professor Passmore is now working on his next book *Art, Truth and Morality*, much of which is already written, and revising for publication his BBC television project on the philosopher David Hume.
Members of the Unit have also been active in other ways. Dr Brown, apart from the activities listed above, has been working on a historical study of the development of the notion of inductive evidence in the medieval period and took 'a hard look at privacy' in an issue of the Times Literary Supplement. Mr Goldberg organised the annual Australian Cultural History conference in July 1985 on 'Some Myths and Clichés', with thirty-five invited participants, and his annual interdisciplinary seminar in October on 'Judgement and the Fear of Judgement' with thirty-four invited participants. Dr Haakonssen, having completed the work on Thomas Reid, is continuing his general study of theories of natural law in the eighteenth century and the interplay between Scottish and continental thinking in the period. Professor Kamenka, apart from the books mentioned above, prepared studies of Vico and of nineteenth-century European nationalism for Piper's Handbuch der politischen Ideen, a multi-volume Historical Encyclopaedia of Political Thought edited by Professor Iring Fetscher of Frankfurt, and a study of the Young Hegelians for a Blackwell's Dictionary of Political Thought. Dr Walicki has started work on a new book tentatively entitled Marxism, Capitalism and Freedom.

Members of the Unit have continued also to be active in conferences in Australia and overseas and in giving occasional lectures here and abroad. Dr Haakonssen spent two months of 1985 as a Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Law at the University of Aarhus where he gave lectures and seminars in jurisprudence and in philosophy. In September he gave public lectures on David Hume as a political thinker in the University of Copenhagen and worked in the Danish Royal Library, being aided in these activities by a travel grant from the Scandinavian Cultural Fund. He further took part in the Thomas Reid conference in the University of Aberdeen. Professor Kamenka, in April, took part, as an invited overseas expert, in the International Seminar on Zionism as Nationalism, organised by the Chair of National Liberation Movements in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and in July, August and September read papers at the International Political Science Congress in Paris, a conference on the Future of the Soviet Union in Geneva (in which Dr Walicki also participated with a paper and by chairing a session) and in the World Congress of the International Association of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Athens. Professor Passmore went abroad in April to resume his appointment as Visiting Distinguished Professor of Russell Studies and Editor-in-Chief of the Russell project at McMaster University in Canada, taking part in the preparation of volume 13 on Bertrand Russell's activities in the 1914-18 War and volume 8 on Russell's post-War philosophical writings. In August and September he went to Europe to participate in a meeting of philosophers of history in Bad Homburg, to prepare and record a programme on David Hume for the BBC television series on the Great Philosophers and to participate as a member of Council and President of a session in the meeting of the Institut International de Philosophie. Dr Walicki delivered three public lectures on aspects of Poland's past and present and on Russian Marxism in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as attending the annual conference of Slavists in Beer-Sheva. In Australia, Professor Kamenka participated in conferences in Melbourne and Sydney and gave occasional lectures in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to a variety of teaching and research institutions. He and Mr Zmiejewski also contributed papers to the conference on Religion in Communist Countries, held in Burgmann College in July, which will be published in a volume
under the editorship of Dr T.H. Rigby and Dr R.F. Miller (Political Science, RSSS)

Visiting Fellows have again played an active role in the work of the Unit, participating in the weekly Unit seminar and preparing work for publication. Dr Mark Francis worked on a comparative study of the mentality and political outlook of nineteenth-century colonial governors in Canada and Australia. Professor Cai Sheng-ning completed, for publication in China in Chinese, a survey of Marxist ideology and Communist parties in Australia. Professor Lane spent six months in the Unit working on the influence of market ideology on political perception and ideas of justice. Mr Yu Xing-zhong collaborated with Professor Kamenka in collecting and translating material on the development of legal thought in traditional China and in the Peoples' Republic. Mr Bradshaw and Dr Tanner were active participants in the Unit's inter-disciplinary seminar in October and played a major role, with Mr Goldberg, in a section of the Unit seminars devoted to problems of ethics and aesthetics, to Shakespeare and to the nature and importance of the dramatic in literature.

The Unit's weekly seminar opened with a series of seminars on Marxism and the materialist interpretation of history by Professor Kamenka and ranged through Indian economic nationalism, intellectual traditions of pre-revolutionary Russia, Zionism and labour Zionism and Prussian natural law to considerations of Soviet political education in the 1920s, Herbert Spencer, Ludwig Feuerbach and Moses Hess and James Harrington and Sir William Petty, as well as three seminars already mentioned on aspects of the work of William Shakespeare. Short-term visitors to the Unit reading papers to the seminar included Dr Julius Kovesi of the University of Western Australia, Dr Christine McLeod and Dr Mark Goldie of Cambridge University and Professor David McLellan of the University of Kent.

Three PhD students are currently working in the Unit - Miss Ann Molan, working on the Private and Public in Shakespeare, Mr Sanjay Seth (who left in September for a year's field work in India) on Marxism and India and Mr Norbert Zmiejewski on the Dialogue between Marxism and Catholicism in post-war Poland. Miss Ann Lane, now working as a part-time Research Assistant in the Unit and Miss Clare O'Farrell, now working in the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, are continuing work on their theses, concerned with Book Reviewing in Australia 1955-80 and The Foucault Phenomenon respectively. Mr A. J. Saunders, working on the Thought of Joseph Priestley, returned to the U.K. at the expiration of his British Commonwealth scholarship early in the year; he expects to submit shortly.
PUBLICATIONS

BROWN, R.


HAAKONSSON, K.

'James Mill and Scottish Moral Philosophy'. Political Studies. 33. 628-41.

Foreword, in Hayek's 'Serfdom' Revisited. Essays by economists, philosophers and political scientists on 'The Road to Serfdom' after 40 years. The Centre for Independent Studies, Sydney. vii-ix.

KAMENKA, E.


KAMENKA, E. (continued)

'What Universities are For: A Guide to the Pitfalls',


'The Dunera and After: Australia and the Jewish Refugees', *Quadrant*, XXIX, 11, 29-32.

KAMENKA E. and TAY, A.E.-S.


MEGILL, A.

*Prophets of Extremity: Nietzsche, Heidegger, Foucault, Derrida.*

MINOGUE, K.


PASSMORE, J.A.


PASSMORE, J.A. ² (continued)


'An End to Science?', Times Higher Education Supplement, 650, 15.

WALICKI, A.


²Former member or visitor