

Goodbody Gazette

Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University

No. 1

College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association

Fall 1990

Chair's Column: HPS Completes First 30 Years

I can always measure my years of service at IU by the formula $n + 1$, where n is the age of HPS. If 1989-90 is the 30th year of existence of HPS (it officially began in 1960-61), then my sojourn at IU must be 31 years. Over these 30 years, the department has been drastically restructured twice. The first time occurred in the early 1960s when Russ Hanson, Michael Scriven, Marie Boas Hall, and A. R. Hall departed within a few years.

By 1970, we had not only replaced our lost colleagues, but expanded the department from an original faculty of six to nine and reached the old level of excellence. Despite an occasional departure, the department expanded slightly during the 1970s and 1980s,

but overall remained remarkably stable until 1987. Then a succession of three retirements (Buck, Westfall, and Gordon) produced our second great transition period—which endured until 1990, when four young scholars of great promise (James Capshew, Stephen Kellert, Richard Sorrenson, and Zeno Swijtink) joined our department.

With a complement of ten faculty, we begin the last decade of the 20th century confident that we are not only fully abreast of our rapidly developing field, but that our tradition of excellence in teaching and research will continue.

Despite the optimism above, I want to conclude on a note of apology to those of you who are our former students and consequently our alumni and alumnae.

Except for our 25th-anniversary reunion, we have managed to ignore you completely. This newsletter serves warning that we mean to change our noncommunicative ways and henceforth to keep in close touch with our now rather large HPS family.

Although news about former students in this issue is minimal, we hope to remedy that in future issues by asking each of you to inform us about your life and fortunes since you departed Goodbody Hall (or, for you real old-timers, the Social Science Building, now called Rawles Hall). In the meantime, on behalf of all faculty, staff, and resident students of HPS, I wish you happiness and good fortune.

—Edward Grant, Chair
July 1, 1990

Westfall, Grant Portraits Go Up in IMU Gallery



Richard S. Westfall, left, Distinguished Professor emeritus of history and philosophy of science and professor emeritus of history at Indiana University, and Edward Grant, Distinguished Professor of history and philosophy of science and professor of history, stand with their portrait photographs that will be hung in the Distinguished Portrait Gallery near the Whittenberger entrance of the Indiana Memorial Union. Both are members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Focus on Emeritus Professors

Scott Gordon retired on June 30 after 23 years at IU and a distinguished career as a teacher and scholar dating back to 1947. He was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1924, and attended public school, high school, and college there, obtaining his college degree from Dalhousie University in 1944. A scholarship led him to New York and Columbia University for the MA degree, followed by a fellowship at McGill University, Montreal, and a year as lecturer in economics.

In 1948, he went to Carleton University (then Carleton College) in Ottawa. Scott organized the Economics Department at Carleton in 1948 and was its chairman for the next six years.

Scott's tenure at Indiana has been a huge success, as indicated by the award of the title Distinguished Professor of Economics in 1981. His research has developed mainly along the lines of his lifelong passion for the history of economic thought, which he taught so brilliantly, and broadened to the more general and difficult field of the history and meaning of ideas. His major 1980 book, *Welfare, Justice and Freedom*, illustrates the breadth as well as the depth of his thinking. His work is readable and understandable, unlike so much of the jargon-laden material often associated with discussions of such esoteric concepts.

For the past four or five years, he has been working on what is bound to become a *magnum opus* or even a *summum*! Titled *The Proper Study of Mankind: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Social Science*, it is the biggest single enterprise he has ever attempted. The first part is an advanced treatise on the history of economic thought, followed by similar analyses of sociological and political thought, as well as historiography and other disciplines.

He is a wonderful conversationalist. Indeed, for a number of years, Scott (frequently joined by Distinguished Professor Howard Gest of the Biology Department) lunched at the Tudor Room on a weekly basis with members of the History and Philosophy of Science faculty. Here the "Poker Club", as Scott called it, engaged in both weighty and frivolous discussion. Although this name undoubtedly conjures up a smoke-filled den of poker players, it actually commemorates an eighteenth-century club in which the likes of David Hume and Adam Smith gathered to stir the embers of the mind with an intellectual poker. Every effort was made to schedule these weekly meetings on a day when the

Tudor Room served beans and cornbread, a culinary combination against which Scott had no defense. Out of these lunches there grew a mutual bond of affection and respect that culminated in a unanimous decision of the faculty of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) to invite Scott into the department on a half-time basis in 1983. The rest, as they say, is history.

Though he has retired, Scott will be around Bloomington writing, conversing, advising, giving an occasional lecture, flitting off to England and Italy with his wife and friends, enjoying music and opera. In short, not much will change. Scholarship and camaraderie are his life.

Sam Westfall was born April 22, 1924, in Fort Collins, Colo., where his father was a professor of English at Colorado State University. From his father Sam inherited his love of the English language and a capacity to use it with great power and eloquence. Between the years 1942 and 1955, Sam was a student at Yale University, where he earned the BA, MA, and PhD degrees, interrupting his studies between 1944 and 1946 to serve in the U.S. Navy and transferring the site of his studies in 1951-52 to University College, London. After serving as a faculty member in the history departments of the California Institute of Technology (1952-53) and the University of Iowa (1957-63), Sam joined the faculty of Indiana University in 1963 as a professor in the department of history and philosophy of science, attaining the rank of distinguished professor in 1976. Since 1966, he has held a joint appointment with the rank of professor in the department of history.

Two profoundly influential books on the life and works of Isaac Newton form the foundation on which Sam Westfall's world-wide reputation rests. The first, *Force in Newton's Physics: The Science of Dynamics in the Seventeenth Century* (MacDonald, 1971; translated into Italian in 1982), won the 1972 Pfizer Prize, an award sponsored by the Pfizer Corporation for the best book in the history of science and presented annually by the History of Science Society. The work for which Sam Westfall will undoubtedly be best known in the foreseeable future is *Never at Rest: A Biography of Isaac Newton* (Cambridge University Press, 1980). This 900-page epochal volume, considered the definitive biography of Newton, was universally acclaimed and won for Sam the Leo Gershoj Award of the American Historical Association in 1981 and a second Pfizer

Prize in 1983, thus making him the only scholar to win this coveted award twice.

Westfall's prowess as a teacher is as much admired and respected as is his scholarship. In the preface to a festschrift volume dedicated to him by his students (*Religion, Science, and Worldview: Essays in Honor of Richard S. Westfall*, eds. Margaret J. Osler and Paul L. Farber, Cambridge University Press, 1985), the editors observe (p. xii) that "No one who has listened to the introductory graduate course on the scientific revolution will ever forget those finely crafted lectures, full of wit and historical insight, delivered in a booming, sometimes thundering, voice and compared by at least one neophyte historian of science to fine preaching in some seventeenth-century church."

As Sam's colleagues in the department of history and philosophy of science, we know only too well that we cannot replace him. He is one of a kind. We must rest content, therefore, in the knowledge that in retirement he will continue to do what he has always done and to do it as only he can. Thus we take comfort in knowing that in the near future he plans to publish a major volume on the role of patronage in seventeenth-century science. We view with envy the students and faculty of the department of history of science at Harvard University, who will be the fortunate recipients of his lectures and seminars during 1990-91.

Roger Buck retired in the 'spring of 1987 after 27 years at Indiana University. He came to the University as part of a new department and played a crucial role in developing and molding it.

Born into an academic family as the son of an eminent historian, Roger was perhaps predestined to an academic career. After taking his Bachelor of Arts degree in his native Minnesota and continuing there for a time as a graduate student in philosophy, Roger went to Oxford University as a Fulbright Scholar in 1949 and earned an Oxford BPhil in 1951.

Roger's career in academia began with a year at the University College of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) as a lecturer in philosophy. Returning to the United States, he commenced a short tour of institutions that reads like a guide to American higher education—Chicago, Duke, and Oberlin—before his definitive move to Indiana in 1960.

The department of history and philosophy of science was just being organized at
(continued on page 5)

Spotlight on New Faculty

James Capshew first studied psychology in his native Bloomington, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and then entered the history and sociology of science department at Penn. While preparing his dissertation on "American Psychologists and World War II," Jim won prizes from the American Psychological Association and the Society for the History of Technology. He next took a position as research associate at Maryland, where he worked on a NASA history project.

Jim joined our department in spring 1990. He teaches core courses on "big science" and the history of psychology. He serves as assistant director of the IU program on the scientific dimensions of society, working with Tom Gieryn in the sociology department. Interested in local institutional history, he is now compiling archival materials pertaining to HPS. So send him any old photographs, anecdotes, or crib notes you have lying around!

Stephen Kellert comes to us via Yale, where he graduated magna cum laude in physics and philosophy, and from Northwestern, where he wrote a dissertation on "Philosophical Aspects of Chaos Theory," with Arthur Fine.

Stephen will be teaching graduate

courses for us on the realism/antirealism debate and the general issues of predictability and determinism that arise out of chaos theory as well as quantum mechanics. He also has strong interests in feminist philosophy and continental philosophy (his choice of Northwestern was based in part on the multiplicity of philosophical approaches represented there), and he plans to teach an occasional course for our philosophy department. Stephen has excellent credentials as an undergraduate teacher and has agreed to have a go at our X200 course (recently orphaned upon Joel Smith's departure).

Richard Sorrenson did a BSc and then an MSc with first-class honors in chemistry and physics at Auckland University. After publishing several papers in chemistry, he left his native New Zealand to study with Charles Gillispie at Princeton. A section of his dissertation on "Instrument Makers at the Royal Society of London, 1720-1780"—an essay titled "Making a Living out of Science: John Dollond and the Achromatic Lens"—won the 1989 Schuman Prize of the History of Science Society.

Richard will teach Science and Gender and courses on the scientific revolution and the history of chemistry.

He also has strong interests in the socio-economic setting in which science is done and will also offer an undergraduate course on the voyages of discovery.

Zeno Swijtink will have a joint appointment in philosophy and HPS starting this fall. Zeno (pronounced Zay - no) first studied mathematics, economics, and philosophy in Amsterdam and then did his PhD on "Randomization in Experimental Design" at Stanford with Ian Hacking.

He will be teaching graduate courses on the history of statistical reasoning and the philosophical analysis of experimental evidence. While at SUNY-Buffalo, he completed his contributions to *The Empire of Chance: How Probability Changed Science and Everyday Life*, coauthored with John Beatty ('79), et al. Zeno was a visitor in HPS last year, and we have already learned to appreciate the breadth of his philosophical interests, his gymnasium-based expertise in foreign languages—and his culinary skills!

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Emeritus Faculty

the time of Roger's arrival. When N. R. Hanson, a pivotal figure in its original formation, departed for Yale in 1963, Roger became the guiding influence of the department's formative years. He helped to mold its curriculum. He taught vigorously at both the undergraduate and the graduate level. In a department formed primarily as a graduate enterprise, it was fitting that the first PhD should be Roger's student, and even more fitting that that student, David Hull, should go on to an eminent career, recently capped by his election to president of the Philosophy of Science Association. Roger's own interest as a philosopher centered from the beginning on questions associated with psychology and the social sciences. His best known paper, "Reflective Predictions," has been extensively reprinted in collections on the philosophy of the social sciences.

Shortly after relinquishing the departmental chairmanship, Professor Buck was asked to serve as associate dean of the faculties, an office he held for five years (1970-75). During the last ten years, he has served on the Faculty Council in a number of capacities, paying particular attention to the committee on budgetary affairs, where his expertise on financial matters was especially appreciated.

Just as Roger played a leading role in shaping the character of the department of history and philosophy of science during its crucial formative years, so also did he perform a similar function for the profession as a whole when he served first as acting director (1962-63) of and then as special consultant (1963-66) for the then-incipient Program in History and Philosophy of Science of the National Science Foundation. What Roger nurtured in its earliest development has now become part of the Division of Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation with a full-time director and a large budget.

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The *Goodbody Gazette* is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

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HPS Tattler

Wally Hooper defended his definitive thesis on Galileo in August 1990. Now **Maggie Osler** ('68) can stop holding her breath.

Norriss Hetherington ('70) is editing a Dictionary of Cosmology for Garland.

Joan Cadden ('71) is now studying rhetorical strategies in the Middle Ages. She read a paper on Hildegard von Bingen at the Hamburg International HOS Congress.

Anna Estany ('85) has published a book in Spanish on *Modelos de Cambio Cientifico*.

Noretta Koertge's introductory text starring Popper and Galileo is now out in Catalan. With the help of Mac

Concertware, she is making choral arrangements of poetry by Sappho and Sojourner Truth.

Dave Lindberg ('65) is director of the Institute for Research in the Humanities at Wisconsin. Dave gave the first Richard S. Westfall Lecture. Next year's lecturer is **Paul Farber** ('70).

Ken Waters ('85) was a visiting Fellow at Pittsburg this past year. He will return to Rice.

Jim Llana ('79) not only sent us two of his students from SUNY at Westbury, but also drove out with them this fall.

Stan Barronet has a boy named Snake and has found a job in Las Vegas—teaching at UNLV.

Greg Robischon is working for the D.A. in Orange County.

Mark Tamthai ('75) is on leave from Chulalongkorn this year. His son is a college baseball player.

Linda Wessels ('75) has sent the final draft of Coffa's book on the Vienna Circle to the publishers. **Gordon Steinhoff** ('87) worked long and hard on gaps in the manuscript.

Vic Thoren ('65) completed his Tycho book while commuting between L.A., where Judy lives, and Bloomington.

John Winnie is busy making fractal maps of the mountains in Montana and completing the diagrams for his relativity book. (Too bad he doesn't use the Macintosh!)

Margaret Schabas ('77) will be on leave from Wisconsin to work on her NSF grant. She has completed a book on Jervons.

David Hull ('64) is busy writing a textbook based on his *Science as Process*.

Tom Daley ('88) is the latest HPSer to teach in Malaysia. **Eric Barnes** ('90) returned (with wife) and will be teaching at Denison.

Eric Meyer ('90) and **Tom McMullen** ('89) have just completed their sojourns at Oklahoma.

Don Robinson ('89) is going to Toronto. **Joia Lewis** ('89) will be at Fresno. **John Collier**, a recent visitor, is going to Melbourne HPS in January. **Tom Oberdan** ('89) has taken a job at Clemson.

Peter Asquith ('70) is now chair of his department and has still not retired from his position as perpetual executive secretary of the PSA.

Fred Churchill has been lecturing in India this summer. He will be acting chair this year.

Allan Franklin, an HPS visitor last spring, has just sent us copies of his new book, *Experiment, Right or Wrong?*

Ed Grant, who is on sabbatical, has been appointed to the Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Speakers Panel.

Rod Home ('67) spent the year in Europe, including Bellagio. He will visit HPS in January.

Tim LeNoir ('74) is cochair of the HSS program committee for 1990. Wessels is chairing the PSA program.

The **Reading Room** would be delighted to receive hard copy (including preprints) or hard currency from HPSers. The number of the HPS Foundation account is 32-138-45. Tax-deductible contributions support the Reading Room and student travel to conferences.

Where in the world are you?

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the IU Alumni Association are always pleased to hear about the personal and professional accomplishments of alumni. Please send your news and news of your classmates to *Goodbody Gazette*, Alumni Publications, IU Alumni Association, IMU M-17, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Name _____ Degree/Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your news _____

Tattler Talkback: Is your address current? Is your degree information correct? Any suggestions for the *Gazette*? Please send us conjectures (and refutations) for our Tattler column!

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