

# Goodbody Gazette

Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University

Vol. 3

College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association

Fall 1992

## Edward Grant completes 33 years...

Edward Grant was born in Canton, Ohio, on April 6, 1926. Shortly thereafter, his parents moved to the Bronx, and so Ed grew up a New Yorker in spirit rather than a Buckeye. At the age of 17, Ed joined the U.S. Navy; he served in the Pacific on the U.S.S. *San Jacinto*. After the war and two years of odd jobs, he enrolled at City College to study history. A Midwesterner at heart, however, he traveled back across the Appalachians to receive his MA (1953) and PhD (1957) in the history of science and medieval history at the University of Wisconsin. During his last year as a graduate student, he studied at the University of Utrecht on a Fulbright scholarship.

Ed started his teaching career as an instructor at the University of Maine and then in the history of science program at Harvard. He joined the history department at Indiana in 1959. Immediately upon his arrival in Bloomington he began conspiring with Norwood Russell Hanson, then in the philosophy department, to form a new department of the history and philosophy of science. In fall 1960, the department, initially called History and Logic of Science, received its first students. Although he changed his departmental allegiance, Ed continued to be an active member of the history department.

With a new institutional base, Ed advanced rapidly both in his academic career and in the profession. He became associate professor in 1960 and professor in 1964. In 1983, the University promoted him to Distinguished Professor. He served twice as chair of the department, 1973-79 and 1987-90. So much national and international recognition also began coming his way that I will not describe it all here. It should be recorded, however, that Ed often served

the History of Science Society, most notably as its president in 1985-86, during which time he presided in Bloomington over the society's annual meeting.

Ed Grant began his professional career at a time when the study of medieval science focused on the content and meaning of medieval manuscripts. Two of his first four books provided critical editions and translations of pivotal texts by Nicole Oresme: *De Proportionibus Proportionum* and *Ad Pauca Respicienties* (1966), and *Tractatus de Commensurabilitate Vel Incommensurabilitate Motuum Celi* (1971). Even the casual browser will recognize in these publications a meticulous care for details and a commitment to rigorous scholarship. The same spirit perfuses his monumental *Source Book in Medieval Science* (1974), which has become the standard entry to the study of primary sources in medieval

science. During the same decade, Grant also wrote an enormously successful introductory text, *Physical Science in the Middle Ages* (1971), which has been translated into German, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, and Turkish. Ed's next book, brilliantly titled *Much Ado About Nothing* (1981), deals with the notions of space and the void in the Middle Ages. A co-edited book of articles honoring his mentor, Marshall Clagett, and a collection of reprinted articles followed shortly thereafter.

Most of these books, mind you, are more than 400 pages in length, many partially consumed by intricate and instructive footnotes. Like the medieval Scholastics, Ed has rejoiced in precise details. As he retires, however, he is painting with a broader brush. His *Medieval Cosmos 1200-1687*, soon to be published  
*(continued on page 2)*

## ...Or is it 800?

Dave Lindberg hosted a splendid retirement dinner for Ed Grant at the winter HPS meeting. Marshall Clagett, as MC, introduced a Westfall talk on medieval aeronautics, a Sobol poem on prelims, a Warren van Egmond essay on a medieval mystery, and a Joan Cadden song to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

On behalf of Ed's students, teachers, colleagues, and friends, Jim Capshev presented him with a leather bound edition of the complete works of a great medieval scholar (see the newspaper cover story at right).

A video tape of the entire affair may be rented from HPS in Bloomington.

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## Edward Grant

(continued from page 1)

by the Cambridge University Press, promises to provide historians and medievalists of all stripes a learned synthesis of many aspects of cosmology in the Middle Ages. But retirement does not mean rest, for Ed is even now plotting his next work.

Ed has also been an innovative and influential teacher. His survey of ancient and medieval science introduced scores of graduate students to the discipline. His seminars, ranging from treatments of the medieval universities to individualized instruction in Latin paleography, trained 30 years of students in the essentials of the historian's craft.

For the past 16 years, Grant has also taught a popular undergraduate course on "The Occult in Western Civilization." Satisfying no requirements on campus but demanding curiosity and imagination, this course has always been oversubscribed. It allows Ed to speak authoritatively on alchemy, astrology, and the Hermetic tradition. From this foundation he moves to impoverished modern imitations. His message is simple: The occult once formed a legitimate sector of advanced learning but since the 17th century has become a backwater of corrupted texts and hoaxes hawked by supermarket tabloids. Many students who come to revel in the occult are disabused of their innate anti-rationalist bias.

Grant's institutional and scholarly activities might suggest that he has little time left for other things. Nothing could

be further from the mark. Ed always has time for colleagues, students, and visitors. He unselfishly performs services of all kinds for his department, university, and profession. He encourages by example an atmosphere in which scholarship and graduate teaching thrive. He helps set a tone where collegiality is the order of the day. His hearty welcome can rarely be suppressed. Ed seems always in motion. If he is not steeped in teaching or research, one might easily find him watching IU basketball games or old movies at any hour of the night. He reads newspapers with equal avidity. In earlier years, his office was wreathed thickly with the smoke from Roi-Tan cigars; it is now cluttered with computer manuals, unwrapped reprints, and unanswered "administrivia" from deans of yore. His home contains memorabilia from the Nile, a tactually appealing geometrical sculpture he ground out of Hoosier limestone, and, above all, the livable comforts fashioned over decades by Sydelle and their three children, each of whom has pursued advanced university studies: Robyn in Romance languages, Marshall in chemistry, and Jonathan in Russo-Turkish history. The spirit of the history of medieval science has clearly passed over to the next generation.

Ed Grant may formally retire, but we look forward to his continued cheerful presence, his instructive words, and his further scholarship. I lay down this challenge to the University: There is no way you will pry him loose from his office lair, nor, if you are wise, should you even contemplate the attempt.

—Frederick B. Churchill

## Chair's corner

In Goodbody Hall 1991-92 was a busy year. We had a full range of undergraduate courses, which broke all records for HPS undergraduate enrollments. The "Occult" led the pack, with 240 eager witches and warlocks who learned to tell more sober tales. "Evolution" had its share of disenchanting special creationists; the "History of Medicine" was again packed with pre-meds who learned the unofficial story of disease and doctors; and a course on "Scientific Voyages" took many freshmen on their first tour of the world. Four of our assistant instructors fashioned a successful "Plato to NATO" survey of scientific revolutions. Their required readings ranged from the *Dialogo* and Einstein to Brecht, H.G. Wells, and Dürrenmatt. Our graduate offerings were equally diverse and unorthodox—but more on that in another year.

Betty Jo Dobbs presented our third Westfall Lecture. Our very full speakers program was enhanced by the first of six specially funded workshops. This past spring, we hosted a Saturday workshop on "Instrumental Trajectories," which featured Deborah Warner, Ian Hacking, Allan Franklin, Richard Sorrenson, Zeno Swijtink, and one of our finishing graduate students, William McKinney. It was a gloriously stimulating and contentious experience, which was capped, unfortunately, by an evening reception watching the Hurryin' Hoosiers ignominiously bow out to the Duke Blue Devils.

Thanks to the generosity of many of our friends and alumni, we were able to award the first Victor E. Thoren Memorial Research Fellowship. The capital fund has reached \$14,500 at last count. We would like to top off the fund this year at \$20,000, for this amount will assure an annual \$1,000 fellowship. Any donations from readers will be gratefully received. Please make out and send checks to the IU Foundation (S.R. 46 Bloomington, Ind. 47405). Identify the gift for the Thoren Research Fellowship, and please send me a copy of your covering letter.

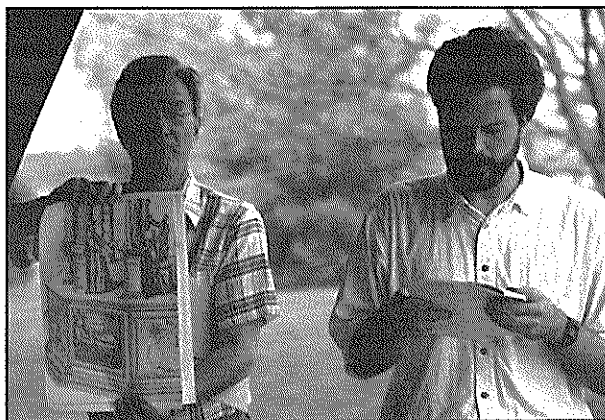
—FBC

## James Voelkel completes hat trick

At the HPS spring picnic, Judy Thoren presented the first Victor E. Thoren Research Scholarship to James Voelkel. As a legacy to the student picnic refreshment committee, Jim provided a copy of the blueprint for Kepler's Punch Bowl, and Doug LaBarr indicated which heavenly beverage goes in which celestial sphere.

Voelkel also won predoctoral fellowships from the Smithsonian and the Josephine de Karman Foundation, so he's well fixed for next year. The only

remaining question is: Will he or won't he upgrade his old 128K Mac?



Keplers Credenz Becher

### Editor's note:

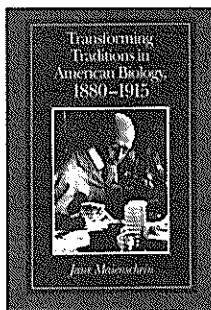
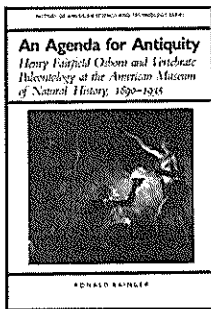
Contributing to the information glut in academe, HPS now has its own Fax machine: 812/855-3631. Send us a note for next year's *Gazette*.

# Hoosier harvest

We received copies this year of five new books by our graduates. We're sure there are more! Send one along for the Reading Room.

• **Ron Rainger's** ('81) book on the scientific career of Henry Fairfield Osborn talks about the study of vertebrate paleontology and how it was popularized in museum dioramas. The reproductions are fascinating, especially the mural of Man Among the Primates, which puts various human races on different twigs of the tree of life.

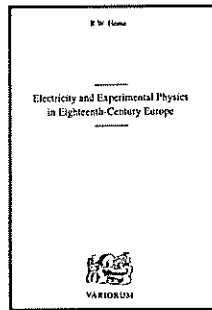
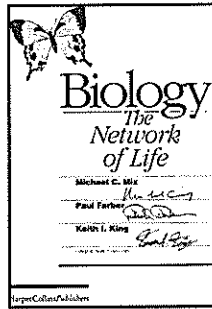
• **Jane Maienschein** ('78) has written a collective



biography of four pioneering biologists that Burkhardt describes as "convey[ing] a rich sense of personal, conceptual, technical, and social factors." He says it is very impressive—and we agree!

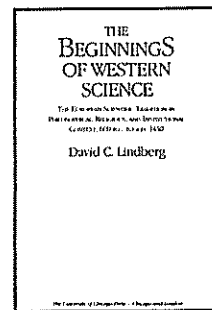
• **Paul Farber** ('68) is co-author of a big introductory biology book. You will be pleased to hear that it contains special essays on scientific inquiry and other science studies topics. Evolution theory merits a hundred pages in the center of the book. (Some texts tack the section on as an option at the end.)

• **Rod Home's** ('67) book on the



study of electricity in the 18th century began with his doctoral thesis. He writes that he became dissatisfied with the "overwhelmingly Franklin-centered way of viewing things." This collection of essays, beginning with Newton and Hauksbee and ending with Euler, Aepinus, and Poisson, presents a new interpretation.

• **David Lindberg** ('65) has published an exciting new synthetic work on the history of ancient and medieval science that emphasizes its religious and institutional context. In his introduction, Dave notes that two-thirds of his bibliography items were published after Lloyd's and Grant's classic books in the early 1970s. Could this be a case where *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* is not a fallacy?



## Goodbody Gazette

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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## Calling all books!

Attention Reading Room affectionados! Want to help keep the Reading Room well-stocked and up-to-date? You can do so by contributing books for our collection and for the annual auction. As for the former, your selections of what's hot in HPS will educate new students. As for the latter, send along duplicates, desk copies, etc. Auction books need not be related to HPS—cookbooks and biographies of Bobby Knight are always lucrative items.

If smaller envelopes are your preferred venue, you might consider sponsoring a journal subscription or making a donation to the acquisition fund. We will recognize our patrons in the next *Gazette* so make your move to go down in posterity today!

—*The Reading Room Wraith*

### Take the Capshew Challenge!

What carved limestone figure sits on the apex of Goodbody Hall? Residents of Bloomington not eligible. Send your guesses to Jim Capshew (our resident local historian). The winner(s) will be suitably rewarded.

## Gordon receives LLD

H. Scott Gordon, Distinguished Professor emeritus of economics and history and philosophy of science at Indiana University, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Carleton University in Canada.

Gordon founded the Department of Economics at Carleton University in 1948 and remained on the faculty there until 1966, when he joined the IU faculty.

The citation read at the degree ceremony praised Gordon for "distinguished contributions to economics in the areas of property rights, the history of economic thought, the wealth and welfare of modern economics, and monetary and fiscal policy in Canada."

Gordon is the author of many scholarly articles and books, including his most recent book, *The History and Philosophy of Social Science*. He has been a Guggenheim fellow and was elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

He served as president of the Canadian and Western Economics associations. He earned degrees from Dalhousie University, McGill University, and Columbia University. He retired from IU in 1989.



# HPS Tattler

**Peter Liu** ('72) is working for a bank in Hong Kong, but maintains a deep interest in HPS.

**Sid Kitchel** ('75) manages a database development company in Bloomington, which has landed a nice government contract.

**Marco Giunti** ('92) will return to Italy as soon as he sells his four (!) espresso machines.

**Bill McKinney** will spend next year at the University of Kentucky teaching logic and a history and philosophy of physics course.

**Kevin Korb** has a great job at Monash University in Australia. In November, he will be joining an AI Research Group there that specializes in inductive logic programming.

**Jim Voelkel** will spend the year in Cambridge working on a Kepler dissertation and assisting Professor Owen Gingerich in his astronomy class at Harvard.

**Bill Tammone** won an IU Summer Research Fellowship in a stiff campuswide competition. He's doing research on fermentation (in the library, not at Nick's!).

**Jordan Marché** read a faultless paper on William Maclure at the History of the Earth Sciences Society, which met in Troy, N.Y., near some classical geological sites.

**Anne Mylott** spent the spring semester at the Goethe Institute in Berlin, und jetzt reist sie durch Deutschland um Archiven zu besuchen.

**Wini Warren's** paper on the treatment of Copernicus in historical novels, read at the Society for Values and Higher

Education meeting in Notre Dame, will be published in *Soundings*.

**Karen Rader** read a paper, "Thinking About Nineteenth-Century Astronomy As Big Science," at the HSS meeting.

**Mark Kalthoff** read a paper on 20th-century science and religion to the American Scientific Affiliation, and it has appeared in their journal.

**Peter Ramberg** won an NSF dissertation fellowship to help subsidize his work on German chemists.

**Jim Mathis** called from Dallas to say "Hello." **Paula Zammara** is working and going to school in Austin.

**Jay Hines** ('69) is an Air Force historian centered in Tampa. He's studying Japanese in his spare time.

**Oskar Rieskst** ('75) is in Maryland and talks philosophy with **Jim Fetzer** ('68).

The 1992 Richard S. Westfall lecturer was Professor **Betty Jo Teeter Dobbs** who gave us a preview of her forthcoming book, *The Janus Face of Genius: The Role of Alchemy in Newton's Thought*. Afterwards, the audience was treated to a lively discussion between Jo and Sam concerning Newton and the comet of 1680.

One of Alberto Coffa's former students in Argentina, Professor **Guillermo Ranea**, spent his Fulbright leave in Bloomington working on Leibniz.

**Professor Wesley Salmon** flew by and gave us a great paper on Reichenbach's ornithology.

**Peter Sobol** ('84) is in Bloomington this year as the first occupant of the Edward Grant Visiting Professorship of Occult Studies (the position appears or disappears as the dean waves his hand). More than 400 students will get to see Peter in his friar's cassock.

**Susan Mills** ('82) is chair of the philosophy department at California State

at San Bernardino.

**Norriss Hetherington** ('70) continues to research and write in Berkeley, Calif., where he also attended the 1992 International Summer School in History of Science.

**Joel Smith** has become the head guru of computerized instruction at Claremont College in California.

**Richard Rice** spent his NSF post-doc in Bloomington. The overhead was used for student travel. What will we do next year? (Hint)

**Anita Guerrini** ('83) has landed a nice job, at the University of California at Santa Barbara, which she shares with her husband **Michael Osborn**.

**Roger Buck** was treated with royal splendor when he visited **Mark Tamthai** ('75) in Bangkok.

**John Winnie** and **Linda Wessels** are the proud owners of a Hunter 28, which may inspire a paper on the conceptual foundations of the theory of knots.

**Stephen Kellert's** book on *Chaos* is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press (but even for Laplace it would be impossible to predict *when*).

**Frank R. Nelson** ('76) practices law in Laramie and teaches law as an adjunct at the University of Wyoming.

**Peter A. Bowman** ('72) began his fourth year as director of the Center for Conflict Analysis and Management at the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

## Where in the world are you?

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the IU Alumni Association are always pleased to hear from alumni. Please send your news to *Goodbody Gazette*, IU Alumni Association, P.O. Box 4822, Bloomington, IN 47402-4822.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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