

Goodbody Gazette

Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University

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Winter 1998

Churchill lauded at Fred-Fest

The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science is a group of biology watchers (and even some real live biologists) who meet every two years. This July ISHPSSB (known to its friends as "ish-kabibble") met at the beautiful University of Washington, thanks to the tireless local arrangements of Keith Benson ('75).

Ron Rainger and Judy Johns Schloegel had organized a day of talks in honor of the newly retired Frederick Churchill. Most were given by HPS Hoosiers: Anne Mylott, Judy Johns Schloegel, Jane Maienschein ('78), Marsha Richmond ('86), Alice Dreger ('95), who spoke eloquently of Fred's calm in the midst of methodological controversies and uppity graduate students, Paul Farber ('70), Ron Rainger ('81), Tim Lenoir ('74),

and Lyndsay Farrall ('70), Fred's first student. Karen Rader ('95) had compiled a genealogy of contemporary historians of biology and their Doktoreltern; in her absence it was presented by Keith Benson.

Other speakers were Jonathan Harwood, Lynn Nyhart (one of the few people to have read Fred's own doctoral dissertation), and Nick Hopwood (who gave a visually stunning presentation on wax models of developmental stages, and how they were created and employed by late 19th-century embryologists).

The luncheon was the occasion for more personal tributes. Garland Allen reminisced about being a student at Harvard with Fred. Jane Maienschein used Fred's teaching her cross-country skiing as an illustration of his pedagogical

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Chair's corner

The past year has been extraordinarily eventful, in a quite literal sense, involving events both of great sadness and loss, and also of great excitement and promise for the future.

Our greatest loss, of course, was the death of Richard S. "Sam" Westfall on Aug. 21, 1996. Sam was an institution within our department for more than 30 years — one of the most important historians of science of his time, a major intellectual force at Indiana University, an inspiring teacher, a valued and respected colleague. For many years, the presence of Sam, together with his friend and colleague Ed Grant, made IU the leading department in the country at which to study the transition from late medieval to early modern science popularly known as the scientific revolution, and we have, of course, produced many outstanding PhDs in this area. We will all miss Sam immensely, but we are also committed to continuing and preserving his legacy.

In December 1996, we held a memorial to Sam. The speakers included Conrad Wogrin, Jim Capshew, Alan Shapiro, Michael Morgan, Margaret Osler, and Ed Grant. (Ed also read a memorial address sent by the distinguished Newtonian scholar I. B. Cohen, who was not himself able to attend.) Everyone felt that the collection of addresses went together extremely well and combined, in particular, to give a very effective overall picture of Sam and what it was like to know him — as fellow Newtonian scholar, as departmental colleague, as university colleague, as friend, and as teacher. Copies of most of these addresses are available by writing to our administrative assistant Becky Wood at Goodbody Hall.

This past year was also a time, how-
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Front row, from left: Judy Schloegel, Alice Dreger, Ron Rainger, Anne Mylott, Fred Churchill, Lynn Nyhart, and Marsha Richmond. Back row, from left: Lyndsay Farrall, Paul Farber, Mark Borrello, Jane Maienschein, Tim Lenoir, Nick Hopwood, and Mark Kalthoff.

Chair's report

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ever, when our efforts at rebuilding and revitalizing the department dramatically intensified. In particular, three new faculty joined us: Domenico Bertoloni Meli from Cambridge, William Newman from Harvard, and Michael Dickson from Notre Dame. Bertoloni Meli and Newman specialize in the history of science and joined us as associate professors. Dickson specializes in the philosophy of science and joined us as assistant professor.

Bertoloni Meli and Newman together continue our tradition of strength in late medieval and early modern science. Newman concentrates on the role of alchemy and other "occult sciences" in late medieval, renaissance, and early modern science. He is interested especially in the origin of corpuscular theories of matter within the alchemical tradition, and how this tradition, specifically, influenced the early modern matter theories of Newton and Boyle. His book on the American alchemist George Starkey, *Gebennical Fire* (1994), is widely recognized as an extraordinarily important contribution to our understanding of this influence. And Newman's current research, some of which is undertaken jointly with Lawrence Principe, will issue in a second definitive book on this influence, *The Place of Alchemy in Early Modern Science*. Bertoloni Meli concentrates on the development of the mathematical and medical sciences in the 16th through 18th centuries. He is interested especially in the development of mathematics and mathematical physics following the work of Leibniz and Newton, and also of the Italian anatomists Borelli and Malpighi. His book *Equivalence and Priority: Newton versus Leibniz* (1993) has been hailed as a brilliantly original contribution to our understanding of this classical dispute and has just been reissued in paperback (1997). His volume on Italian anatomy, *Marcello Malpighi, Anatomist and Physician*, is also due this year.

Dickson continues our tradition of strength in philosophy of physics, and, specifically, in the philosophy of quantum mechanics. Indeed, although it has been only one year since he received his PhD from Notre Dame under James Cushing, he has already established himself as one of the most significant and influential of the younger contributors to this area. In particular, he has two books forthcoming on the subject, *Quantum Chance and Nonlocality* (1997) and

The Modal Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics, co-authored with Rob Clifton from the University of Pittsburgh. Dickson is also a young philosopher of science of unusual breadth. In particular, he also has serious interests in Hellenistic philosophy and philosophy of science, and, indeed, has taught a seminar for us on philosophy of science in antiquity. And Dickson's deep and extensive knowledge of the ancient tradition nicely complements the interests of Newman and Bertoloni Meli as well.

These three new faculty have not only brought great intellectual distinction to the department, they have also brought a renewed sense of intellectual cooperation and excitement. This has been especially felt by our recent graduate students, as well as by older faculty (including myself!). And one way in which we celebrated this renewed sense of intellectual cooperation and excitement was in a workshop on "New Approaches to the Scientific Revolution," held in April. Papers were presented by Bertoloni Meli, Newman, and Grant, from within the Department, and also by Daniel Garber, Katherine Wilson, and H. Floris Cohen. The subject of this workshop, and also the presence of Floris Cohen, who is an old friend of Sam's, gave us a second opportunity both to remember Sam's own contributions and to continue his legacy. This dual theme was also reflected in our Westfall Lecture for the year, delivered by Alan Gabbey in March.

During this past year, then, the sense of transition and transformation within the department was especially marked and poignant. We look with nostalgia and a sense of loss to the achievements of the past, but perhaps even more with a sense of optimism and excitement to the future. This continuing excitement is quite palpable in our seminars (which will include, this coming spring, a seminar on Newton taught by Bertoloni Meli focusing on Sam's monumental contributions), in our colloquium series (where, in particular, the Westfall Lecture will be delivered by Alan Shapiro), in forthcoming books by our faculty (which include, aside from the forthcoming work of new faculty noted above, a collection of essays on the "science wars," *A House Built on Sand*, edited by Noretta Koertge, and *Psychologists on the March*, by Jim Capshaw), and in a number of new ideas for both our graduate and undergraduate curricula. It is indeed a privilege (if not always a pleasure!) to serve as chair of our department during such an exciting time.

—Michael Friedman

Westfall Fellowship News

Thanks to the Westfall family, who were extremely generous, and to many alumni, faculty, and friends of HPS, we are happy to report that the endowment for the Westfall Traveling Fellowship has passed the \$14,000 mark. We very much hope to raise an additional \$6,000 by next year, which will bring the endowment to the level at which it will produce an annual award of \$1,000. This was our goal seven years ago, when many of you generously supported the Victor E. Thoren Research Fellowship. I can confirm that there are at this moment six very appreciative Thoren recipients, who valued this fellowship when they were struggling graduate students. I hope that all of you who have not yet done so, will help us make the Westfall traveling fellowship as successful. Be your gift ever so small or large, it all adds up!

Send your donation to the IU Foundation and designate it for the Westfall Memorial Fund. Please send me a note about your donation; so that I can acknowledge it promptly and make certain that the foundation has properly recorded your gift.

But there is more to come! To interest the bibliophiles among you, the department will be auctioning off some of Sam's books on the Newtonian period. A list of these books, many of them collectors' items, is provided on our Web page. Please send bids to me.

—Fred Churchill
churchil@indiana.edu

Fred-Fest

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principle of letting students take risks and fall down a few times so they are stronger and more confident. Older alumni recollected the department's worried search for a helpmate for the bachelor historian, and rejoiced in his choice of Sandy. Everyone who had studied with him praised his encouragement as they struggled with dissertations; Ron Rainger had been inspired by Fred's assurance that "you are going to like this [dissertation] when it is done." Peter Sobol ('84) composed a poem in Fred's honor (see page 3).

Hoosier Bookshelf

Frederick Churchill

Frederick Churchill, Boston-born,
And reared on old New England's mana
Somehow came among the corn
In Indiana.

Frederick's time he hap'ly spent
Engrossed in arcane books Germanic,
Immersed himself in genes and (Ent-
wicklungsmechanik).

Frederick read Chabry and Roux,
And books that give most people asthma;
Von Baer, Virchow, Ernst Haeckel, too,
And (Das Keimplasma).

Frederic tired of the town
Where students drove and lawns were mowed,
And built himself a villa down
On Kerr Creek Road.

Frederick, as the outdoor kind,
Would take an evening walk, or jog.
One fateful night there tagged behind
A little dog.

Frederick, now with dog and house,
Thought, what will I get next, a llama?
But instead he got a spouse!
And her dog, Rama.

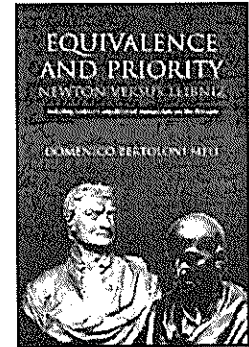
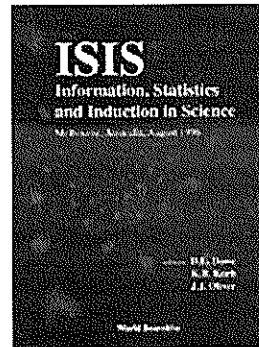
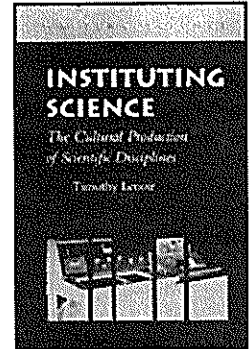
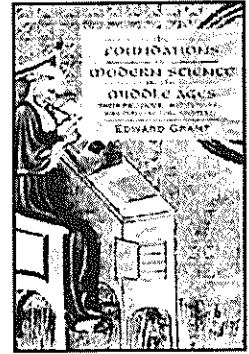
Frederick's villa now was sought
For huge bonfires on Halloween,
Department pig roasts — birders fought
To make the scene.

Retiring Fred was urged to wait
By crowds who feared he was fleeing.
Frederick smiled and called it fate,
And just kept on skiing.

—Peter G. Sobol

(with apologies to Edwin Arlington Robinson, 1869–1935)

Domenico Bertoloni Meli's book on the Newton-Leibniz dispute is now out as an Oxford paperback. Owen Gingerich lauds its "ingenious detective work," and *Mathematica* describes it as "necessary reading." Kevin Korb ('92) is co-editor of a volume with a familiar sounding acronym: *ISIS: Information, Statistics, and Induction in Science*, published by World Scientific Press. Edward Grant's popular "little book" on physical science in the Middle Ages has now been supplemented by a dramatic new interpretation. Provocatively titled *The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages*, the new book is available as a Cambridge paperback. David Grandy ('94) has produced a monograph on Leo Szilard that deals with both the scientist's research and his political philosophy. Michael Dickson's book *Quantum Change and NonLocality* is announced by Cambridge in its latest catalogue. Timothy Le Noir ('74) has a new book with Stanford University Press: *Instituting Science: The Cultural Production of Scientific Disciplines*. His general account about the struggles of disciplines to achieve legitimation and authority is supported by several case studies.



HPS Tattler

Wini Warren ('97) is teaching full time at Friends World College, Long Island University... Jay Hines ('69), command historian at the MacDill Air Force Base, recently spoke at a Conference on Strategic Challenges to U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War period... Peter Ramberg ('93) has returned to Johns Hopkins, where he has taken over Larry Principe's position in the chemistry department... Geoff Matthews ('78) is professor of computer science at Western Washington University. Robin is director of the Institute for Watershed Studies... Bill McKinney ('93) is now chair of philosophy at Southeastern Missouri State University. He is also affiliated with the environmental studies department... Jim Ruffner ('66) won the 1996 Purdy Award for his outstanding contributions to the Wayne State University

Library... Tom Rogers ('75) is now attending law school at Pepperdine. He is in touch with David Hunter III, who works in Santa Barbara... Mark Tamthai ('75) is chair of philosophy at Chulalongkorn University and president of the Thai Philosophical Association. He edited the English translation of *Nirvana*... William Bradnan ('77) writes from Hilton Head Island, where he is retired from medicine, that he is taking up a new career as a science/philosophy writer... Karen Rader ('95) is filling in for Daniel Kevles at Caltech, teaching in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences... Joe Tatarewicz ('84) is teaching in the history department at University of Maryland-Baltimore County... Bill Tam-mone ('96) is dean of instruction at Ivy Tech, Columbus... Brad Hume, Matt Goodrum ('97), and Elizabeth Green have articles forthcoming in the *Reader's Guide to the History of Science*... Jordan Marché wrote a book review of Connor Sorrensen's book on American entomologists. Charles

Twardy's paper on Van der Weyde's telephone will be published in the proceedings of the International Symposium on Telecommunications History... Elizabeth Green, Anne Mylott, and Juris Vinters won awards from IU to subsidize their travel to meetings and research archives... The 1996 Victor Thoren Research Fellowship went to Judith Johns Schloegel. Judy's essay on H. S. Jennings and Tracy Sonneborn also won the Majorie Grene Prize for the outstanding graduate student paper in history and philosophy of biology. Judy was the first recipient of this prize. Dr. Grene herself was on the ISHPSSB committee, as was Ron Rainger ('81)... Brad Hume was selected for the 1997 Victor Thoren Research Fellowship and Elizabeth Green won the Mikal Lynn Sousa Award for Excellence in Graduate Scholarship, which was established by Alice Dreger ('95) and Aron Sousa in memory of his sister... John Powers is working part time in the Caltech Archives while finishing his dissertation.

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