

# Bulletin of the **HUME SOCIETY**

September, 1976, Vol. I, No. 1  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

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## **An Introduction to the Bulletin**

The Bulletin of the Hume Society is a periodical publication issued by the Hume Society giving official notice of its meetings and proceedings, and serving the purpose of stimulating scholarship on the philosophy and writings of David Hume. The Bulletin is distributed free of charge to members of the Society, and upon request, to any interested party. Responsible for publication at Northern Illinois University are: James King and Donald Livingston.

## **The Hume Society**

Originating largely through the initiative of faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Northern Illinois University, meetings devoted to the philosophy of David Hume have been held annually since 1972. The growing success of these Hume Conferences led, on October 25, 1974, to the establishment of the Hume Society. At its founding meeting the Society adopted a Statement of Purpose (which appears below as By-Law I); elected James King (Northern Illinois University), Nicholas Capaldi (Queens College), Terence Penelhum (University of Calgary), Wade Robison (Kalamazoo College) and Donald Livingston (Northern Illinois University) as an Executive Committee; fixed the Charter Membership dues at \$10; and set aside as the date of its next meeting the Fourth Hume Conference, to be held in the Fall, 1975. James

King chaired the Executive Committee during its first year.

At the Fall, 1975 meeting of the Society, James King, Nicholas Capaldi and Terence Penelhum were re-elected to the Executive Committee (two-year terms); David Fate Norton (McGill University) and Peter Jones (University of Edinburgh) were appointed to the Executive Committee. Donald Livingston was selected chairman of the Executive Committee, and James King assumed the duties of the secretary-treasurer. At the close of the meeting, special thanks were expressed to Keith Yandell and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for their hospitality in hosting the Fourth Hume Conference.

## **Membership**

Any person supportive of the purposes of the Hume Society may become a member. Membership is accomplished through payment of biennial dues of \$10. Dues may be sent to: James King, Department of Philosophy, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

## **1976 Meeting of the Society**

The Hume Society will hold its Annual Meeting as part of the McGill Hume Congress in Montreal, September 29-October 3, 1976. At its business meeting the members of the Society will be asked to adopt an agenda including the following items: (a) Membership Report; (b) State of the Treasury; (c) election to vacancies

on the Executive Committee; (d) plans for the 1977 meeting; and any other items of business which the members care to address.

## McGill Hume Congress

The Hume Society is pleased to announce that a Congress commemorating the bicentennial of the death of David Hume will be held at McGill University, Montreal, from September 29 to October 3, 1976. The Congress is intended to stimulate fresh approaches to Hume's work, and to provide the occasion for the expression of these new interpretations and the critical discussion of them. It is hoped that all or part of the proceedings of the Congress will be published in book form. The Congress is co-sponsored by the Hume Society, McGill University and the Canada Council.

Plenary Session speakers for the Congress include: J.A.G. Pocock, George Davie, Raymond Klibansky, Lewis White Beck, D. C. Stove, Ninian Smart, Terence Penelhum, Peter Jones, Pall S. Ardal, Donald Livingston, A.D. Woozley, Antony Flew and Robert Fogelin. There will be half a dozen Concurrent Sessions in addition. (A Summary Program appears on page 3 of the Bulletin.) Special congratulations are due David Fate Norton for his chairmanship of the Programme Committee for the Congress.

## Edinburgh Hume Conference

A charter flight for members of the Society attending the Edinburgh Hume Conference was arranged by Donald Livingston. The Conference ran from August 9 to August 14. In addition to plenary and concurrent sessions, a program of special activities was offered which included a reception at Edinburgh Castle given by the Secretary of State for Scotland and an excursion to the border country. The Chairman of the Conference Committee was W.H. Walsh, and George P. Morice was the Secretary to the Committee.

## By-Laws of the Society

At its Fall, 1975 meeting, the Hume Society adopted the following By-Laws.

- I. The Purpose of the Hume Society is to stimulate scholarship on the philosophy and writings of David Hume and, through annual meetings, to afford an opportunity for the exchange of research.
- II. The governing body of the Hume Society shall be an Executive Committee.
  - a. The Executive Committee shall consist of five members of the Hume Society elected by the members for staggered two-year terms.
  - b. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to add up to two additional members from among the members of the Hume Society.
  - c. The Executive Committee shall choose from among its members a chairman and a secretary-treasurer.
  - d. Business of the Executive Committee may be conducted when a meeting, duly called, is attended by a majority of its members.
- III. A member of the Hume Society shall be a person who has paid current dues. A year shall run from July 1st to June 30th.
- IV. The dues shall be \$10.00 or its equivalent per biennium.
- V. The By-Laws may be amended only in a meeting of the Hume Society and only with due notice being accorded the membership.
- VI. Robert's Rules of order shall govern the meetings of the Hume Society and of its Executive Committee unless changes in the procedure are approved by a two-third's majority of those present.

# McGill Hume Congress

## Wednesday, September 29

- 12:00-5:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration  
5:00-6:30 p.m. Reception  
8:30-10:30 p.m. First Plenary Session  
Hume and the American Revolution: The Dying Thoughts of a North Briton

## Thursday, September 30

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Scientific Explanation in Hume's Dialogues.  
Hume's Theory of Mental Activity.  
David Hume on Mathematics.  
Hume's Mundane Metaphysics.
- 11:15-12:45 Second Plenary Session  
Berkeley, Hume, and the Central Problems of Scottish Philosophy.
- 2:15-4:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Hume, Induction and Natural Selection.  
Is Hume Self-Consistent?  
Hume's Intentions in Part 3 of Bk. I of the Treatise.  
Hume's Ontology: Some Problematic Considerations.  
Hume on Mind-Body Interaction.  
Varieties of Assurance in Hume's Treatise.
- 4:30-6:00 p.m. Third Plenary Session  
Future Directions of Hume Studies.
- 8:30-10:30 p.m. Fourth Plenary Session  
Causation: The Scottish Kant and the Prussian Hume.

## Friday, October 1

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Hume, Atheism, and the 'Interested Obligation' of Morality.  
Hume on Evil.  
Hume's Account of Moral Sentiment.  
Philo Confounded.  
The Concepts of Evidence and Certainty in Hume's

Discussion of Miracles.

Why Hume Liked the Enquiry Better Than the Treatise.

- 11:15-12:45 p.m. Fifth Plenary Session  
The Nature of Hume's Scepticism.

- 2:15-3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Original Imitation in Hume's Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion: Hume and Cicero.  
Hume and 'Some Late Philosophers in England': The Social Background of his Science of Human Nature.  
Malebranche and Hume on the Principles of Morals.

- 3:30-6:00 p.m. Sixth Plenary Session  
Hume on Religion: The Natural History of Religion and the Dialogues.

## Saturday, October 2

- 9:00-12:00 p.m. Seventh Plenary Session  
Aspects of Hume's Contribution to a Theory of Value: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics.
- 2:00-4:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions  
David Hume's 'Enlightened' Science of Man.  
The Correction of the Judgment in Book III of the Treatise.  
Hume and Priestly.

- 4:30-6:00 p.m. Eighth Plenary Session  
Hume's Theory of Justice.

## Sunday, October 3

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
The Inexplicability of Aesthetic Response.  
Fictions and Artifices.  
An Analysis of Hume's Essay 'On Suicide.'  
A Humean Improvement on Hume's Account of Causation in the Treatise.
- 11:30-2:00 p.m. Ninth Plenary Session  
On Seeing Hume: Congress Retrospect.

## **New Hume Journal**

The members of the Hume Society are invited to obtain copies of a new journal devoted to Hume, entitled Hume Studies. The journal is distributed without charge, and members may arrange to receive it by writing to: Professor John Davis, Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

## **Hume House at La Fleche**

Writing from France, Nicholas Capaldi noted that it is possible to visit the house in which Hume wrote the Treatise. Application must be made in advance to the current owner through the local tourist office. It is suggested that one address oneself in French to the Syndicat d'initiative de la Fleche.

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