
Letters to the Editor

From Dr. S. P. Sayers and others

5 May 1987

Dear Sir,

It is welcome news that Oxford University Press have commissioned a new edition of Knox's translation of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, incorporating the corrections that Knox submitted before his death ("Publishers Notes", *Bulletin* 12, pp. 36-37). However, we are concerned by the proposal to omit the "Additions" from the revised edition. These often provide extremely helpful amplification and clarification of the very condensed main text. As you rightly observe, they have been "a boon to students of the *Philosophy of Right*". Moreover, they have been widely cited and quoted, and now have an established place in the scholarly literature.

No doubt Gans's selections from the lecture notes – upon which the "Additions" are based – could be improved upon in a number of ways. However, the appearance of Iltting's massive *Rechtsphilosophie* Edition to which you refer will provide a substitute only for a tiny number of the most dedicated scholars. Until such time as a more satisfactory selection from the lecture notes is readily available in English translation, we feel that the omission of the "Additions" would be most regrettable and would seriously detract from the usefulness of the new edition for students and researchers alike. Indeed, we would be obliged to continue to refer to the first edition and recommend our students to do the same. We very much hope that Dr. Pelczynski and Oxford University Press will reconsider their decision.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. S. P. Sayers (University of Kent)
Dr. Andras Loizou (Lancashire Polytechnic)
J.M. McCarney (South Bank Polytechnic)
Prof. Tony Smith (Iona State University)
Dr. C. J. Arthur (University of Sussex)
Dr. David Lamb (Manchester University)
Dr. Susan Easton (University of Sussex)

From Dr. Pelczynski

9 June 1987

The initial decision to leave out Gans's *Zusätze* was not undertaken very lightly. I am aware of the great benefit that students of Hegel's Political Philosophy have derived from them, even though their scholarly value is somewhat questionable and has been thrown into sharp relief by Ilting's edition of the original lecture notes on which Gans based his concoction. Rightly or wrongly, the Additions have become part of the Hegel Canon. In view of the strength of feeling on the subject which has been conveyed to me, I shall be very glad to retain the Additions in the second edition.

Z. A. Pelczynski

Conference Reports

The 1986 Conference of the Hegel Society of Great Britain

The 1986 annual meeting of the Hegel Society of Great Britain was organised as a joint conference with the Hegel-Archiv of the Ruhr University of Bochum on the theme of *History, Philosophy and Politics in Hegel*. The conference took place at Pembroke College, Oxford from the 11th to the 13th of September. There were ten main papers, each of which was followed by a comment before open discussion from the floor. Copies of the principal papers were available beforehand.

Before the opening of the first session the participants paid tribute to the late W. H. Walsh who had done so much to prepare for the joint conference and recalled his contributions to Hegel scholarships over many years. The conference sessions appropriately opened with a paper by Walsh, *Philosophy of History and Social Theory in Hegel*, read by Professor A. Manser (Southampton). Walsh's appreciative but critical paper touched on most of the fundamental questions raised by Hegel's philosophy of history and anticipated many of the problems which would reappear in subsequent papers and discussions. Although Hegel notoriously denied any moral court of judgement regulating the affairs between states as autonomous individuals Walsh argued that he avoided the charge of historicism through his philosophical account of world-history constructed retrospectively from the perspective of the characteristically modern standpoint of rational freedom. In this connection Walsh raised the recurring issue of cultural imperialism and ethnocentrism apparently implied by this teleological story and suggested other viable approaches to different cultures