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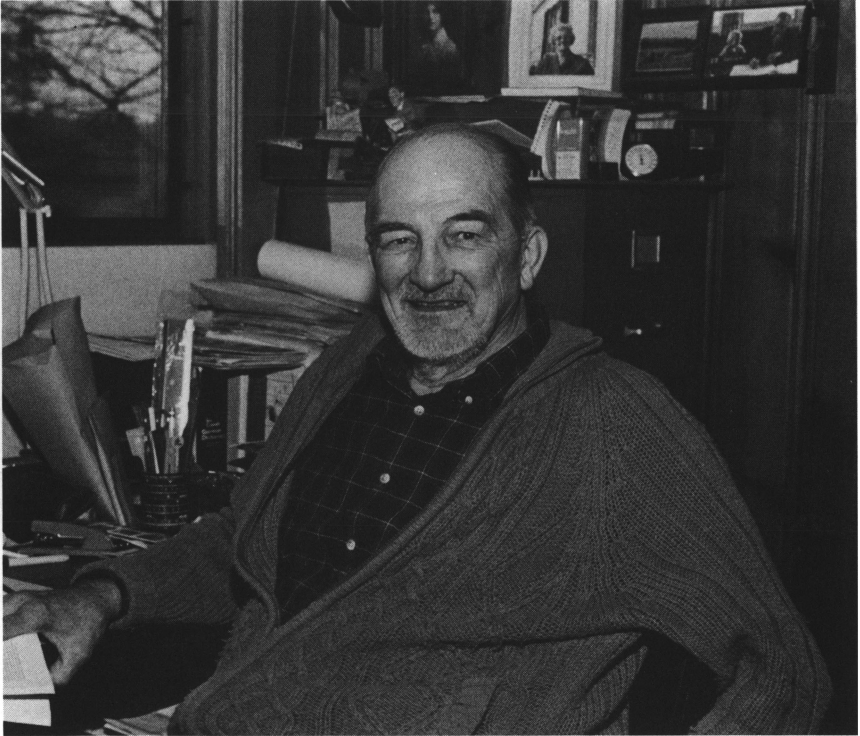
Announcements and Comments

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Robert Reuman

Announcements and Comments

THE DECEMBER 1991 issue of *Colby Quarterly* will be devoted to Contemporary Irish Drama. The guest editor is Anthony Roche of University College, Dublin, and the deadline is June 1. Manuscripts are welcome and should be sent to Douglas Archibald in Waterville.

In 1992 we will publish special issues on The London Stage, edited by Patrick Brancaccio and Joylynn Wing of Colby, and Irish Poetry after Yeats, edited by Eamon Grennan of Vassar College.

The front cover is a reproduction of *Sailboat* by John Marin.

The back cover is a reproduction of *The Lost Lamb* by N. C. Wyeth.

CQ is pleased to welcome Professor Debra Campbell to its editorial board. She is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and currently director of the program in women's studies. Her special interests include American religious history, especially modern Catholicism, the history of the laity, and women in religion.

The editors of this journal would like to join guest editor Dan Cohen, and the other students of Professor Robert Reuman, in tribute and thanks that (were we not all teachers) would be beyond words. Bob has taught us about Gandhi and King; Friends and friends; interdisciplinary thinking and studying; active nonviolence and peacemaking. For thirty-five years he has been an enormously positive force at this college. We are very grateful.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

MARK PESTANA '74 teaches philosophy at Grand Valley State College in Allendale, Michigan. His Ph.D. is from the University of Chicago with a specialization in moral philosophy.

ANTHONY CUNNINGHAM '80 has taught at both the College of William and Mary and Colby College. In the fall he takes up a new position at St. John's University in Minnesota. He earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania in 1987. His philosophical area of specialization is ethical theory.

RAY PERKINS '64 is a member of the Philosophy Department at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. He has also taught at the University of South Carolina and New England College. He has written a book on the arms race and co-edited a book on G. E. Moore. He was awarded a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1973.

JENNIFER ARMSTRONG '85 went from Colby to the Harvard Divinity School, where she earned her M.Div. degree. She is currently at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she is working towards her Ph.D. while teaching philosophy full time at the secondary level and part time at the college level.

RUSSELL WAHL '74 received his Ph.D. from Indiana University. He is now an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, having previously taught at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. His publications include articles on Bertrand Russell and René Descartes.

DANIEL COHEN '75 received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1983. Apart from a year spent as a visiting lecturer at University College in Cork, Ireland, he has been a member of the Philosophy Department of Colby College since then. His research has focused on formal logic and the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

NOTES FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

IN THE SUMMER of 1984, I participated in the biennial workshop/conference of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers. The theme of the keynote address that year was the intimate relationship between our vocations and the rest of our lives. The upshot was that teaching is not like other careers, and philosophy is not like teaching other subjects. A doctor who neglects his own health can still be a good doctor, and a chemist with a chemical dependency can still be a good chemist, but philosophers who do not live philosophical lives do more than just manifest inconsistency or foolishness; they undermine their own credibility by proving that they have not really engaged with their own arguments and issues. The rest of the address was devoted to describing in general terms the legitimate, but almost impossible to meet, demands on those who have answered this calling. As the speaker sketched the ideal philosophy professor—both morally committed and intellectually serious, liberally educated and able both to analyze and to synthesize, actively engaged yet with the objectivity that comes with a broader perspective—I recognized him immediately as my former teacher, Robert Reuman.

It would be hard to overstate the profound and positive influence that Bob Reuman has had on the generations of Colby students he has taught since coming to Colby in 1956. The authors of the articles in this issue of the *Colby Quarterly* are all among his former students. We also have this in common: we were all inspired to pursue philosophical questions beyond the undergraduate level and are now fortunate enough to find ourselves with an opportunity to express, if only in small measure, the gratitude we feel to someone who has been so important to us.

There is a unifying thread running through these essays, and it has to do with unifying threads. As Mark Pestana notes in the opening article, the source of Professor Reuman's pedagogical effectiveness has been the great personal credibility that results from his great personal integrity. The force of moral arguments ought not be contained by the walls of the classroom, and a life of

integrity must begin by integrating the personal and the professional dimensions.

This theme continues through the next two articles. The integration of speculative philosophizing into an individual life cannot itself be treated as a problem for speculative philosophy. In a similar vein, Ray Perkins' discussion of G. E. Moore's moral philosophy emphasizes the need to recognize the presence of the ideal or "ontological" background in our moral discourse, and then to incorporate it more fully into our actual judgments. Tony Cunningham's discussion of the connections between "the good life" and the moral life is addressing the very same question of integrating the moral dimension with all the other aspects of being human.

The next two articles are also concerned with unity and integrity, but with a more epistemological focus. Jenny Armstrong establishes a connection by investigating parallels between a problem in moral philosophy and a problem in epistemology. If bringing together previously separate areas of enquiry runs the danger of just making matters even more complicated, it is not an unnecessary complication. Professor Reuman would never subject a complicated question to a simplifying answer. And we are, after all, moral agents and epistemic agents alike. In the same tradition, Russ Wahl brings together the rationalist and empiricist strands of Cartesian thought. Acknowledging that there are these strands present in the historical Descartes does rather complicate the heuristic project of Modern Philosophy. However, as Professor Reuman's own practice makes clear, neither pedagogical nor scholarly integrity compromises the other. Rather, they demand each other.

The final article retreats to the metaphysical, and finally metaphilosophical, level, asking what it is about us that makes us what we are. These "ruminations" on the genealogy of the concept of essence lead to the conclusion that the integrated selves we seek must be made—and regarded as made—if there is to be any success in the philosophical endeavor, or in the project that is life itself.

DANIEL COHEN
Guest Editor