

**SOUTHWEST
PHILOSOPHICAL
STUDIES**

The Journal of
The New Mexico and West Texas
Philosophical Society

**Volume 19
SPRING 1997**

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From The Editor

The present issue of *Southwest Philosophical Studies* is dedicated to the memory of Archie Bahm, one of the founders of the New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society. Those who participated in the Society with Professor Bahm over the years realize the contributions he made to philosophical scholarship and the encouragement and enthusiasm he was able to communicate to those of us who are engaged in philosophical work. It is particularly fitting that we print here the remarks made by Professor Hubert Alexander at the memorial service honoring Dr. Bahm and repeated at the Society's banquet in Austin during the spring meeting of 1996. I will always remember Archie Bahm for his generosity in encouraging other philosophers, including students, in their work, for the comprehensiveness of his vision of philosophy and for the tenacity of spirit he showed in pursuit of philosophical insight. He surprised me once, years ago, in the course of a philosophical argument, by turning his intellectual guns on me, when I had thought I was supporting a position of his. Professor Ivan Little has aptly said about Archie Bahm: "The man was unique; he was a philosophical realist, so he wrote simply: things are what they are, no more, no less."

In Memory of Archie Bahm

I was scarcely settled in as a new instructor in philosophy at the University of New Mexico in 1935, when I began receiving letters from Archie Bahm at Texas Technological College. He was organizing a December regional conference of philosophy teachers to meet in Dallas around Christmas time.

I didn't go that year, but the invitations persisted. And finally in 1939 I went to Lubbock, to meet Archie. And from there we drove to Dallas to attend the fifth annual meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Conference.

I remember how impressed I was by the enthusiasm and energy that my new friend devoted to the organizing of these meetings, against many objections by senior philosophy professors at the major universities in the area. I soon saw that here was an individual who had a definite vision of philosophy as a crucial discipline in our colleges and universities, and who was willing to buck the inertia of most of us to promote this vision.

The Southwest Philosophical Conference (later "Society") was the second philosophical organization that Archie had started. There was an earlier one in Michigan when he was a graduate student at Ann Arbor. And later came the Mountain-Plains Philosophical Conference which he helped organize when he was teaching at Denver University in 1946. I brought Archie to the University of New Mexico in 1948, where he was instrumental in helping me establish the New Mexico Philosophical Society, which is now the New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society.

But organizing philosophical conferences was only one of Archie's many efforts to push philosophy forward. His early interest in East Indian philosophy brought him two Fulbrights, first in Burma and then in India, from which came several insightful volumes on Oriental philosophies. This interest in world philosophy led Archie to make further excursions to India and China, much appreciated especially by the Chinese, who have translated many of his writings into their language.

This was not enough, however. Following an almost discarded tradition, Archie spent a lifetime developing his own philosophical system — organicism — as he called it. There are many important philosophical insights embodied in this work; and the fact that he wrote about it diligently to the last days of his life is a debt for which we must be forever grateful.

I understand that this last effort will be published as a fitting climax to one who devoted himself so industriously to (1) bringing together teachers of philosophy here in the United States, (2) extending our vision of philosophy to the world arena, and (3) developing a philosophical system of his own. The world needs more who are as devoted as was Archie Bahm to the intellectual betterment of humanity.

Hubert G. Alexander