

INTRODUCTION

On October 14th, 2001, there occurred the sad and untimely death of David Kellogg Lewis. The death deprived the philosophical community of one of the outstanding philosophers of the 20th century. As many obituaries remarked, Lewis has an undeniable place in the history of analytical philosophy. (An obituary by David Armstrong can be found in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 80 (2002): 134–5.) His work defines much of the current agenda in metaphysics, philosophical logic, and the philosophy of mind and language.

Although stationed at Princeton for most of his working life, Lewis had a close relationship with Australasia, and particularly Australia. He had a special fondness for the ‘Australian’ way of doing philosophy, dating from when he attended a graduate class at Harvard given by Jack Smart in 1963. From 1971 Lewis visited Australia nearly every year. Usually based in Melbourne, he travelled widely, and was well known in every Philosophy department in Australia and New Zealand. He attended almost every annual meeting of the Australasian Association of Philosophy, where he presented (destined to be) agenda-setting papers, and was assiduous in attending papers given by others and in contributing to discussion. He also played an important role in the social life of AAP conferences. He enjoyed socializing and talking philosophy in the bar in the evenings, and liked to join in—and sometimes lead—the singing of Australian bush songs. It seemed absolutely right to honour David’s memory by devoting an issue of the Australasian Association of Philosophy’s journal to his work.

We solicited a few papers on key Lewisian themes, and called for other submissions. The response was outstanding—a tribute to David. Many fine papers had to be turned down because of space constraints. The ones that appear here were chosen on the basis, not only of quality, but also balance of coverage: we wanted to cover as much Lewisian territory as possible. The papers in this issue will form the basis of a volume of essays on David Lewis, to be published by Oxford University Press. The volume will include a number of the papers we were unable to include in this issue of the *Journal*.

We will not attempt to summarize the papers in this volume (but see the abstract at the top of each paper). They cover many of the themes for which Lewis was well known, including possible worlds, counterpart theory, vagueness, knowledge, probability, fiction, and truth. Some of the papers are by very established philosophers; others are by younger philosophers who are still building a reputation. We think he would have approved of this spread; he was a great ‘encourager’ of younger scholars.

One further topic is covered in the volume, the philosophy of quantum mechanics. On his last visit to Australia, in June 2001, Lewis gave the Jack Smart Lecture at the Australian National University, entitled ‘How Many Lives Has Schrödinger’s Cat?’ Steffi Lewis has kindly given us permission to publish it here.

We would like to thank everyone who offered papers and the editor of the *Journal*, Maurice Goldsmith, for his considerable help and support in producing the volume.

David Lewis had many close and warm friends amongst philosophers in Australia. He is sadly missed by all of us. We dedicate this volume to his memory.

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