

Collingwood Society  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2005

**Professor William H. Dray and Professor Rex Martin**

The Collingwood Society has inaugurated Lifetime Achievement Awards in honour those individuals who have made a long and sustained contribution to the study of the life and philosophy of R. G. Collingwood. Two awards have been presented, both at Monk Coniston, during the Collingwood Conference, 6-9 July, 2005. The awards were presented by Mrs Teresa Smith, Collingwood's daughter, to Professor Rex Martin who was present to receive the engraved platter in a presentation box, and Professor William H. Dray, who was unable to be at the conference. In his acceptance letter Professor Dray said, 'I take great satisfaction from this recognition'.

Professor Rex Martin

Rex Martin studied History at Rice University, in Houston, and graduated with a B.A. in 1957. He did his graduate studies in Philosophy at Columbia University, in New York City. There he emphasized two subjects in particular, history of political thought and philosophy of history. He took a number of courses in philosophy of history, from Charles Frankel, John Herman Randall, Jr., and Ernest Nagel. Martin wrote his doctoral dissertation on Collingwood's philosophy of history under the supervision of Arthur Danto.

Martin thinks that the years at Columbia were significant formative years for his work on both philosophy of history and Collingwood. He was introduced to these subjects by teachers who were either pronounced positivists (like Nagel) or had a positivist tinge to their thinking (like Danto). At first Martin bought into this but, as his reading and thinking developed over time, he reacted against this positivist

background and tried to find not only a more personal voice but also a more congenial philosophical orientation.

Two periods abroad were crucial to this new line of development. In 1965-6 he took a one-year fellowship at the New College of the University of Edinburgh, in Scotland. In Edinburgh he met the distinguished British idealist philosopher, W.H. Walsh. Walsh like Danto was an important influence on the dissertation on Collingwood that Martin completed and defended in 1967. Six years later he went to Finland as a Fulbright Research Fellow in the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Helsinki (1972-3). There he worked closely with G.H. von Wright, who had just published a major book in philosophy of history (*Explanation and Understanding*). Von Wright had been Wittgenstein's successor in the chair of Philosophy at Cambridge and was one of his literary executors.

In 1977, Martin published *Historical Explanation: Re-enactment and Practical Inference* with Cornell University Press, in the Contemporary Philosophy series edited by Max Black.

This book was clearly influenced by all three of Martin's mentors--Danto, Walsh, von Wright.

In 1989, Martin turned again to Collingwood studies but with a somewhat different emphasis, this time on Collingwood's *Essay on Metaphysics*. He attended the inaugural Collingwood conference, held at Pembroke College, Oxford, in the centenary year of Collingwood's birth. This conference had been organized by the journal *History and Theory* and Martin had assisted Richard Vann, the principal organizer, in some of the planning. The conference was a great success and was a major impetus in getting two important projects under way: the Collingwood Society and the Oxford University Press (OUP) publication series on Collingwood.

That same summer, Martin spent an extended period of time reading through Collingwood's unpublished writings in the New Bodleian Library and examining some of his correspondence on deposit at Magdalen College. And, while working in the Reading Room and on coffee breaks at the King's Arms pub across the street, he became more closely acquainted with David Boucher.

In 1993, the Collingwood Committee of OUP identified the reissue of Collingwood's *Essay on Metaphysics* as one of its highest priorities and suggested that Martin should serve as editor. Then, quite fortuitously, in 1994, the University of Wales Swansea interviewed and then offered Martin a professorship (a personal chair) in the Department of Politics. At that time Swansea was the site of the Collingwood Research Centre and the home of the Collingwood Society. With David Boucher and Bruce Haddock there, as colleagues, UWS seemed the ideal venue for Martin to undertake his work on the new edition of Collingwood's *Essay on Metaphysics*.

The appointment, beginning in January of 1995, called for Martin to teach at Swansea in the spring of each year (spending the fall semester at the University of Kansas, in the US, where he had a continuing appointment). During this time, and with summers spent in Oxford, Martin was able to complete his edition of Collingwood's *Essay on Metaphysics* (published by Oxford University Press in 1998, paperback 2002). And, subsequent to that, he wrote a paper on Collingwood's work on the *Idea of Nature*, its relationship to the *Essay on Metaphysics*, and the light this might shed on the curious fact that three distinct conclusions to IN were found in the famous box of papers that contained Collingwood's long lost *Principles of History* manuscript, a box found at Oxford University Press early in 1995.

Martin held his appointment at Swansea until he reached the mandatory age of retirement in the UK in 2000. That same year the Collingwood Centre and the

Collingwood Society moved from the University of Wales Swansea, to Cardiff University. Since 2002 Martin has been Honorary Professor in the School of European Studies at Cardiff and was a Distinguished Visiting Professorial Fellow there in June 2005. He continues his appointment as Professor of Philosophy in the University of Kansas and resides in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City, where he has lived since 1974.

During his career, Martin has held research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rockefeller Foundation. And he has held a number of fellowships at research centers, most recently at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina (during 2004-2005). Martin has held academic appointments at Columbia (1961-62), at Purdue (1962-5), at Kansas, in Lawrence, where he has been since 1968, and at Swansea (1995-2000). He has held visiting teaching appointments at Mount Vernon College (now part of George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.); the University of Auckland (New Zealand); the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney (Australia); and the University of Helsinki (Finland).

He met his wife Donna in high school in Houston; they were also students at Rice together. Donna has had a long career in publishing as an editor and was editorial director at Andrews and McMeel Publishing from 1980-1995 and then served AMP as editor at large until her retirement in 1998. She has since continued as an editorial consultant at Kansas City Star books. The Martins are the parents of two sons, Justin (a freelance writer, living in New York City, and author of books on Alan Greenspan and Ralph Nader) and Andrew (a naturalist and currently an environmental planner in San Francisco). The Martins hope to celebrate their Golden Anniversary in June 2006.

Professor W. H. Dray

Professor Dray grew up in pre-Second World War Montreal, graduating from West Hill High School in NDG in 1938, after which he was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Early in 1941 he enlisted in the RCAF, and spent over four and a half years as an air navigator, serving in Canada, the West Indies, the United Kingdom and South East Asia. He completed a tour of operations on Liberators with 200 Squadron RAF of the South East Asia Command.

In 1943, Dray was married to Doris Kathleen Best of Montreal. Doris subsequently continued her career as a registered nurse, retiring in 1983 from the National Defence Medical Centre in Ottawa. The Drays had two children: a daughter, Ellizabeth, who is currently employed in the risk management department of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and a son, Christopher, who is director of the Yukon Arts Centre in Whitehorse.

After his release from the Air Force early in 1945, Dray enrolled in the special spring session for ex-servicemen at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts, and went on to study modern history, graduating from Victoria College in 1949 with the Governor General's medal for the best B.A. He then proceeded to Oxford University on a Beaver Club Trust Overseas Scholarship and an Edward Kylie Award in History. At Oxford, where he spent four years, he did the shortened B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Balliol College, and then a D.Phil. in philosophy at Nuffield College on a research subject, the logic of historical explanation, which drew upon both his historical and philosophical training. This interest in the application of philosophy to history, and especially to historical method, was to govern his research thereafter.

In 1953, Dray joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, where he was to remain until he went to Trent University in 1968, becoming Chairman of Philosophy there. In 1976 he became a member of the philosophy staff at the University of Ottawa, retiring from that position in 1986. While at Ottawa, he had the pleasure of teaching philosophy to francophone students in French, and translated two of his own books into French: *Philosophie de l'histoire*, and *Perspectives sur l'histoire*.

During his academic career, Dray published many articles in his special field and a number of other books. His first book, *Laws and Explanation in History* (Oxford 1957) made a strong case for resisting the analysis of historical thinking, and especially the idea of historical explanation, on the analogy of the structure of investigation in the natural sciences. His last, *History as Re-enactment* (Oxford 1995) offered a reinterpretation of the philosophy of history of the Oxford philosopher, historian and archaeologist of the nineteen twenties and thirties, R. G. Collingwood, stressing the latter's idea of reliving past experience as a hallmark of historical investigation.

During his career, Dray also won a number of prestigious research awards: a Canadian Social Science Research Council Fellowship (1952-3), an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (1960-81), a Killam Research Fellowship (1980-82), a National Humanities Center Fellowship (1983-4), and the Molson Prize of the Canada Council (1986). He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1967. He was visiting professor at Case Institute of Technology (1966-7), Duke

University (1973-4), and at summer schools at Ohio State University (1959), Harvard University (1967, 1973), and Stanford University (1962, 1974). Since his retirement from the University of Ottawa in 1986, he and his wife have lived in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill, where he has continued to write, and sometimes to teach at the University of Toronto, York University, and Trent University