

Fifth (Inter)national Workshop Conference On Teaching Philosophy In Toledo In August

(From the American Association of Philosophy Teachers News, October 1983, and other promotional material.)

James Campbell and Richard Wright of the University of Toledo are organizing the upcoming 5th AAPT Workshop Conference on Teaching Philosophy. It will be held on the campus of the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio from August 13 to 17, 1984.

Dr. Campbell describes the meetings as follows:

Over the five days of the meeting, we will be examining recent publications on aspects of philosophy and methods of presentation. We will be attending plenary sessions on themes like finding and publishing teaching-related materials and modes of teaching evaluation. The heart of the whole program, however, is the large number of workshop sessions arranged and offered by the participants themselves on the virtually infinite range of topics which comprise philosophy teaching. And we will be spending relaxed days interacting with many other individuals dedicated to teaching philosophy.

There will be at least one workshop on teaching informal logic and critical thinking, co-sponsored by the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking.

The workshops are screened and selected with a view to finding those which engage all their participants in the cooperative examination of some particular theme. The reading of formal papers is strongly discouraged.

For the first time, the AAPT Workshop Conference has been titled "International." The University of Toledo is only a few miles from the Canadian border, and AAPT has valuable members in Canada. At past Workshop Conferences, there have been attendees from Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Ghana and Santo Domingo. AAPT has recently received inquiries about membership from New Zealand and Holland.

Questions about food, housing, recreation and child care should be directed to Dr. Richard A Wright. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Wright may both be contacted at:

The Department of Philosophy
The University of Toledo
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Toledo, OH 43606 USA
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Conference On Thinking

The Harvard Graduate School of Education, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of the South Pacific will co-host a major international, inter-disciplinary conference of thinking in August, 1984. The conference will be a follow-up to the CONFERENCE ON THINKING held at the University of the South Pacific in January, 1982, and will be held at the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The 1984 Conference on Thinking will have as its focus the problem of teaching thinking skills or otherwise improving intellectual functioning. It will hear reports relevant to thinking and its enhancement from any discipline, and will welcome perspectives from the most basic to the most applied.

The Conference will take place from August 20 to August 23, 1984. Registrations will be on Sunday, August 19. The Registration fee for participants is \$150. For further information, write to: Conference on Thinking, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, U.S.A. ●

Conference On Problem-Solving In Mathematics And Science Education

The Institute for the Advancement of Logic and Cognitive Studies, University of Houston—Clear Lake, invites submission of papers for presentation at its First Annual Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Problem Solving in Mathematics and Science Education."

Papers should be 12-15 pages in length (3 copies). Papers for inclusion will be selected through a process of blind refereeing. It is the intention of the Institute to publish selected papers in a biennial proceedings. Proposals for symposia and workshops are also invited. In addition to mathematics and science education, proposals in any areas of pre-college instruction in logic will be considered for inclusion in the program.

Proposals should be 3-5 pages in length and should be accompanied by biographical data on each presenter. (Proposals for workshop activities should specify a practical "hands on" application.) The deadline for all submissions is March 31, 1984.

The Conference will be held July 13-15, 1984 in Houston, Texas. For further conference information or to submit papers and proposals, write: P.A. Wager, Co-Director, Institute for Logic and Cognitive Studies, University of Houston—Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Box 338, Houston, TX 77058. ●

New Test Of Reasoning Skills

A test designed specifically to determine the reasoning proficiencies of children has just been published, according to the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children at Montclair State College.

The New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills was developed by Dr. Virginia Shipman, senior research psychologist, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N.J., with support from the New Jersey Department of Education and its Division of Research, Planning and Evaluation, using Title IV-C funding. Montclair State's IAPC is the authorized distributor of the test, which is the property of the Board of Education in Totawa, N.J.

The New Jersey test contains 50 items, distributed among 23 reasoning skill areas. These include detecting assumptions, induction, recognizing symmetrical relationships, contradiction and categorical and conditional syllogistic reasoning. All scoring of the New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills will take place at Montclair State College, where Dr. Lipman, director of IAPC, envisions the eventual creation of an international reasoning skills databank.

The test concentrates on reasoning in language. This means there are no inert items such as vocabulary which rely on recollection of content rather than on reasoning. Also, there are no non-linguistic items such as mathematical computation which might be better assessed by other kinds of tests.

The multiple-choice items are designed to be used with children at the 5th grade reading level without the likelihood that the test will function as a test of reading rather than of reasoning. Many of the items are in dialogue form, so that children can examine the reasoning which occurs in their own speech, as well as in the discourse of adults.

The test can also be used with more mature individuals as well as with children. Its reliability compares favorably with other established tests, ranging from 84 percent and above in grade 5 to 91 percent and above in grade 7.

The New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills is the result of seven years of extensive experimental research by Dr. Shipman. Constructed in its first version in 1976-77, the test was used in an experiment involving 900 schoolchildren in Newark and Pompton Lakes, N.J. during 1977-78. Revisions were made and another experiment, this one involving 2,500 New Jersey schoolchildren, was conducted in 1980-81.

The IAPC, which serves as a headquarters for a growing movement to include philosophy instruction in the classroom curriculum of very young children, maintains that such instruction at an early age significantly increases thinking skills, and then, in turn, results in better learning.

Test administrators or school districts may obtain further information from the IAPC—Test Division, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, N.J., 07043. ●

Giere, Ronald. **Understanding Scientific Reasoning.** 2nd Edition. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Pp. xviii, 391. Paperback. ISBN 0-03-063068-1.

Johnson, Ralph H. and Blair, J. Anthony. **Logical Self-Defense.** 2nd Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1983. Pp. xvii, 262. ISBN 0-07-548588-5. [U.S. readers interested in an examination copy must write to: Michael Roy, Marketing Director, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 330 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2Z5 Canada.]

Nolt, John Eric. **Informal Logic: Possible Worlds and Imagination.** New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1984. Pp. xiv, 1-429. Hardcover. ISBN 0-07-046861-3.

Ruggiero, Vincent Ryan. **The Art of Thinking: A Guide to Critical and Creative Thought.** New York: Harper & Row, Publishers; 1984. Pp. xii, 1-228. Paperback, ISBN 0-06-045665-5.

Salmon, Merilee H. **Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking.** San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. Pp. xii, 1-339. Hardcover \$32.15 (US). ISBN 0-15-543060-2.

Wright, Richard A. and Ken Tohinaka, **Logical Thinking: An Integrated Approach.** Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984. Pp. xiv, 1-322. ISBN 0-13-539973-4. ●