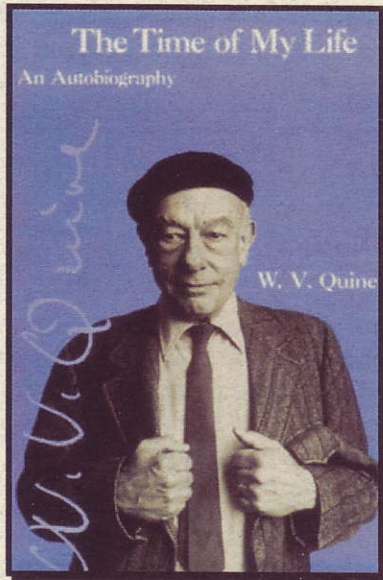


Centennial Celebration & Marker Dedication

honoring

WILLARD VAN ORMAN QUINE



Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio

June 25, 2008 - 5:00 P.M.

"To be is to be the value of a bound variable." -- Quine

~ P R O G R A M ~

Welcome

Albert MacKay
Provost of Oberlin College and Professor, Department of Philosophy

"Origins of the Quine Historical Marker"

Chad Miller
YSU Philosophy Undergraduate and Current Graduate Student

"Honoring Quine"

Sue Morano
Ohio State Senator, 13th District

"How Quaint the Ways of Paradox"

–Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance

"On Quine's Philosophy"

Warren Goldfarb
*Walter Beverly Pearson Professor of Modern Mathematical Logic
Harvard University*

"Quine Speaks for Himself"

Tom Ricketts
Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

"Modern Major Quine"

The YSU Quine Tones
Faculty, Staff & Students of Youngstown State University; See lyrics on back.

"Glimpses Behind"

Gerald Massey
Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh

"Ohio History"

J. D. Britton
*Community History Specialist, Ohio Historical Society
Co-editor of The Local Historian*

Concluding Remarks

Douglas Boynton Quine
*Son of Willard Van Orman Quine and Marjorie Boynton Quine
Webmaster for www.wvquine.org*

Unveiling of the W. V. Quine Historical Marker

Albert MacKay, Chad Miller, Warren Goldfarb, J. D. Britton, Douglas Quine

~ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ~

- ☛ Chad Miller devoted many months to completing a detailed application to the Ohio Historical Society in order to gain their approval for an Ohio historical marker honoring Willard Van Orman Quine.
- ☛ The Ohio Historical Society was wonderfully helpful at every stage of the process, and also made a substantial contribution toward the cost of the marker; special thanks to J. D. Britton and Bonnie Such of the Society. Thanks also to Patricia Murphy and the Oberlin Heritage Center for their support.
- ☛ Many people at Oberlin College have dedicated time, energy, and talent to honoring one of their many distinguished alumni. Provost Al MacKay has been central to the planning of this entire process, and Kay Coughlin was invaluable in taking care of all the financial details involved in funding the marker. The Philosophy Department provided generous support, philosophical as well as financial, in securing the marker. Thanks also to Oberlin College Office of Facilities Operations, who installed the marker – and on a very tight schedule.
- ☛ In addition to Chad Miller, many faculty, staff, and students at YSU have been enthusiastic supporters. Members of the Philosophy & Religious Studies Department contributed funds for the casting of the marker, and the YSU Quine Tones have devoted hours of rehearsal time. The Media and Academic Computing Department prepared the photo display. Ron Cole, YSU Manager of News and Information, directed the publicity. Mary Dillingham, our department administrator, and Hannah Detec, our student assistant, have handled an enormous range of difficulties and details with astounding efficiency. Mark Vopat is recording the entire event, and will make it available on the department website at www.as.yzu.edu/~philrel.
- ☛ Special thanks to Warren Goldfarb and Tom Ricketts for their work on the final text of the marker; to Warren, for permission to perform “Modern Major Quine”; to the Harvard Philosophy Department for their generous and enthusiastic support of the project; to Gerald Massey, for his contribution to the dedication ceremony; to the American Philosophical Association for aid in publicizing the event; and to Rhoda Walk, who not only helped enormously in publicizing the event but also provided the photographs on display.
- ☛ Representative Robert Hagan and Senator Sue Morano have both taken a particular interest in this project, and their support is greatly appreciated.
- ☛ Douglas Quine has advised and contributed at every step, provided the stamped envelopes to commemorate the occasion, and publicized the event on his website, www.wvquine.org.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL: MODERN MAJOR QUINE

Lyrics by Warren Goldfarb (c) May 1978; Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

March 2, 2001

I am the very model of a modern neopositivist;
The only word I take is that of the atomic physicist;
Who tells us what ontology, that is, the range of quantifiers
Meets up with our demand for truth (and more than truth we can't
require)

'Tis theory-bound I know full well – it is the state that we are in
There is no first philosophy, we can't be Archimedean
Thus my concerns are all within a framework that is naturalized
What's natural here is given us by what our science has surmised

Good views are hence continuous with news from the laboratory
It's only mental myth that makes us think there is another story
Upon a raft of Neurath's sort, in open sea we are adrift
And so I am the model of a modern neo-pragmatist

On language, too, I've thought a bit – to most it was a bitter pill
There are no grounds I said to talk of truths called "analytical"
To back this up I wrote some words on reference inscrutable
And on the different options that can make translations suitable
This holds at home in what we do, not just in projects radical
Homophony and charity are opposites that matter still,
Our manual is settled just by some amount of wantonness
And minds are shaped by practices likes bushes elephantinous

With structure fixed we can research transparenance and opacity
The latter leads to total loss of reference-capacity
But attitudes and modals here I'd like to excise from my list
And so I am the model of a modern neo-positivist

I've put some work into those fields that are more purely logical
Though ML fell NF may do, despite its aspect magical
Ax Inf implied, full choice denied, and for the rest we'll wait and see
On whether there's a rel'tive proof that gives us its consistency
More recently I've spent some time on quantifiers objectual
And whether substitution might be just as much effectual
These logic matters mean a lot, they're at the center of our scheme
And so a neo-positivist had better look past what they seem

My interests extend yet more, to things not philosophical.
I've toured throughout the world in places temperate and tropical.
I know the roots of words and all the op'ras penned by G & S
And so I am the model of a modern neo-positivist