

history an idea he mentions with reference to nature, viz. that within the natural realm the notion (concept) is determined only abstractly, leaving its specifications to external determination. Di Giovanni called the basis of the revised view of history 'the impotence of spirit', adapting a phrase in Enc. Phil. Sci., para. 250, on 'the impotence of nature'. While one might strongly sympathize with di Giovanni's wish that Hegel had given more room to contingency in his world history, it was argued convincingly by the commentator on his paper, Thomas Wartenberg (Duke University) that Hegel meant something quite specific by 'the impotence of nature'. The idea could not be made the basis of a radical Aufhebung of Hegel's philosophy of history of the kind di Giovanni ingeniously advocated.

As was customary, the retiring President of the HSA, Professor Quentin Lauer, delivered a Presidential Address on 'Hegel as Poet', giving the word 'poet' rather a generous latitude of meaning in his stimulating and wide-ranging paper. The Clemson meeting elected Professor Merold Westphal President until 1984 and once again re-elected Lawrence S. Stepelevich (Villanova University) as Treasurer and Editor of The Owl of Minerva (which in 1983 will start to appear as a journal). The theme chosen for the HSA next biennial meeting was 'The philosophy of spirit'. The idea of another joint conference with the HSGB (possibly in 1985) was mooted and favourably received. The publication of the proceedings of the joint Oxford conference of 1981 was proceeding satisfactorily. Members of the HSGB were invited to subscribe to the published proceedings of the Clemson meeting on the same terms as the HSA members (particulars from Prof. Stepelevich, Villanova University, Villanova, Pa. 19085).

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#### 1983 HSGB Conference: Notice

The fifth annual conference of the Hegel Society of Great Britain will be held in Pembroke College, Oxford on 15-16 September 1983. The theme chosen for the conference is 'Hegel's Dialectic'. As usual five sessions are envisaged. It is hoped to include a discussion of Michael Rosen's recent CUP book Hegel's Dialectic and its Criticism and a paper by the President of the HSA, Merold Westphal. There is room for two more papers, say, one on a general aspect of the dialectic and one on its application to some particular field of Hegel's philosophy. Those interested in contributing should send an outline to the Conference Chairman, Prof. W.H. Walsh, Merton College, Oxford OX1 4JD, at the latest by the end of February 1983. Detailed programme, particulars of charges and registration forms can be obtained after 1 April 1983 from the HSGB Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. David Lamb, Department of Philosophy, The University, Manchester M13 9PL, and will also be sent out with the summer 1983 issue of the Bulletin.