

In Memoriam: Ian C. Tipton

Charles J. McCracken

Ian C. Tipton, one of the world's great Berkeley scholars and longtime president of the International Berkeley Society, died unexpectedly at his home in Swansea, Wales, on 7 February 2006, at the age of 68. Of the many works about Berkeley that were published in the twentieth century, few rival in importance his *Berkeley: The Philosophy of Immaterialism* (Methuen, 1974). In that work he carefully examined the methods—philosophical, linguistic, and psychological—that Berkeley used in reaching his chief conclusions, and examined, analyzed, and criticized Berkeley's central doctrines about perception, matter, minds, and God. The philosophical insight, combined with the mastery of Berkeley's texts, that Ian brought to this work make it one of the masterpieces of Berkeley scholarship. It is not surprising therefore that, when the Garland Publishing Company brought out, late in the 1980's, a 15-volume collection of major works on Berkeley, Ian's book was one of only two full-length studies of Berkeley published after 1935 to be included.



Ian Tipton was born in Redhill, Surrey, England in 1937. He received an M.A. from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (where he studied with the noted Locke scholar R. I. Aaron), and an M. Litt. from Oxford. In a teaching career that spanned almost four decades, Ian taught at the University of Keele (1964-67), the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (1967-88), and, from 1988 until his retirement, the University of Wales, Swansea. In 1994 he became president of the International Berkeley Society, a position he held until shortly before his death. His other publications included *Locke on Human Understanding: Selected Essays* (Oxford University Press, 1977), *Berkeley's Principles and Dialogues: Background Source Materials*, with C. J. McCracken (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and numerous articles.

Ian was a great scholar, but more than that, he was a great human being—kind, generous, and witty. In conversation, he could talk penetratingly about philosophy, and then turn to a play or musical or film he had recently been to, making insightful observations about it (and he loved the cinema and the theatre, especially the musical theatre), or recount an anecdote about some place he and his wife, Diana, had traveled to—and he was an avid traveler, who was always thinking of the last trip he'd made or the next one he hoped to make. It was my privilege and good fortune to know him for over twenty years and I'll always be able to picture the mischievous twinkle that would come into his eyes just before he'd tell a funny story, and then the solemn look that would come over his face when he turned to a serious or important topic.

Every Berkeley scholar knew Ian Tipton, at least from his books and articles, and many also knew him personally because of his role in the International Berkeley Society and his frequent participation in scholarly gatherings in Britain, Europe, and the United States. And because Ian and Di spent parts of many summers in residence at Whitehall

(the house that Berkeley built in Newport, Rhode Island), no Berkeley scholar was better known than he to the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island, who are the keepers of Whitehall. His passing will be mourned there and everywhere that serious students of Berkeley's philosophy are to be found.

He leaves behind his wife, Diana, who was his beloved companion for more than forty years, his sons David and Huw and their families, including his three grandchildren, and his friends and admirers throughout the world.

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