

Preface

In 1985 W. V. O. Quine wrote: "If one man were to be singled out as personifying Oxford analytic philosophy over the past thirty years, Sir Peter would be that person." Likewise, should we list those post-war philosophers who crossed the boundaries of analytic philosophy – indeed, conquered some of the bastions of the continental thought – Peter F. Strawson would be among the most significant, thanks to his deep roots in the European metaphysical tradition. And, on a more personal note: should we name one analytic philosopher who might serve as a paradigm of the dignity and ethos of his field, it would be, alongside W. V. O. Quine, Peter F. Strawson. We remember his generosity, modesty and nobleness, perfectly matching both the Oxford environment and the knighthood, bestowed on him for his exceptional contribution to the British philosophy.

The Prague colloquium *The Grounds of Sense*, organized by the Philosophical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences on April 21-24, 2009 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Peter Strawson's *Individuals*, demonstrated how rich, lively and wide-ranging Strawsonian inspirations are for the contemporary philosophical thought. This richness and wide scope are – we hope – at least partly reflected in the present collection of several colloquium contributions. These original papers cover three distinct areas of Strawson's philosophy. First six of them center around the notion of the self and the first person, coupled with more general thoughts on the scope and nature of descriptive metaphysics. Next four tackle various issues within the philosophy of language. The final two look into possibilities to extend some Strawsonian thoughts in the domain of aesthetics.

We would like to use this occasion to express our deep gratitude to Ann and Galen Strawsons for both the pleasure of their participation at the colloquium, and for their generous donation of Sir Peter's personal books to the library of the Philosophy Institute in Prague. Our thanks belong also to our friend and colleague Marián Zouhar, the editor-in-chief of *Organon F*, without whom this special issue would be impossible.

The editors

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