AN ANTHOLOGY OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES VOLUME 12

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AN ANTHOLOGY OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES VOLUME 12

Edited by Patricia Hanna

Athens Institute for Education and Research 2018

This volume is dedicated to Donald V. Poochigian (1943-2017)

The Point Aaron Poochigian*

Last month my Pops the Sage, the Brain, the Wiz, waxed geometric, just between us guys:

"What is a point? A locus without size.

No length, no width, no depth, but there it is."

By then the specialist in What Exists had grown so shrunken he would not survive.

(The tapeworm tubing keeping him alive seemed to be drinking life out through his wrists.)

I get it: skin and ticker, lung and joint, we wither faster than we feel we should.

What learns to walk lies down again for good.

A rotten deal. But what about that point void of affliction, misery and prayer?

No length, no width, no depth, but it is there.

It seems fitting to dedicate this volume to Don: after all, he helped make the conference.

I met Don in 2005, at the first International Philosophical Conference held by ATINER. The conference had all the marks of a new born with colic, but Don's quirky sense of humor and his unexpected takes on philosophical issues helped many of keep our sanity, and see the value in the enterprise. He was a loyal supporter of the conference's aim of broadening the scope of international philosophical conversation. Don attended all the meetings through 2015; even when his health prevented his coming to Athens, he remained one of the steadiest contributors to the "back side" of a blind-reviewed journal. His wise counsel was invaluable: if the program had to be rearranged at the last minute because someone had to cancel, even when he wasn't there, he was always ready to respond to one of my emailed cries for help.

But he was more than a professional colleague--someone, you see here and there are meetings. He became a good friend to many of us. Outside the confines of the conference and the work of publishing the proceedings, he was someone I turned to for advice and general discussions of the state of the world. I counted him as a friend, as did others. He will be missed.

Patricia Hanna Editor

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^{*}Aaron Poochigian is an accomplished poet, novelist and translator. He is a Professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature at California State University/ Fresno.

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Introduction

Patricia Hanna

This volume is a collection of papers selected from those presented at the 12th International Conference on Philosophy sponsored by the Athens Institute for Research and Education (ATINER), held in Athens, Greece, 22-25 May 2017.

This conference provides a singular opportunity for philosophers from all over the world to meet and share ideas with the aim of expanding the understanding of our discipline. Over the course of the conference forty-six papers by philosophers from twenty-five countries were presented. The fifteen papers in this volume were selected for inclusion after a process of blind-review.

The papers chosen for inclusion give some sense of the variety of topics addressed at the conference. However, it would be impossible in an edited volume to ensure coverage of the full extent of diversity of the subject matter and approaches brought to the conference itself by the participants, some of whom could not travel to one another's home countries without enormous difficulty.

Since its inception in 2006, the conference has established itself as a place where philosophers from all areas of the world and all sub-genres can gather to engage in philosophical discussion. We now have a group of dedicated philosophers who serve as the reviewers for the proceedings. They are committed to raising the standards of this publication; as a result, we are now able to ensure that each submission if blind-reviewed by at least two readers, as well as the editor and/or a member of the Editorial Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their extraordinary work.