
Preface

This book arose out of a conference, “Dennett’s Philosophy,” held at Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland, in November 1998. These chapters are very much the product of dialogue between Dennett and their authors, and among the authors. First drafts were discussed extensively at the conference, and all received replies from Dennett. Papers were then rewritten in light of these exchanges, after which Dennett composed the responses produced here.

In light of the close relationship between the conference and this book, it would seem appropriate to thank both those who helped with the organization of the first and those who helped in the production of the second.

The conference—and, therefore, this book—would not have come to be without Jennifer Dawe, who did a tremendous amount of practical work in organizing conference funding, and then the event itself. Joanne Myrick-Harris, Memorial’s Conference Coordinator, gave invaluable assistance and organized registration, with the help of Diane Hussey. Jaymie Sheir handled communications and coordinated the event itself. Ken Byrne managed the conference website. James Bradley helped the organizing committee, and arranged a social program that kept the conference participants working very hard and in happy camaraderie, knowing that their collective labors would be regularly rewarded with collective fun. John Scott coordinated local fundraising. Funding was provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Kevin Keough (Memorial’s Vice-President Research), Terry Murphy

(Memorial's Dean of Arts), John Martin (Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town), Memorial's Department of Philosophy, and Labatt's Brewery.

With all of the above help we got as far as having the raw material for the book. Betty Stanton's support enabled this raw material to be refined for the reading public; we are sorry that its preparation immediately followed her retirement, making this one of the first post-Betty Bradford projects. Amy Brand tolerated some delays and encouraged us as press editor. Ken Byrne traveled from Newfoundland to Cape Town and served as Assistant Editor to Don Ross. Ken was assisted by Jongikaya Rabe and Andile Mgwaba during the final stages of manuscript preparation. Robert Stainton helped with proofreading; our special thanks to him.

Judy Feldmann at MIT Press did such superb copyediting as to make the academic editors feel a bit useless at times. We now know why she was introduced to us as "MIT's Dennett-approved expert."

Carolyn Anderson handled the business end at the press. Given that publishers hold the gun relative to academics, we're grateful that at no time did we feel that Carolyn had it pointed at us.

Our warmest thanks go to the authors of these papers, including Dan Dennett. Their enthusiasm for the project, and their delight in one another's ideas, made this a genuine collective effort by a large team—a rare experience in the "solo heroics" atmosphere of professional philosophy.

Portions of the introduction appeared in *The Philosophers' Magazine*. Thanks to its editor, Julian Baggini, for feeding the informavores.

The book would also not have survived without e-mail. No fewer than three servers succumbed to viruses while storing the working copy, at which point it had to be reassembled by Brook in Canada and conveyed electronically to Ross in South Africa. A month before delivery of the manuscript, a thirty-ton crane fell on the computer science building at the University of Cape Town, pulverizing the University's communications infrastructure. Once again, Brook fished out the pieces of the text and the e-mails hummed. The book's appearance means that he is at last no longer on call against virtual and physical disasters. The fall of the crane caused rather a rush at the last, and threw a wildly inequitable domestic burden on Nelleke, for which loving thanks from DR.