



*culture, criticism, dialectic:
engaging kenneth burke*



*the kenneth burke society's
4th triennial conference*

The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
20-23 May 1999

an agro-bohemian burke



The bronze bust of Kenneth Burke sculpted by Virginia Molnar Burks is housed in the Pattee Library at the Pennsylvania State University. Photos are of the clay bust from which the bronze was cast. Taken in 1985 and copyrighted by Virginia Burks, they are used with her permission.

Although Kenneth Burke thought it “poetically” true to say, “New York City is in Iowa,” he was quick to acknowledge that it was semantically inaccurate (*PLF* 144). Soon, however, it will be semantically accurate to say, “The Kenneth Burke Society is in Iowa.” As for poetic truths, several “progressive encompassments” may be anticipated, and “valid insights” may appear as abundantly as flashing fireflies on a midwestern night.

The Kenneth Burke Society’s 4th Triennial Conference convenes from Thursday through Sunday, 20-23 May 1999, at Iowa City campus of the University of Iowa on the theme “Culture, Criticism, Dialectic: Engaging Kenneth Burke.” In keeping with the traditions established at the earlier conferences in New Harmony, Airlie, and Pittsburgh, this year’s conference promises a

New York at Geneso, is well known among Burke scholars for his many important works on Burke, including *Kenneth Burke and the Drama of Human Relations* and *Encounters with Kenneth Burke*. He also compiled and edited *Critical Responses to Kenneth Burke, 1924-1966*. Dr. Rueckert was the first president elected by the Kenneth Burke Society, in 1990, and in 1993 he received the Society’s “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Michael Calvin McGee, professor of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa, will speak Saturday morning on the topic “Burke and Fascism.” A frequent contributor to *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Communication Monographs*, and many other academic journals, Dr. McGee is an established voice in rhetorical studies.

“Engaging Kenneth Burke” At the University of Iowa

productive blend of plenary sessions, concurrent panel presentations, and seminar sessions, all bound together in a convivial spirit of co-haggling.

Conference registration will open at 2:00 PM on Thursday at Iowa City’s downtown Holiday Inn. Selections from videos of Burke, including highlights of his “Iowa Interviews,” and other displays will be available throughout the afternoon. A buffet dinner will start about 5:00 PM, followed by seminar sessions. The opening plenary session is scheduled for the Old Senate Chamber of Iowa’s first state-house 7:30 PM, to be followed by a reception.

Three keynote speakers will help to set the tone for this year’s conference.

William H. Rueckert will speak at the opening plenary session Thursday evening on the topic, “A Farewell to Kenneth Burke.” Dr. Rueckert, professor emeritus of English at the State University of

Steven Mailloux will speak Saturday afternoon on the topic “Rhetorical Paths of Thought: Burkean (Dis)Connections.” Professor Mailloux is presently the Acting Director of the Humanities Center at the University of California, Irvine. His long list of publications includes *Rhetorical Power and Reception Histories: Rhetoric, Pragmatism, and American Cultural Politics*.

The program offers concurrent program sessions, with nearly forty competitively selected papers, and an array of topical seminars.

A new feature of this year’s conference will be a series of concurrent “post-prandial parlors” on Saturday. A buffet lunch will meld into a series of loosely structured and guided “conversations” on selected topics that should be of interest. The “parlors” will be in designated locations, and

FYIowa City Conference

following lunch—or for those who wish, carrying a sandwich—participants may drift from conversation to conversation (or stay put, as one chooses).

Among the various parlors will be found: Jack Selzer and Mike Jackson prompting a conversation on “Organizing Oral Histories of Kenneth Burke”; David Blakesley and Jerald Ross, “Taking Burke On(line)”; Steven Mailloux, Timothy Crusius, and D. Diane Davis, “Burke and Rhetoric 2000”; and J. Clarke Rountree, “Kenneth Burke on Tape” (including a showing of highlights from the Iowa Interviews).

On Friday evening a program of readings, film clips, and anecdotes is planned: Michael Burke and Julie Whitaker are preparing selections from KB’s poetry and prose, J. Clarke Rountree is preparing new video clips, and Elvera Berry will lead what is hoped will become a sharing of anecdotes, recollections, and stories. The Saturday evening banquet, highlighted by Greig Henderson’s “Presidential Address” and the presentation of the Society’s Awards, will be held at the Amana Colonies. The Triennial Business Meeting of the Society will occur during Sunday brunch followed by the closing Roundtable Discussion on the conference theme by the keynote speakers. The Roundtable Discussion concludes at 1:00 PM.

The 1999 Triennial Conference promises to be a challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.

David Blakesley and Jim Klumpp have put together a marvelous program, and Bruce Gronbeck and our Iowa hosts have made most hospitable arrangements for us. I look forward to being with the Kenneth Burke Society in Iowa! I hope to see you there.

If you have not yet enrolled for one of the seminars, but wish do to so, please contact me immediately. It may still be possible to enroll in selected seminars.



*Greetings from
David Cratis Williams
Conference Planner*

*Back to Basics: Applying Burkean Thought
in the Undergraduate Classroom*
Coordinator: Dennis Ciesielski

Burke & American Poetry
Coordinator: Miriam Marty Clark

Burke and Ethics
Coordinator: Timothy Crusius

Burke & American Philosophical Tradition
Coordinator: David L. Hildebrand

*Burke, Phenomenology, & Existentialism:
Can They Dance?*
Coordinator: Wade Kenny

*The Enthymeme as the Body of Proof
in Burke's Rhetoric?*
Coordinator: Tilly Warnock

Burke & the Rhetoric of the Seen
Coordinator: Bruce Gronbeck

Burke & the Rhetorical Tradition
Coordinator: Michael Leff

*Art, Politics, & Social Change:
Will the Real K.B. Please Stand Up?*
Coordinator: Kathleen Farrell

SEMINARS

THURSDAY, 20 MAY 1999



OLD CAPITAL BUILDING



- 2:00-7:00 Registration and Conference Information,
Holiday Inn
- 3:00-4:45 Burke-on-Tape Archive Project:
Highlights from the "Iowa Interviews"
Chuck Elkins interviews Burke
And other tapes
- 5:00-6:15 Buffet and No-host Bar,
Holiday Inn
- 6:30-7:15 **Seminars**
- 7:30-8:45 Keynote Address:
Senate Chamber,
Old Capitol Building
- 8:45-9:30 Reception outside the
Old Capitol Senate Chamber

7:30 PM

KEYNOTE:

WILLIAM H. RUECKERT
A Farewell to Kenneth Burke
Introduction: Greig Henderson

8:30 AM PROGRAMS

I. Terministic Screenings

Perspective by Incongruity in the Exploration and Synthesis of Key Burkean & Ciceronian Terms: Piety and Decorum, Perspective by Incongruity, Burlesque, Frame, and Wit
H. Scott Placke

A Critique of Burke's Substance?
Steve Long and Bryan Salmons

Contingency, Irony, Metabiology:
Richard Rorty, Kenneth Burke, and the Golden Rule
Brent Whitmore

II. In Search of Kenneth Burke: Mining the Archives

Engaging Kenneth Burke:
A Report from the Archives
Jack Selzer

The *Southern Review* Files:
Burke and *Attitudes Toward History*
Ann George

"Dear Fren and Infloonce Person":
Burke and Nemerov in the 1950s
Miriam Marty Clark

III. "That Guy Makes Me Tired": Burke, Aristotle, and Beyond

Aristotle's Enthymeme and Burke's Theory of Form Revisited: Part I
Karen Whedbee

Aristotle's Enthymeme and Burke's Theory of Form Revisited: Past II
Don Burks

The Comic Root of Postmodern *Kairos*
Jeff White

4:00 PM PROGRAMS

I. Rhetoric and Poetics

Temporizing Election:
Burke, Donne, and Courtship of the Eternal
Brent Nelson

A. R. Ammons' Dialogue with Burke:
Language, Nature, and the Resources of Lyric
Miriam Marty Clark

Gnosis and Nihilism in *Under the Volcano*:
A Meta-Rhetoric of Pure Persuasion
Greig Henderson

II. Thirtysomething Writings

"The engine after long development":
From *Towards a Better Life to The Philosophy of Literary Form*
Jerald L Ross

Criticism in Context: Kenneth Burke's
"The Rhetoric of Hitler's *Battle*"
Garth E. Pauley

Bims and Bams: Style and Argument in
Kenneth Burke's "Semantic and Poetic
Meaning"
Patricia Tallakson

III. Presidential (Im)Politics

"The Perfect Enemy": Clinton,
the Contradictions of Capitalism,
and Slaying the Sin Within
Virginia Anderson

Clinton's Search for Symbolic Redemption
Zachary White

A Sense of *Telos*: Bill Clinton and
His Remarks Before the Religious
Leaders Breakfast
Tony Brussat

7:30-8:30 Coffee and pastries
8:00-5:00 Registration and Conference Information
Display Area: Books, Running Tapes
(Iowa Interviews, etc), and artifacts

2:00 PM
KEYNOTE:

8:30-10:00 **Programs**
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-12:00 **Seminars**
12:00-1:30 Lunch (on your own)

MICHAEL CALVIN MCGEE
Burke and Fascism

1:30-2:00 **Plenary Session:**
Tippe Auditorium, Pappajohn Business Administration Building
Welcomes: David Cratis Williams, Bruce Gronbeck, Andrew King
2:00-3:15 **Keynote**

FRIDAY, 21 MAY 1999

3:15-4:00 Coffee Break
4:00-5:30 **Programs**
5:30-8:00 Dinner (on your own)

8:00 PM MISCELLANY

Howling with Kennel Bark: A Miscellany

A KB Sampler, *Michael Burke & Julie Whitaker*

Burke in Iowa, as you've never seen him before:
Takes from the Interviews, *J. Clarke Rountree*

Definiendum: He's yet to be defined, *Elevra Berry*

*The audience is invited to share anecdotes, stories,
and impressions*



7:30-8:30 Continental Breakfast
8:00-5:30 Registration and Conference Information, Display Room
8:30- 10:00 **Seminars**

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-12:00 **Programs**
12:00-2:00 Lunch and Post-Prandial Parlor Conversations

POST-PRANDIAL PARLOR CONVERSATIONS

During and after lunch various informal yet topical “conversations” are featured. Conference participants may chose one conversation or drift among them.

Taking Burke On(line) *David Blakesley & Jerald Ross*

What sort of web-presence should Burk(i)ean studies have? Who’s on the other end of that Burke-L message? What web-based projects are planned? How can you to help? The coordinators will unveil (in multimedia fashion) several new web-based projects too secret, too important, too surprising to announce early. But in addition, they’d like to discuss with intellectual interlopers some plans for additional projects, the character and future of Burke-L, and the obligatory question, “Just what *would* ol’ KB say about his virtual identity?”

Burke and Rhetoric 2000 *Steven Mailloux, Timothy Crusius, and D. Diane Davis*

Burke on Tape *J. Clarke Rountree*

Clarke Rountree, who worked on the 1986 University of Iowa interviews with Kenneth Burke (available on eight hours of videotape), will discuss the interview project, identify significant segments for viewing, and direct interested interlocutors to video segments discussing their favorite topics.

Teaching Burke *Donn W. Parson*

This conversation concerns the sharing of experiences and ideas regarding teaching Burke. Question might include: does one teach Burke differently to undergraduates? Under what contexts does one teach Burke to undergraduates? Under what contexts to graduates? Is Burke a whole course or part of a course? If part of a course, what else goes into the course? Are different disciplinary interests at stake in teaching Burke?

Organizing Oral Histories of Kenneth Burke *Jack Selzer and Mike Jackson*

Jack Selzer of Pennsylvania State University will lead a discussion of the possibility of organizing a KB Oral History Project—an effort to obtain first-person recollections of KB from former colleagues, associates, family, friends, and students. Mike Jackson, a doctoral student at Rensselaer Poly-technic, will present a short example of what such an effort might generate: an account of his interview with Ben Belitt, a poet and colleague of Burke’s in the ‘30s and later a faculty colleague at Bennington.

I. Burke Among the Philosophers

Representation, Repetition, and the
Political Unconscious: Burke and Marx's
Eighteenth Brumaire
Tom Carmichael

Perspectives: Nietzsche and Burke
Gary Scott Groce

Interrogated by the Response:
Kenneth Burke and Jacques Derrida
C. Allen Carter

II. Writing Women In: Critical & Theoretical Feminist Applications of Burkean Theory

Transforming Sexism:
Impiety and Perspective by Incongruity
Keri A. Bodensteiner

The Citadel's Response to Harassment
Allegations: Burke's Pentad
as a Grounding of Ideographs
Julie Davis

Between Persuasion and Invitation: Burkean
Identification as an Inclusive Theory of Persuasion
Sarah T. Partlow

10:30 AM PROGRAMS

Logology: A Feminist Application of
Burke's Method
Valerie Renegar

Burke, the Paradox of Identification and
Intersectionality of Race and Gender
Stacey Sowards

Respondent: *Ekaterina Haskins*

III. Interfacing

The Kenneth Burke-Malcom Cowley
Correspondence
L. W. Rosenfield

Burke to Basics: Dialogue and Cultural
Studies in the First-Year Writing Program
Dennis Ciesielski

Burke and the Web: Determining Motive
in the Click of the Mouse
Isabel Pederson and Neil Randall

SATURDAY, 22 MAY 1999

- 2:30-3:45 **Keynote**
- 3:45-4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00-5:30 **Seminars**
- 6:00 Vans depart for
 Amana Colonies
- 6:30-7:00 Cocktails
- 7:00-9:30 Dinner and Awards Banquet:

STEVEN MAILLOUX

Rhetorical Paths of Thought:
Burkean (Dis)connections

Introduction: David Blakesley

2:30 PM KEYNOTE



AMANA COLONIES CHURCH

SATURDAY, 22 MAY 1999

5:30-7:00 Cocktails

7:00-9:30 Dinner & Awards

7:00 PM BANQUET, OX YOKE INN:



ANDREW KING
President, Kenneth Burke Society
A Summing Up

GREIG HENDERSON
President-Elect, Burke Society
A Presidential Address

CHRIS CARTER, AWARDS

11:45 AM
ROUNDTABLE:

All activities will be at the Holiday Inn

8:00-8:30	Coffee
8:00-10:15	Registration/Information Display Room
8:30-10:00	Programs
10:00-11:30	Business Meeting/Buffer
11:45-1:00	Roundtable Discussion

**Culture, Criticism, Dialectic:
Engaging Kenneth Burke**

Barbara A. Biesecker
Steven Mailloux
Michael Calvin McGee
William H. Rueckert
Robert Wess
Moderator: James Klumpp

SUNDAY, 23 MAY 1999

9:30 AM PROGRAMS

**I. Burke and "Everyday Life":
Health, Happiness & "The Good
Life" in Consumer Culture**

Purification through Simplification: Cutting Down,
Scaling Back, Opting Out, *Phyllis M. Japp*

Burke's "Good Life" & the TV Food Network,
Mark Meister

"Caring Enough" to Purchase a Sentiment: A
Burkean Analysis of Greeting Cards,
Diana Rehling

Technology as "Representative Anecdote" in
Popular Discourses of Health and Medicine,
Lynn Harder

II. Don't Be a Freud in the Dark

Norman Douglas' *Nerinda* and Kenneth Burke,
Donald Jennermann

The Rhetoric of Desire: Burke's Freud as
Dialectician, *Ellen Quandahl*

Kenneth Burke & the Psychology of Identification,
Edward Berlinski

III. Enculturation

The Dialectic of John Locke's Constitution
Then & Now; or The Turn from Enlightenment
to Post-Enlightenment Culture, *Robert Wess*

Motivating the Molten Mass of Humanity in De-
fense of Cultural Obsolescence: Kenneth Burke
on Altering Cultural Paradigms, *Amy Sileven*

Kenneth Burke's Rhetorical Aesthetic and the
Scope of Public Discourse, *Gregory Clark*



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1878 by the priests and brothers of the Holy Ghost, Duquesne University carries a more than century-old tradition of providing a unique liberal and professional education with an emphasis on moral values, a dedication to quality teaching and a commitment to service. Today Duquesne University serves more than 8500 undergraduate and graduate students, offering more than 150 programs on the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels in its nine schools: the College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the schools of Business Administration, Education, Health Sciences, Law, Music, Natural and Environmental Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

The Communication Department at Duquesne offers bachelor's degrees in either Communication Studies, Journalism, or Media Studies and master's degrees in either Rhetoric & the Philosophy of Communication or Corporate Communication. The Communication and English Departments offer a joint Ph.D. in Rhetoric.

The Kenneth Burke Society is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of New York since 1988. Annual dues of \$20 for faculty and \$10 for students (or triennial dues of \$50 and \$25 respectively) fund+ the Society's triennial conference and other activities. Members receive a subscription to the *Kenneth Burke Society Newsletter* plus future publications (see insert). The *KBSNewsletter*, published annually under the Society's auspices, is financed by and produced in the Communication Department at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282 (phone 412-396-6446; fax 412-396-4792). A second annual publication, *KB: A Journal of the Kenneth Burke Society*, is planned. Readers are encouraged to "join the fray" by submitting letters, abstracts, or manuscripts that promote the study, understanding, dissemination, research, critical analysis, and preservation of works by and about Kenneth Burke. Authors should prepare manuscripts following MLA or APA guidelines and submit both a paper copy and a disk file using any established Macintosh, MS-DOS, or Windows wordprocessor.

Editor—Richard Thames, Duquesne University
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KBSNews and Announcements

The Society has posted an extensive website under the *Newsletter* Editor's supervision; news, announcements, archives, and much more can be found at the internet address www.home.duq.edu/~thames/kennethburke. Because of difficulties with the server, users have had problems accessing and surfing the site. Another address will be posted once the files have been moved to a new machine the department has purchased to function as the server. The web page will be completely redesigned beginning this May.



Conference Registration/ Information

Conference registration is \$130. The fee covers Thursday eve buffet and reception, Friday and Saturday continental breakfasts, Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch, Saturday night banquet and transportation, Friday through Sunday coffee breaks. Checks should be made payable to the Center for Conferences and Institutes and mailed to 249 IMU, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1317 (phone 319-335-3231; fax 319-335-3533; e-mail conferences@uiowa.edu). For phone reservations please call 1-800-551-9029.

Rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn, 210 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (phone: 319-337-4058; fax 319-337-9045). Mention the KBS Conference when making reservations. Rates are \$70 a single, \$75 for a double plus tax per night.

To get to the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU) take exit 244 from I-80 to Dubuque. Follow Dubuque south to Market. Turn right, follow Market west to Madison. Parking is on Madison at the IMU Parking Ramp and the North Campus Ramp (\$.60/hour, \$6.00/day). For overflow parking municipal ramps are at the corners of Capital & Burlington and Dubuque & Burlington.

K•B•S•NOTEBOOK

The Editor wishes to apologize for listing the last *KBSN* volume number incorrectly as #11. The volume should have been #12 and the issue #1, October 1998; the current issue is #2, April 1999. Volumes are now numbered triennially from convention to convention.