



Minutes of the Jowett Society, Michaelmas Term 1930

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Minutes of the Jowett Society, Michaelmas Term 1930

IB was Secretary of the Oxford University undergraduate philosophical society, the Jowett Society, for Michaelmas Term 1930. The minutes of the three meetings held that term (like the relevant membership lists), are in his hand in the minute book, and signed by the President. Some of IB's erratic punctuation has been silently normalised in the transcripts below.

In a conversation with Gavriel Cohen, bit.ly/GC-IB-12, IB says he became President of the Jowett Society 'in the end'. The minutes show that he is misremembering. He is first recorded as attending a meeting on 27 November 1929; he was elected Secretary on 19 June 1930; he was never President (the year after his Secretaryship, when he might have been expected to fill that post, the President was H[arold] Jeffery Smith); his last recorded attendance as an undergraduate was on 24 May 1932 (by then he was an hon. Member, having sat Greats in 1931).

Balance	- - - 0	Owed to Exchequer	95 6 ^d
Subscriptions:			
Members:			
H. B. Acton	Magdalen		
I. Berlin	E-c-c.		
G. R. Copleston	Balliol		
M. S. Butter	Balliol		
W. A. Hargreaves	Exeter		
H. J. Smith	Exeter		
S. Bodington	Exeter		
E. H. Roberts	St. John's		
W. H. F. Barnes	E-c-c.		
D. H. Houghton	Magdalen		
V. S. Todd	Magdalen		
S. J. Soler	Ch. Ch.		
J. C. Phipps	Trinity		
A. J. Ayer	Ch. Ch.		

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[105v]

Balance	----	0	---
Subscriptions:			Owed to Emberlins: ¹
Members:			9s 6 ^D
H. B. Acton	Magdalen		
I. Berlin	C.C.C.		
E. R. Copleston	Balliol		
M. L. G. Balfour	Balliol		
W. A. Halpern	Exeter		
H. J. Smith	Exeter		
G. Bodington	Exeter		
C. H. Roberts	St. John's		
W. H. F. Barnes	C.C.C.		
D. H. Houghton	Magdalen		
K. G. Todd	Magdalen		
S. J. Golt	Ch. Ch.		
J. C. Phipps	Trinity		
A. J. Ayer	Ch. Ch.		
H. [sc. N.] M. S. Macpherson	Trinity		
G. C. Allen	Trinity		
G. Hadow	Trinity		
R. H. Goodman	New College		
H. M. Phillips	Wadham		
H. Z. A. Kabir	Exeter		
A. S. Wordsworth	Ch. Ch.		
G.² [sc. C.?] Brooks	Exeter		
S. Brooks Exeter			
F. J. Turner	Univ.		
M. G. Rees.	New College. ³		

¹ Emberlin & Son, 15 Broad Street, Oxford, booksellers/stationers.

² Possibly 'S.' (IB's 'G' and 'S' can be hard to distinguish). This is presumably Cleanth Brooks, elected a member at the last meeting of the term.

³ This entry is not in IB's hand.

[106r] 1930

The 297th meeting of the Society was held in Mr. Houghton's rooms in Magdalen on Wednesday the 29th October at 8·15 p.m.

There were present besides the officers of the Society Mr. H. [sc. M.] L. G. Balfour, member, and Messrs Copleston, Halpern, McIver, Roberts, Barnes, Bodington, Smith, Houghton, Todd, Golt and Phipps guests. In private business the minutes of the previous meeting were read, and, after an amendment made by Mr. McIver, carried. Mr McIver pointed out that it had been decided to pursue a *continuous policy* of requesting college tutors to draw the attention of their pupils to the existence of the Society, and of the Society to the existence of their pupils. The Secretary then reported on the peculiar financial condition of the Society. In public business Mr A. M. McIver read a paper on The Realist Conception of Existence. A discussion followed, opened by the President, in which most of those present took part. All guests present were declared elected members of the Society. The Society adjourned at 10·40 p.m.

I Berlin (Secretary)
H. B. Acton

[106v] Hon. Members:

The Provost of Oriel

Professors:

H. H. Joachim	New College
J. A. Smith	Magdalen
H. A. Prichard	C.C.C.
G. H. Hardy	New College
Dr F. C. S. Schiller	C.C.C.
Rev. M. C. D'Arcy	Campion Hall
Messrs	
H. W. B. Joseph	New College
G. Ryle	Christchurch
M. B. Foster	"
H. R. F. Harrod	"

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W. F. R. Hardie	C.C.C.
C. G. Hardie	Balliol
H. H. Price	Trinity
J. D. Mabbott	St. John's
O. S. Franks	The Queen's
N. R. Murphy	Hertford
C. J. Fordyce	Jesus
A. M. McIver	New College ⁴
H. B. Acton.	Magdalen.
M L. G. Balfour	Balliol.
H. H. Cox	Lincoln
L. M. Fraser.	The Queen's
R H S Crossman	New College
W G. Maclagan	Oriel
I. Gallie	Wadham. begin Summer
C. R. Morris.	Balliol
Rev A H House	Wadham
Rev G. F. Allen	Lincoln
A. H. Smith	New
Weldon?[?]	

[107r] The 298th meeting of the Society was held in the Secretary's rooms in Corpus on Wednesday the 19th November at 8·15 p.m.

There were present besides the officers of the Society Messrs E. R. Copleston, A. M. McIver, W. H. F. Barnes, G. Boddington, A. J. Ayer, G. C. Allen, members, and Messrs. H. M. Phillips, H. Z. A. Kabir, Cleanth Brooks, H. P. Kingdom, guests. In private business the minutes of the previous meeting were read and carried. The President emphasised the duty of paying subscriptions. In Public business Mr. H. Jeffery Smith read a paper on a Philosophical Interpretation of Religion. A lively discussion followed, opened by the President, in which with one exception all present took part. The Society adjourned at 10·30 p.m.

⁴ The subsequent lines of this list are not in IB's hand, nor in the same hand.

JOWETT SOCIETY, MICHAELMAS TERM 1930

I Berlin (Secretary)
H. B. Acton (President)

The 299th meeting of the Society was held in the Russell Room in Balliol on Wednesday the 26th November ¹⁹³⁰ at 8.15 p.m.

There were present besides the officers of the Society Messrs G. Ryle, H. H. Price, W. F. R. Hardie, M. C. D'Arcy, ^{A. M. McIver} Life members, Messrs E. R. Coplestone, G. Hadow, J. C. Phipps, N. M. S. Macpherson, M. G. Balfour, H. M. Phillips, H. J. Smith, A. J. Ayer, ^{S. J. Golt} members, and T. W. Wagner, R. E. Grindle, I. Gallie, N. C. Helmcold, N. Leitch, K. N. Goodey guests. ~~During the President~~ In public business the President read a paper on the Ontological Argument. In the absence of Dr Wittgenstein who had not been able to come owing to an attack of influenza, Mr Ryle ~~was~~ opened the discussion in which was continued by Messrs D'Arcy, Price, McIver, Hadow, Macpherson, Smith, Balfour, Ayer and Golt. ^{The reading of the paper stopped at intervals} In private business the officers and committees for the next term were selected: President — Mr H. J. Smith, Secretary — Mr E. R. Coplestone, Committee — Mr ~~H.~~ M. G. Balfour and the Secretary; ^{Brooks, Turner} and Messrs Kabiz, Woodsworth, ~~and~~ Phillips, ^{Brooks, Turner} were ~~selected~~ members of the Society. The meeting was adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

I Berlin
(Secretary)
H. B. Acton
(President)

[108r] The 299th meeting of the Society was held in the Russell Room in Balliol on Wednesday the 26th November 1930 at 8.15 p.m.

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I Berlin (Secretary)
H. Jeffery Smith (President)

Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, MS. Top. Oxon. d. 391, fols. 105–8

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