Logic and Language in the Middle Ages
A Symposium in Honour of Sten Ebbesen

Copenhagen, 22-24 June 2011

The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 35
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
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Sten Ebbesen (1946-)

On June 23, 2011, Sten Ebbesen turns 65. After a career spanning more than forty years, there is no question that he is one of the best known researchers currently working on the history of (especially) medieval philosophy. For years, Sten has offered his hospitality to and shared his knowledge with a steady stream of international visitors to the Institute for Greek and Latin (in its various guises over the years). You will find him at big congresses and little colloquia, eagerly asking questions and offering penetrating comments.

His name shows up as a member of numerous editorial boards and steering committees, and his nearly three decades as editor of the Cahiers de l’Institut du moyen-âge grec et latin has cemented the importance of that journal as a major outlet for high-quality texts and studies. Only 20 years old he became an editor for the Corpus Philosophorum Danicorum Medii Aevi, of which he is now the editor-in-chief. The series incidentally includes, among others, several editions of Sten’s medieval, philosophical hero: the brilliant Boethius de Dacia.

Sten is a member of several learned societies including The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (1989-). Since 2009 he has been the director of Centre for the Aristotelian Tradition in Copenhagen, at which he has worked hard to ensure that the “Copenhagen school”-approach to the history of philosophy will still be carried out, while simultaneously developing and refining the methods and analyses.

Sten’s countless editions of both Greek and Latin philosophical texts have opened up whole new avenues for research, and he continues to produce first rate editions of important texts. His magnum opus, Commentators and Commentaries on Aristotle’s Sophistici Elenchi in three substantial volumes with texts and analyses, is, and will remain, essential reading for anyone
interested in the history of fallacies and the *Sophistici Elenchi* — and others who simply want to see how scholarship is done at the highest possible level.

Sten’s own articles and books are models of scholarship: clear, cogent, focused, precise, and often with amusing or intriguing titles that are difficult to forget (“The Present King of France wears Hypothetical Shoes with Categorical Laces”, “The Dead Man is Alive”). In Denmark he was recently the co-author of a *History of Danish Philosophy*, a contribution that ended up as a remarkable combination of research and communication of research. By now his bibliography contains more than 230 titles.

“Logic and Language in the Middle Ages” is a celebratory symposium. Sten is an exceptional scholar and an exceptional human being: There are few parts of his research areas where Sten has not had a major impact, and everyone who have had the good fortune to work with him will remember his incredible scholarly and personal generosity.

The organisers take great pleasure in acknowledging their debt and gratitude to Sten who has constantly supported each of them throughout the last 20 years.
Programme (22-24 June)

Wednesday, June 22

Chair: Mary Sirridge

9.00 Welcome

9.30 John Magee
   “The Textual Tradition of Boethius’ First *Peri Hermeneias* Commentary”

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Christina Thomsen Thörnqvist
   “Anonymus Aurelianensis III on the *Prior Analytics*”

11.30 Luisa Valente
   “The Notion of the Philosopher and the Influence of Stoicism in 12th-Century Philosophy and Theology”

12.15 Lunch

Chair: Jenny Ashworth

13.15 Yukio Iwakuma
   “On Mont Ste Geneviève: Mid-12th Century Masters against Peter Abelard”

14.00 John Marenbon
   “Gilbert of Poitiers’ Philosophy of Language”

14.45 Coffee

15.15 Chris Martin
   “Refutation and Resolution: The Theory and Practice of *Instantiae* in the Parisian Schools”

19.00 Dinner at Public House
Thursday, June 23

Chair: K.M. Fredborg

9.00 Birthday Greetings
9.30 Alessandro Conti
   “Robert Kilwardby and Albert the Great on Prædicabilia and Prædicamenta”
10.15 Coffee
10.45 Heine Hansen
   “Strange Finds”
11.30 Paul Thom
   “Culverbinus somnians”
12.15 Lunch

Chair: Cecilia Trifogli

13.15 Paloma Pérez-Iizarbe
   “Socrates Ceases to Be without Ceasing to Be: Petrus de Alvernia on the Moment of Change”
14.00 Simo Knuuttila
   “Duns Scotus on Concrete Accidental Terms”
14.45 Coffee
15.15 Calvin Normore
   “Buridan on Time and Possibility”
19.00 Dinner at Madklubben
Friday, June 24

Chair: Börje Bydén

9.30  Katerina Ierodiakonou
  “Logical Exercises in Nikephoros Blemmydes’ Autobiography”

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Fabrizio Amerini
  “Logic and Metaphysics in the Late Middle Ages”

11.30 E.P. Bos
  “John Buridan and Marsilius of Inghen on the Principle of Contradiction”

12.15 Lunch

Chair: David Bloch

13.15 Silvia Donati
  “Apparentia and modi essendi in Radulphus Brito’s Doctrine of the Concepts: The Case of the Notion of Being”

14.00 Costantino Marmo
  “Radulphus Brito as Theologian on the Theory of Relations”

14.45 Coffee

15.15 Roberto Lambertini
  “Logic, Language and Medieval Political Thought”
Practical Information for foreign visitors

**Directions from the airport:** From the airport, take the train to Copenhagen Central Station (“Københavns Hovedbanegård”). It will take approximately 15 minutes. Remember to buy the ticket before getting on the train. From Copenhagen Central Station it is a 5-10 minutes walk to the hotel (see the map below).

**The hotel:** You will be staying at Hotel Danmark, Vester Voldgade 89, 1552 Copenhagen K ([http://www.hotel-danmark.dk/uk-index.php](http://www.hotel-danmark.dk/uk-index.php)). The rooms have been fully paid for, unless you asked us to make special arrangements. Breakfast is included.

**The first day of the symposium:** The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters where the symposium will be held is very close to the hotel (see the map below). It will take about 10 minutes from the hotel. On Wednesday the 22nd of June at 8.40, Michael Stenskjær Christensen will be at the lobby of the hotel and guide you to the Academy.

**Dinners:** Dinner on Wednesday will be at Public House, Vester Voldgade 25, 1552 København V ([http://www.cofoco.dk/publichouse.php](http://www.cofoco.dk/publichouse.php)). Dinner on Thursday will be at Madklubben, Store Kongensgade 66, 1264 København K ([http://www.bistrobooking.dk/madklubben](http://www.bistrobooking.dk/madklubben)). Both days, Michael will meet you at the hotel at 18.30 and take you to the restaurant.

**Contact:** In case of problems while in Copenhagen, feel free to contact one of the organisers. Phone numbers are found below.
Map

Copenhagen Central Station
Hotel Danmark
The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters

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Organisers

David Bloch
Jakob Leth Fink
Russell L. Friedman
Heine Hansen
Ana María Mora-Márquez
Michael Stenskjær Christensen (student assistant)

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