

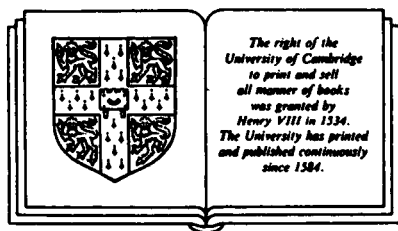
Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-42246-8 - A. J. Ayer: Memorial Essays  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

# A. J. Ayer Memorial Essays

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY SUPPLEMENT: 30

EDITED BY

A. Phillips Griffiths



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE  
NEW YORK PORT CHESTER MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-42246-8 - A. J. Ayer: Memorial Essays  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RP  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Victoria 3166, Australia

© The Royal Institute of Philosophy 1991

*A catalogue record for this book is available  
from the British Library*

ISBN 0 521 42246 9 (paperback)

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data*

A. J. Ayer memorial essays/edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
p. cm.

Also published as second 1991 supplement to the journal  
Philosophy and as v. 30 in the series

Royal Institute of Philosophy lecture series.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 42246 9

1. Ayer, A. J. (Alfred Jules), 1910– . 2. Philosophy  
I. Ayer, A. J. (Alfred Jules), 1910– . II. Griffiths A.  
Phillips.

B1618.A94A63 1991  
192-dc20

91-32637  
CIP

*Origination by Michael Heath Ltd, Reigate, Surrey  
Printed in Great Britain by the University Press, Cambridge*

## Contents

Preface	v
A Defence of Empiricism A. J. AYER	1
Ayer: the Man, the Philosopher, the Teacher RICHARD WOLLHEIM	17
Ayer's Place in the History of Philosophy ANTHONY QUINTON	31
AYER'S ATTACK ON METAPHYSICS D. M. MACKINNON	49
Ayer and World Views FREDERICK COPLESTON	63
Language, Newspeak and Logic S. R. SUTHERLAND	77
On the relation between Common Sense, Science and Metaphysics STEPHAN KÖRNER	89
Logical Positivism and Intentionality HILARY PUTNAM	105
Probability and the Evidence of our Senses D. H. MELLOR	117
Seeing Qualia and Positing the World TED HONDERICH	129
Three Varieties of Knowledge DONALD DAVIDSON	153
The Importance of 'If' JOHN WATLING	167
Ayer's Ethical Theory: Emotivism or Subjectivism? DAVID WIGGINS	181
	iii

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-42246-8 - A. J. Ayer: Memorial Essays  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## **Contents**

<b>Subjectivism and Toleration</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>BERNARD WILLIAMS</b>	
<b>An Interview with A. J. Ayer</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>TED HONDERICH</b>	
<b>Notes on Contributors</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>237</b>

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-42246-8 - A. J. Ayer: Memorial Essays  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## Preface

Sir Alfred Jules Ayer was for many years a member of the Council of the Royal Institute, and gave generously of his help and advice. It was therefore particularly fitting—while appropriate, in any case, for one of the most distinguished British philosophers of this century—that the Institute should devote its annual lecture series of 1990–1991 to his memory; and it is on these lectures that the essays in this volume are based.

The first lecture, ‘A Defence of Empiricism’ by Ayer himself, was written to be given to the closing plenary session of the quinquennial World Congress of Philosophy held in Brighton in 1988. He was not well enough to travel from the south of France to be present at the Congress, but very readily gave his permission for the lecture to be read for him. We judged that he would have been equally pleased for it to be read again as the first in the series of his own memorial lectures. It is printed here for the first time with the kind permission of his executors, Lady Ayer and Professor Ted Honderich.

We have also included in this volume the transcript of a broadcast interview with Ayer by Ted Honderich, now printed for the first time. We are most grateful to Professor Honderich for making this available to us.