

Cavell's *Must We Mean What We Say?* at 50

In 1969 Stanley Cavell's *Must We Mean What We Say?* revolutionized philosophy of ordinary language, aesthetics, ethics, tragedy, literature, music, art criticism, and modernism. This volume of new essays offers a multifaceted exploration of Cavell's first and most important book, fifty years after its publication. The key subjects which animate Cavell's book are explored in detail: ordinary language, aesthetics, modernism, skepticism, forms of life, philosophy and literature, tragedy and the self, the questions of voice and audience, jazz and sound, Wittgenstein, Austin, Beckett, Kierkegaard, Shakespeare. The essays make Cavell's complex style and sometimes difficult thought accessible to a new generation of students and scholars. They offer a way into Cavell's unique philosophical voice, conveying its seminal importance as an intellectual intervention in American thought and culture, and showing how its philosophical radicality remains of lasting significance for contemporary philosophy, American philosophy, literary studies, and cultural studies.

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Abbreviations for Cavell's Works

CHU	<i>Conditions Handsome and Unhandsome: The Constitution of Emersonian Perfectionism</i> (University of Chicago Press, 1990).
CR	<i>The Claim of Reason: Wittgenstein, Skepticism, Morality, and Tragedy</i> , new edn (Oxford University Press, 1999; 1st edn 1979).
CW	<i>Cities of Words: Pedagogical Letters on a Register of the Moral Life</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004).
DK	<i>Disowning Knowledge in Seven Plays of Shakespeare</i> , updated edn (Cambridge University Press, 2003; 1st edn 1987).
LDIK	<i>Little Did I Know: Excerpts from Memory</i> (Stanford University Press, 2010).
MWM	<i>Must We Mean What We Say?</i> , 2nd edn (Cambridge University Press, 2002; 1st edn 1969).
PDAT	<i>Philosophy the Day after Tomorrow</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005).
PP	<i>A Pitch of Philosophy: Autobiographical Exercises</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994).
PH	<i>Pursuits of Happiness: The Hollywood Comedy of Remarriage</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981).
SW	<i>The Senses of Walden</i> , expanded edn (University of Chicago Press, 1992; 1st edn 1972).
TNYUA	<i>This New Yet Unapproachable America: Lectures after Emerson after Wittgenstein</i> (University of Chicago Press, 1989).
WV	<i>The World Viewed: Reflections on the Ontology of Film</i> (New York: Viking, 1971).