Session 2

INTRODUCTION

Mr M. Irwin (Chairman)

Raymond Williams is a man of many parts: Professor of Drama at Cambridge; novelist, critic and a cultural historian in the broadest sense of that term. The first building on the campus of the University of Kent was Eliot College. If, at the time it was erected, we had buried a time capsule underneath, there would surely have been inside, along with T. S. Eliot's toothpick and the wheel of a Moultan bicycle, a copy of Raymond Williams's *Culture and Society*, because this was one of the basic texts of the University. It was one of the very few books which seemed to point to the kind of relationship between disciplines that we sought to foster. Some of you may think that Raymond Williams has a lot to answer for (!), but it is a pleasure to have him here to talk on the subject of the significance of the Bloomsbury Group as a social and cultural phenomenon.