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# Wittgenstein After His *Nachlass*

Edited by

Nuno Venturinha

*New University of Lisbon, Portugal*

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# Series Editor's Foreword

During the first half of the twentieth century analytic philosophy gradually established itself as the dominant tradition in the English-speaking world, and over the last few decades it has taken firm root in many other parts of the world. There has been increasing debate over just what 'analytic philosophy' means, as the movement has ramified into the complex tradition that we know today, but the influence of the concerns, ideas and methods of early analytic philosophy on contemporary thought is indisputable. All this has led to greater self-consciousness among analytic philosophers about the nature and origins of their tradition, and scholarly interest in its historical development and philosophical foundations has blossomed in recent years, with the result that history of analytic philosophy is now recognized as a major field of philosophy in its own right.

The main aim of the series in which the present book appears, the first series of its kind, is to create a venue for work on the history of analytic philosophy, consolidating the area as a major field of philosophy and promoting further research and debate. The 'history of analytic philosophy' is understood broadly, as covering the period from the last three decades of the nineteenth century to the start of the twenty-first century, beginning with the work of Frege, Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein, who are generally regarded as its main founders, and the influences upon them, and going right up to the most recent developments. In allowing the 'history' to extend to the present, the aim is to encourage engagement with contemporary debates in philosophy, for example, in showing how the concerns of early analytic philosophy relate to current concerns. In focusing on analytic philosophy, the aim is not to exclude comparisons with other – earlier or contemporary – traditions, or consideration of figures or themes that some might regard as marginal to the analytic tradition but which also throw light on analytic philosophy. Indeed, a further aim of the series is to deepen our understanding of the broader context in which analytic philosophy developed, by looking, for example, at the roots of analytic philosophy in neo-Kantianism or British idealism, or the connections between analytic philosophy and phenomenology, or discussing the work of philosophers who were important in the development of analytic philosophy but who are now often forgotten.



This book focuses on the writings of Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951), and in particular, on his *Nachlass* – the material that was left unpublished on his death. Wittgenstein is a central figure in the history of analytic philosophy, and (in the view of many) the greatest philosopher of the twentieth century, but his work has provoked enormous debate and controversy. He published only one book in his lifetime, the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, which appeared in German in 1921 and in its first English translation in 1922. Influenced by Frege and Russell, in particular, he offered a critique of their philosophy and articulated some characteristic ideas of his own. Those ideas in turn influenced the further development of Russell's views and a whole generation of other British philosophers as well as members of the Vienna Circle. Wittgenstein claimed in the preface to the *Tractatus* to have solved, 'on all essential points', the problems of philosophy, and gave up philosophy for a while as a result. Partly stimulated by his contact with members of the Vienna Circle, however, he returned to philosophy at the end of the 1920s, and began to question some of the assumptions of the *Tractatus* and to criticize and rethink his ideas.

From then on, until his death in 1951, Wittgenstein wrote on numerous topics in the philosophy of language, logic, mathematics and mind, as well as on personal and wider social and cultural matters. He made several attempts to organize his philosophical remarks into a book; but what we now know as the *Philosophical Investigations* was only published posthumously in 1953, edited by two of his students, Elizabeth Anscombe and Rush Rhees, and translated by Anscombe. Since then, a whole host of further material has appeared: edited selections of his remarks and letters (including from his early period), and notes taken at his lectures and in conversations. Questions have inevitably been asked about their reliability, however, and about the editorial decisions that have been made. Wittgenstein revised his remarks over and over again as he continually rethought and developed his ideas, so a single remark or passage can never be taken out of context and assumed to represent his view. He also saw connections between the various issues on which he worked – most notably, in the areas of philosophy of mind and philosophy of mathematics. What became the *Philosophical Investigations*, for example, was originally envisaged as including material on the foundations of mathematics, but this was not included in the book that Anscombe and Rhees edited, so little sense of the connections Wittgenstein saw can be gained. All this has made it difficult to interpret and assess his philosophy.

In 2000 an electronic edition of Wittgenstein's *Nachlass* was completed, the result of a major project at the University of Bergen, which made available to scholars the full range of his writings (as known then), with indications of the various changes to the texts and their compositional history. In 2004 the Innsbruck electronic edition of Wittgenstein's correspondence was also published. Since then further material has come to light, and is currently being edited, including extensive notes made by Wittgenstein's friends Francis Skinner and Yorick Smythies. There are also plans for a new Bergen electronic edition, to include 'interactive dynamic editing'. These events, and their implications for our understanding of Wittgenstein's philosophy and his method of writing, are the subject of this book. Several of the papers describe the editorial projects themselves (Chapters 4, 5 and 10), others are concerned with Wittgenstein's method of composition, including his use of coded remarks (Chapters 1, 2 and 3), while the remainder illustrate the light that is thrown on his ideas by detailed knowledge of his *Nachlass*. Also included, as appendices, are two short texts by Wittgenstein which appear here for the first time in English translation: some notes dictated to Frank Ramsey in 1929 and a preface to the *Philosophical Investigations* drafted in 1938. Although only a handful of scholars have so far made proper use of his *Nachlass* in working on Wittgenstein's philosophy, this volume demonstrates just what a rich and valuable resource it is, when used with sensitivity to the compositional history of his remarks and the complex style of his writing.

Michael Beaney  
November 2009

# Acknowledgements

This book has its origins in a conference of the same title that took place at the New University of Lisbon, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, in May 2008. The conference was made possible by generous funding, for which I am very grateful, from the Institute of Philosophy of Language and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. I began to discuss the idea of a conference on Wittgenstein's *Nachlass* with Alois Pichler some time ago, and I am indebted to him for his comments and suggestions as well as to António Marques and João Sâágua for overall support. Most of the chapters in the book were presented, in earlier versions, at the conference, with the remainder being solicited shortly thereafter. When putting together this collection, I included two texts by Wittgenstein which had not been published in English before. The first is among the Frank Ramsey Papers housed at the University of Pittsburgh, Archives of Scientific Philosophy. I thank Brigitta Arden and the Head of Special Collections as well as Brigitte Parakenings from the Philosophical Archive of the University of Konstanz for all their kindness and help. The document is published by permission of the University of Pittsburgh (all rights reserved). The second text comes from the Wittgenstein Papers housed at the Austrian National Library, Vienna. I thank Brigitte Mersich and the Director of the Collection of Manuscripts and Old Printings for kindly allowing me to consult and reproduce the document. I am also deeply indebted to the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, holders of the Wittgenstein copyright in general, for permission to publish both documents. In particular, I wish to thank David McKittrick and Jonathan Smith (Trinity College Library), Peter Hacker (St John's College, Oxford) and Joachim Schulte (University of Zurich). Finally, I would like to thank Vanessa Boutefeu and Priya Venkat for their devoted editorial assistance.

Nuno Venturinha  
October 2009

# Abbreviations of Wittgenstein's Texts

- AWL *Wittgenstein's Lectures: Cambridge, 1932–1935*, from the notes of A. Ambrose and M. Macdonald, ed. A. Ambrose (Oxford: Blackwell, 1979).
- BBB *The Blue and Brown Books: Preliminary Studies for the 'Philosophical Investigations'*, 2nd edn, ed. R. Rhees (Oxford: Blackwell, 1969).
- BEE *Wittgenstein's Nachlass: The Bergen Electronic Edition*, ed. Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). (Numbers of manuscripts (MSS) and typescripts (TSS) are according to G. H. von Wright's catalogue.)
- BT *The Big Typescript: TS 213*, ed. C. G. Luckhardt and M. A. E. Aue (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005).
- CV *Culture and Value: A Selection from the Posthumous Remains*, rev. 2nd edn (by A. Pichler), ed. G. H. von Wright in collaboration with H. Nyman, trans. P. Winch (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998).
- DB *Denkbewegungen: Tagebücher 1930–1932, 1936–1937 (MS 183)*, vol. 1, ed. I. Somavilla (Innsbruck: Haymon, 1997); English translation, *Movements of Thought: Diaries 1930–1932, 1936–1937*, in PPO, 3–255.
- EPB 'Eine Philosophische Betrachtung', ed. R. Rhees, in *Werkausgabe*, vol. 5 (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1984), 117–237.
- GB *Gesamtbriefwechsel: Innsbrucker elektronische Ausgabe*, ed. M. Seekircher, B. McGuinness and A. Unterkircher (Charlottesville: InteLex Corporation, 2004).
- GTB *Geheime Tagebücher 1914–1916*, 3rd edn, ed. W. Baum (Vienna: Turia & Kant, 1992).
- LC *Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief*, compiled from the notes taken by Y. Smithies, R. Rhees and J. Taylor, ed. C. Barrett (Oxford: Blackwell, 1966).

- LE *Lecture on Ethics: Introduction, Interpretation and Complete Text*, ed. E. Zamuner, E. V. Di Lascio and D. Levy (Macerata: Quodlibet, 2007).
- LFM *Wittgenstein's Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics: Cambridge 1939*, from the notes of R. G. Bosanquet, N. Malcolm, R. Rhees and Y. Smythies, ed. C. Diamond (Ithaca, N. Y.: Cornell University Press, 1976).
- LPP *Wittgenstein's Lectures on Philosophical Psychology 1946–47*, notes by P. T. Geach, K. J. Shah and A. C. Jackson, ed. P. T. Geach (New York: Harvester Press, 1988).
- LW I *Last Writings on the Philosophy of Psychology: Preliminary Studies for Part II of Philosophical Investigations*, vol. I, ed. G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, trans. C. G. Luckhardt and M. A. E. Aue (Oxford: Blackwell, 1982).
- LW II *Last Writings on the Philosophy of Psychology: The Inner and the Outer 1949–1951*, vol. II, ed. G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, trans. C. G. Luckhardt and M. A. E. Aue (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992).
- NB *Notebooks 1914–1916*, 2nd edn, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe and G. H. von Wright, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1979).
- OC *On Certainty*, rev. edn, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe and G. H. von Wright, trans. D. Paul and G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1974).
- PB *Philosophische Bemerkungen*, ed. R. Rhees, in *Werkausgabe*, vol. 2 (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1984).
- PG *Philosophical Grammar*, ed. R. Rhees, trans. A. Kenny (Oxford: Blackwell, 1974).
- PI *Philosophical Investigations*, rev. 2nd edn, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe and R. Rhees, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997).
- PO *Philosophical Occasions 1912–1951*, ed. J. C. Klagge and A. Nordmann (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993).
- PPO *Public and Private Occasions*, ed. J. C. Klagge and A. Nordmann (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).
- PR *Philosophical Remarks*, ed. R. Rhees, trans. R. Hargreaves and R. White (Oxford: Blackwell, 1975).
- PT *Prototractatus: An early version of Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, rev. edn, ed. B. F. McGuinness, T. Nyberg and G. H. von Wright, trans. D. F. Pears and B. F. McGuinness (London: Routledge, 1996).

- PU 1979 *Philosophische Untersuchungen: Frühversion 1937–1938*, ed. G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, in *Helsinki-Ausgabe* (unpublished).
- PU 1979a *Philosophische Untersuchungen: 'Mittelversion' (1945)*, ed. G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, in *Helsinki-Ausgabe* (unpublished).
- PU 2001 *Philosophische Untersuchungen: Kritisch-genetische Edition*, ed. J. Schulte in collaboration with H. Nyman, E. von Savigny and G. H. von Wright (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2001).
- PU 2003 *Philosophische Untersuchungen*, ed. J. Schulte (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2003).
- RC *Remarks on Colour*, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe, trans. L. L. McAlister and M. Schättle (Oxford: Blackwell, 1977).
- RFM *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics*, 3rd edn, ed. G. H. von Wright, R. Rhees and G. E. M. Anscombe, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1978).
- RPP I *Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology*, vol. I, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe and G. H. von Wright, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1980).
- RPP II *Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology*, vol. II, ed. G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, trans. C. G. Luckhardt and M. A. E. Aue (Oxford: Blackwell, 1980).
- TLP *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, rev. edn, trans. C. K. Ogden (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1933).
- VW *The Voices of Wittgenstein: The Vienna Circle*, by L. Wittgenstein and F. Waismann, ed. G. Baker, trans. G. Baker, M. Mackert, J. Connolly and V. Politis (London: Routledge, 2003).
- WC *Wittgenstein in Cambridge: Letters and Documents 1911–1951*, ed. B. McGuinness (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008)
- WVC *Wittgenstein and the Vienna Circle*, conversations recorded by F. Waismann, ed. B. McGuinness, trans. J. Schulte and B. McGuinness (Oxford: Blackwell, 1979).
- Z *Zettel*, 2nd edn, ed. G. E. M. Anscombe and G. H. von Wright, trans. G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1981).

# Notes on Contributors

**Luciano Bazzocchi** worked for 20 years on knowledge engineering and artificial intelligence after taking a degree in Philosophy of Science at the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa. He built and applied several expert systems for medical and legal diagnosis, and published scientific reports and a series of 'Notes on Artificial Intelligence' in technical journals. Afterwards he returned to philosophy and received a PhD from Pisa University, analysing the formal structure of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*. His current interests include the genesis and development of Wittgenstein's works and manuscripts.

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**Josef G. F. Rothhaupt** is a lecturer at the Department of Philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich. He studied Philosophy, Art History, Ethnology and Theology in Mainz, Munich, Dublin, Bergen and Cambridge. His PhD thesis in Philosophy was on the theme of colour in Wittgenstein's papers. His *Habilitation* is also on Wittgenstein's work, more specifically the creation, selection and composition of his philosophical remarks. As one of the founders of the International Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, he is co-editor of the *Wittgenstein-Jahrbuch* and the *Wittgenstein-Studien*. His books include *Farbthemen in Wittgensteins Gesamtnachlass* (1996) and *Kreation und Komposition. Studien zu Wittgensteins Nachlass – 1929–1933* (forthcoming). His current research focuses primarily on a detailed reconstruction of the genesis of Wittgenstein's *Nachlass*.

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editions of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1989) and *Philosophical Investigations* (2001). In recent years, he has chiefly worked on Wittgenstein's middle period.

**Ilse Somavilla** has been a researcher at the Brenner Archives Research Institute at the University of Innsbruck since 1990. Prior to that, she received a doctorate for her dissertation on Wittgenstein, following studies in English, philosophy and psychology. Her research, published in several articles, has focused on Wittgenstein, especially on the ethical and religious aspects of his work. At the Archives, she has compiled and edited several critical editions of his letters and writings, including *Denkbewegungen: Tagebücher 1930–1932, 1936–1937* (1997), *Wittgenstein: Licht und Schatten* (2004) and, with Brian McGuinness, *Wittgenstein-Engelmann: Briefe, Begegnungen, Erinnerungen* (2006).

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