

EDWARD HARRY MADDEN
for the William James Society
Washington, DC, December 2006

Edward Harry Madden died on 25 November 2006 in White River Junction, Vermont, after a brief illness. He had participated in the present renaissance of American philosophy from its beginning, contributing much to it along the way.

Ed Madden was born in Gary, Indiana, on 18 May 1925. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1946, and completed his M.A. there the following year with a thesis entitled: "The Critical Pragmatism of Chauncey Wright and Its Prefiguration of Pragmatism." In many ways this thesis was a prefiguring of his own philosophical career which, although it ranged widely across American philosophy, the philosophy of science, the philosophy of psychology, and the philosophy of religion, continually returned to the thought of Wright C whom he called "the senior member" of the Metaphysical Club C and his role in the later development of Pragmatism.

Ed completed his Ph.D. in 1950 with Gustav Bergmann at the University of Iowa, writing a dissertation entitled: "An Examination of Gestalt Theory." His teaching career included nine years at the University of Connecticut (1950-59), five years at San Jose State College (1959-64), and sixteen years at SUNY/Buffalo (1964-1980). Interspersed among these positions were semesters or years at: Brown University (1954-55), Wesleyan University (1958, 1959), Amherst College (1962-63), the University of Toronto (1967), the American University of Beirut (1969-70), and Oxford University (1978).

After his "retirement" from Buffalo, Ed spent a year at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton (1980-81), and then settled into a position as research scholar at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. Soon after, he began to teach part-time at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, a service that he continued until 1994. In 2000, Ed retired to Vermont.

Although far from a narrow William James specialist, Ed's work on James was broad and deep. He was a member of the editorial board of both the nineteen-volume Harvard University Press edition of *The Works of William James* and the twelve-volume University Press of Virginia edition of *The Correspondence of William James*. For these series, he also wrote the introductory essays for *The Will to Believe* and for volume eight of the *Correspondence*. His other published work includes such volumes as: *Philosophical Problems of Psychology* (1962), *Chauncey Wright and the Foundations of Pragmatism* (1963), *Chauncey Wright* (1964), and *Civil Disobedience and Moral Law in Nineteenth-Century American Philosophy* (1968). Ed also published a series of co-authored volumes, and over one hundred essays. In addition, he edited, or co-edited, a number of other volumes, and served on the editorial boards of such journals as the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* and the *Thoreau Quarterly*.

I met Ed for the first time in late 1976 at Fordham University. He was a distinguished visiting speaker discussing Wright and his interactions with Peirce and James, and I was a doctoral student at Stony Brook trying to make some sense of the will to believe. Through our discussion that evening, and our later correspondence and encounters at conferences, he drew me into a close personal relationship that was for me the most pronounced aspect of his persona. My point in this story is, of course, of no significance except that I was representative of a whole class of younger philosophers who were drawn into Ed's large philosophical family, a fortunate group that shared Ed with Marian, his wife of over sixty years, and his sons Kerry and Dennis.

We will all miss him.

James Campbell
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