The bronze bust of Kenneth Burke sculpted by Virginia Molnar Burks is housed in the Pattee Library at the Pennsylvania State University. Photos are of the clay bust from which the bronze was cast. Taken in 1985 and copyrighted by Virginia Burks, they are used with her permission.

The Kenneth Burke Society’s 4th triennial conference

The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
20-23 May 1999

an agro-bohemian Burke

The bronze bust of Kenneth Burke sculpted by Virginia Molnar Burks is housed in the Pattee Library at the Pennsylvania State University. Photos are of the clay bust from which the bronze was cast. Taken in 1985 and copyrighted by Virginia Burks, they are used with her permission.
Although Kenneth Burke thought it “poetically” true to say, “New York City is in Iowa,” he was quick to acknowledge that it was semantically inaccurate (PLF 144). Soon, however, it will be semantically accurate to say, “The Kenneth Burke Society is in Iowa.” As for poetic truths, several “progressive encompassments” may be anticipated, and “valid insights” may appear as abundantly as flashing fireflies on a midwestern night.

The Kenneth Burke Society’s 4th Triennial Conference convenes from Thursday through Sunday, 20-23 May 1999, at Iowa City campus of the University of Iowa on the theme “Culture, Criticism, Dialectic: Engaging Kenneth Burke.” In keeping with the traditions established at the earlier conferences in New Harmony, Airlie, and Pittsburgh, this year’s conference promises a productive blend of plenary sessions, concurrent panel presentations, and seminar sessions, all bound together in a convivial spirit of co-haggling.

Conference registration will open at 2:00 PM on Thursday at Iowa City’s downtown Holiday Inn. Selections from videos of Burke, including highlights of his “Iowa Interviews,” and other displays will be available throughout the afternoon. A buffet dinner will start about 5:00 PM, followed by seminar sessions. The opening plenary session is scheduled for the Old Senate Chamber of Iowa’s first statehouse 7:30 PM, to be followed by a reception.

Three keynote speakers will help to set the tone for this year’s conference.

**William H. Rueckert** will speak at the opening plenary session Thursday evening on the topic, “A Farewell to Kenneth Burke.” Dr. Rueckert, professor emeritus of English at the State University of New York at Geneso, is well known among Burke scholars for his many important works on Burke, including *Kenneth Burke and the Drama of Human Relations* and *Encounters with Kenneth Burke*. He also compiled and edited *Critical Responses to Kenneth Burke, 1924-1966*. Dr. Rueckert was the first president elected by the Kenneth Burke Society, in 1990, and in 1993 he received the Society’s “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

**Michael Calvin McGee**, professor of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa, will speak Saturday morning on the topic “Burke and Fascism.” A frequent contributor to *The Quarterly Journal of Speech, Communication Monographs*, and many other academic journals, Dr. McGee is an established voice in rhetorical studies.

**Steven Mailloux** will speak Saturday afternoon on the topic “Rhetorical Paths of Thought: Burkean (Dis)Connections.” Professor Mailloux is presently the Acting Director of the Humanities Center at the University of California, Irvine. His long list of publications includes *Rhetorical Power and Reception Histories: Rhetoric, Pragmatism, and American Cultural Politics*.

The program offers concurrent program sessions, with nearly forty competitively selected papers, and an array of topical seminars.

A new feature of this year’s conference will be a series of concurrent “post-prandial parlors” on Saturday. A buffet lunch will meld into a series of loosely structured and guided “conversations” on selected topics that should be of interest. The “parlors” will be in designated locations, and
following lunch—or for those who wish, carrying a sandwich—participants may drift from conversation to conversation (or stay put, as one chooses). Among the various parlors will be found: Jack Selzer and Mike Jackson prompting a conversation on “Organizing Oral Histories of Kenneth Burke”; David Blakesley and Jerald Ross, “Taking Burke On(line)”; Steven Mailloux, Timothy Crusius, and D. Diane Davis, “Burke and Rhetoric 2000”; and J. Clarke Rountree, “Kenneth Burke on Tape” (including a showing of highlights from the Iowa Interviews).

On Friday evening a program of readings, film clips, and anecdotes is planned: Michael Burke and Julie Whitaker are preparing selections from KB’s poetry and prose, J. Clarke Rountree is preparing new video clips, and Elvera Berry will lead what is hoped will become a sharing of anecdotes, recollections, and stories. The Saturday evening banquet, highlighted by Greig Henderson’s “Presidential Address” and the presentation of the Society’s Awards, will be held at the Amana Colonies. The Triennial Business Meeting of the Society will occur during Sunday brunch followed by the closing Roundtable Discussion on the conference theme by the keynote speakers. The Roundtable Discussion concludes at 1:00 PM.

The 1999 Triennial Conference promises to be a challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.

David Blakesley and Jim Klumpp have put together a marvelous program, and Bruce Gronbeck and our Iowa hosts have made most hospitable arrangements for us. I look forward to being with the Kenneth Burke Society in Iowa! I hope to see you there.

If you have not yet enrolled for one of the seminars, but wish to do so, please contact me immediately. It may still be possible to enroll in selected seminars.
Back to Basics: Applying Burkean Thought in the Undergraduate Classroom
Coordinator: Dennis Ciesielski

Burke & American Poetry
Coordinator: Miriam Marty Clark

Burke and Ethics
Coordinator: Timothy Crusius

Burke & American Philosophical Tradition
Coordinator: David L. Hildebrand

Burke, Phenomenology, & Existentialism: Can They Dance?
Coordinator: Wade Kenny

The Enthymeme as the Body of Proof in Burke’s Rhetoric?
Coordinator: Tilly Warnock

Burke & the Rhetoric of the Seen
Coordinator: Bruce Gronbeck

Burke & the Rhetorical Tradition
Coordinator: Michael Leff

Art, Politics, & Social Change: Will the Real K.B. Please Stand Up?
Coordinator: Kathleen Farrell

**SEMINARS**

**Thursday, 20 May 1999**
2:00-7:00  Registration and Conference Information, Holiday Inn

3:00-4:45  Burke-on-Tape Archive Project: Highlights from the “Iowa Interviews” Chuck Elkins interviews Burke And other tapes

5:00-6:15  Buffet and No-host Bar, Holiday Inn

6:30-7:15  Seminars

7:30-8:45  Keynote Address: Senate Chamber, Old Capital Building

7:30 PM

Keynote:

William H. Rueckert
A Farewell to Kenneth Burke
Introduction: Greig Henderson

8:45-9:30  Reception outside the Old Capitol Senate Chamber
I. Terministic Screenings

Perspective by Incongruity in the Exploration and Synthesis of Key Burkean & Ciceronian Terms: Piety and Decorum, Perspective by Incongruity, Burlesque, Frame, and Wit

H. Scott Placke

A Critique of Burke’s Substance?

Steve Long and Bryan Salmons

Contingency, Irony, Metabiology: Richard Rorty, Kenneth Burke, and the Golden Rule

Brent Whitmore

II. In Search of Kenneth Burke: Mining the Archives

Engaging Kenneth Burke: A Report from the Archives

Jack Selzer

The Southern Review Files: Burke and Attitudes Toward History

Ann George

“Dear Fren and Infloonce Person”: Burke and Nemerov in the 1950s

Miriam Marty Clark

III. “That Guy Makes Me Tired”: Burke, Aristotle, and Beyond

Aristotle’s Enthymeme and Burke’s Theory of Form Revisited: Part I

Karen Whedbee

Aristotle’s Enthymeme and Burke’s Theory of Form Revisited: Past II

Don Burks

The Comic Root of Postmodern Kairos

Jeff White

I. Rhetoric and Poetics

Temporizing Election: Burke, Donne, and Courtship of the Eternal

Brent Nelson


Miriam Marty Clark

Gnosis and Nihilism in Under the Volcano: A Meta-Rhetoric of Pure Persuasion

Greig Henderson

II. Thirtysomething Writings

“The engine after long development”: From Towards a Better Life to The Philosophy of Literary Form

Jerald L Ross

Criticism in Context: Kenneth Burke’s “The Rhetoric of Hitler’s Battle”

Garth E. Pauley

Bims and Bams: Style and Argument in Kenneth Burke’s “Semantic and Poetic Meaning”

Patricia Tallakson

III. Presidential (Im)Politics

“The Perfect Enemy”: Clinton, the Contradictions of Capitalism, and Slaying the Sin Within

Virginia Anderson

Clinton’s Search for Symbolic Redemption

Zachary White

A Sense of Telos: Bill Clinton and His Remarks Before the Religious Leaders Breakfast

Tony Brussat
FRIDAY, 21 MAY 1999

7:30-8:30 Coffee and pastries
8:00-5:00 Registration and Conference Information
Display Area: Books, Running Tapes (Iowa Interviews, etc), and artifacts
8:30-10:00 Programs
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-12:00 Seminars
12:00-1:30 Lunch (on your own)
1:30-2:00 Plenary Session:
Tippe Auditorium, Pappajohn Business Administration Building
Welcomes: David Cratis Williams, Bruce Gronbeck, Andrew King
2:00-3:15 Keynote
3:15-4:00 Coffee Break
4:00-5:30 Programs
5:30-8:00 Dinner (on your own)

2:00 PM

KEYNOTE:

MICHAEL CALVIN McGEE
Burke and Fascism

Howling with Kennel Bark: A Miscellany

A KB Sampler, Michael Burke & Julie Whitaker
Burke in Iowa, as you’ve never seen him before:
Takes from the Interviews, J. Clarke Rountree
Definiendum: He’s yet to be defined, Elevra Berry
The audience is invited to share anecdotes, stories, and impressions
Taking Burke On(line)
David Blakesley & Jerald Ross

What sort of web-presence should Burk(i)ean studies have? Who’s on the other end of that Burke-L message? What web-based projects are planned? How can you to help? The coordinators will unveil (in multimedia fashion) several new web-based projects too secret, too important, too surprising to announce early. But in addition, they’d like to discuss with intellectual interlopers some plans for additional projects, the character and future of Burke-L, and the obligatory question, “Just what would ol’ KB say about his virtual identity?”

Burke and Rhetoric 2000
Steven Mailloux, Timothy Crusius, and D. Diane Davis

Burke on Tape
J. Clarke Rountree

Clarke Rountree, who worked on the 1986 University of Iowa interviews with Kenneth Burke (available on eight hours of videotape), will discuss the interview project, identify significant segments for viewing, and direct interested interlocutors to video segments discussing their favorite topics.

Teaching Burke
Donn W. Parson

This conversation concerns the sharing of experiences and ideas regarding teaching Burke. Question might include: does one teach Burke differently to undergraduates? Under what contexts does one teach Burke to undergraduates? Under what contexts to graduates? Is Burke a whole course or part of a course? If part of a course, what else goes into the course? Are different disciplinary interests at stake in teaching Burke?

Organizing Oral Histories of Kenneth Burke
Jack Selzer and Mike Jackson

Jack Selzer of Pennsylvania State University will lead a discussion of the possibility of organizing a KB Oral History Project—an effort to obtain first-person recollections of KB from former colleagues, associates, family, friends, and students. Mike Jackson, a doctoral student at Rensselaer Poly-technic, will present a short example of what such an effort might generate: an account of his interview with Ben Belitt, a poet and colleague of Burke’s in the ’30s and later a faculty colleague at Bennington.
I. Burke Among the Philosophers

Representation, Repetition, and the Political Unconscious: Burke and Marx’s *Eighteenth Brumaire*
Tom Carmichael

Perspectives: Nietzsche and Burke
*Gary Scott Groce*

Interrogated by the Response:
Kenneth Burke and Jacques Derrida
*C. Allen Carter*

II. Writing Women In: Critical & Theoretical Feminist Applications of Burkean Theory

Transforming Sexism:
Impiety and Perspective by Incongruity
*Keri A. Bodensteiner*

The Citadel’s Response to Harassment
Allegations: Burke’s Pentad as a Grounding of Ideographs
*Julie Davis*

Between Persuasion and Invitation: Burkean Identification as an Inclusive Theory of Persuasion
*Sarah T. Partlow*

Logology: A Feminist Application of Burke’s Method
*Valerie Renegar*

Burke, the Paradox of Identification and Intersectionality of Race and Gender
*Stacey Sowards*

Respondent: *Ekaterina Haskins*

III. Interfacing

The Kenneth Burke-Malcom Cowley Correspondence
*L. W. Rosenfield*

Burke to Basics: Dialogue and Cultural Studies in the First-Year Writing Program
*Dennis Ciesielski*

Burke and the Web: Determining Motive in the Click of the Mouse
*Isabel Pederson and Neil Randall*

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**SATURDAY, 22 MAY 1999**

2:30-3:45  **Keynote**

3:45-4:00  Coffee Break

4:00-5:30  **Seminars**

6:00  Vans depart for Amana Colonies

6:30-7:00  Cocktails

7:00-9:30  Dinner and Awards Banquet:

**STEVEN MAILLOUX**

Rhetorical Paths of Thought: Burkean (Dis)connections

*Introduction: David Blakesley*

**2:30 PM KEYNOTE**
SATURDAY, 22 MAY 1999

30-7:00 Cocktails
7:00-9:30 Dinner & Awards

7:00 PM BANQUET, OX YOKE INN:

ANDREW KING
President, Kenneth Burke Society
A Summing Up

GREIG HENDERSON
President-Elect, Burke Society
A Presidential Address

CHRIS CARTER, AWARDS
All activities will be at the Holiday Inn

8:00-8:30  Coffee
8:00-10:15  Registration/Information Display Room
8:30-10:00  Programs
10:00-11:30  Business Meeting/Buffet
11:45-1:00  Roundtable Discussion

11:45 AM

ROUNDTABLE:

Culture, Criticism, Dialectic: Engaging Kenneth Burke

Barbara A. Biesecker
Steven Mailloux
Michael Calvin McGee
William H. Rueckert
Robert Wess
Moderator: James Klumpp

Sunday, 23 May 1999

9:30 AM PROGRAMS

I. Burke and “Everyday Life”: Health, Happiness & “The Good Life” in Consumer Culture

Purification through Simplification: Cutting Down, Scaling Back, Opting Out, Phyllis M. Japp

Burke’s “Good Life” & the TV Food Network, Mark Meister

“Caring Enough” to Purchase a Sentiment: A Burkean Analysis of Greeting Cards, Diana Rehling

Technology as “Representative Anecdote” in Popular Discourses of Health and Medicine, Lynn Harder

II. Don’t Be a Freud in the Dark

Norman Douglas’ Nerinda and Kenneth Burke, Donald Jennermann

The Rhetoric of Desire: Burke’s Freud as Dialectician, Ellen Quandahl

Kenneth Burke & the Psychology of Identification, Edward Berlinski

III. Enculturation

The Dialectic of John Locke’s Constitution Then & Now; or The Turn from Enlightenment to Post-Enlightenment Culture, Robert Wess

Motivating the Molten Mass of Humanity in Defense of Cultural Obsolescence: Kenneth Burke on Altering Cultural Paradigms, Amy Sileven

Kenneth Burke’s Rhetorical Aesthetic and the Scope of Public Discourse, Gregory Clark
KBSNews and Announcements

The Society has posted an extensive website under the Newsletter Editor's supervision; news, announcements, archives, and much more can be found at the internet address www.home.duq.edu/~thames/kennethburke. Because of difficulties with the server, users have had problems accessing and surfing the site. Another address will be posted once the files have been moved to a new machine the department has purchased to function as the server. The web page will be completely redesigned beginning this May.

Conference Registration/Information

Conference registration is $130. The fee covers Thursday eve buffet and reception, Friday and Saturday continental breakfasts, Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch, Saturday night banquet and transportation, Friday through Sunday coffee breaks. Checks should be made payable to the Center for Conferences and Institutes and mailed to 249 IMU, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1317 (phone 319-335-3231; fax 319-335-3533; e-mail conferences@uiowa.edu). For phone reservations please call 1-800-551-9029.

Rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn, 210 South Dubuque Stree, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (phone: 319-337-4058; fax 319-337-9045). Mention the KBS Conference when making reservations. Rates are $70 a single, $75 for a double plus tax per night.

To get to the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU) take exit 244 from I-80 to Dubuque. Follow Dubuque south to Market. Turn right, follow Market west to Madison. Parking is on Madison at the IMU Parking Ramp and the North Campus Ramp ($6.00/hour, $6.00/day). For overflow parking municipal ramps are at the corners of Capital & Burlington and Dubuque & Burlington.

K•B•S•NOTEBOOK

The Editor wishes to apologize for listing the last KBSN volume number incorrectly as #11. The volume should have been #12 and the issue #1, October 1998; the current issue is #2, April 1999. Volumes are now numbered triennially from convention to convention.