

FOREWORD

When *The Centre National de Recherches de Logique*, in the person of Jean Paul van Bendegem, invited me onto the *Logique et Analyse* team last year, my first question was “Can I be a guest editor for a special number — a festschrift for Max Cresswell?”

The production of Festschriften is always an uneasy tug-of-war between — on the one hand — the endeavour to cover all of the celebrand’s areas of interest with appropriate contributions from their students, colleagues and admirers; and on the other hand the demands of secrecy and security entailed by the desire to spring on the victim a pleasant surprise.

Max went to Victoria University College in Wellington in 1957 to study law and was distracted first by theatre (he played Gwen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* — which gave him an opportunity to acquire performance skills which he has put to use both inside and outside the lecture hall) and then by Logic. His interest in modal logic was kindled when his professor, George Hughes, showed him a copy of Von Wright’s “Essay in Modal Logic”. It was reinforced by his reading Arthur Prior’s “Formal Logic” a year later. After writing a Masters thesis on “Investigations in Modal Logic, with Attention to Relations Between Quantifiers and Modal Operators,” he won a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1961 to study with Prior at Manchester. Returning to a lectureship at Victoria, he began the collaboration with Hughes that produced the book from which the world first learned modal logic: “An Introduction to Modal Logic” (1968). This pedagogy was continued with “A Companion to Modal Logic” (1984) and “A New Introduction to Modal Logic” (1996). Max’s technical achievements include introduction of the Henkin completeness method for the relational semantics for quantificational modal logics, as well as incompleteness proofs for some such systems; semantics for Lewis’s S1; and many innovations and improvements in the metatheory of modal logic.

He visited UCLA in 1969–70 where he heard Richard Montague talking about the formal semantics of natural language. He was stimulated to develop his own semantical theory, which has evolved through numerous articles and seven books so far, covering such topics as belief reports, quantification, anaphora, negation, indexicality and the treatment of tenses.

On taking early retirement from his incredibly productive years at Victoria he started to travel much more widely, and his addresses are now nearly as diverse as his intellectual interests. These interests are diverse indeed and include Greek philosophy, Locke, and philosophy of mind. His versatility is an example to us all. Over the period of Max's career the scope and application of Logic has been changing progressively, and its study is no longer confined to Philosophy and Mathematics departments. Max is one of the initiators of the modern custom that has logic used and studied not only in these two traditional areas but in computer science and linguistics as well. This multifurcation causes a certain amount of confusion in the minds of those of us who would like to be able to make original contributions in all of Mathematics, Logic, Philosophy and Linguistics, and to be accepted as mathematicians by the mathematicians, as linguists by the linguists and so on. What are we? Cresswell's Test is one rule of thumb that can be invoked: "The difference between logicians and mathematicians is that logicians understand the use-mention distinction!". Interestingly — despite understanding the use-mention distinction himself — Max has always been adamant that he is a philosopher.

New Zealand has produced logicians on a scale quite out of proportion to its population: Prior, Montgomery, Routley, Bull, Goldblatt, ... and Max himself is the most senior active member of this New Zealand gathering, and represents well that Kiwi peculiarity among logicians of a taste for modal logic.

But there is a larger canvas to which he has brought not only Kiwi tastes in Logic, but the virtues that visitors and adoptive Kiwis alike treasure in their hosts. They are a friendly, resourceful and pragmatic people. Max has all of these, and — like the rest of his compatriots, but more remarkably, given his status and distinction — he remains utterly unstuffy.

It is our privilege to present this volume of essays to one who has given us all such pleasure and companionship over many years. We know it will not go to his head.

Thomas Forster