

INTRODUCTION

Arthur Prior's *Time and Modality* was published in 1957. In the 50 years since that time, modal and tense logic and their philosophical applications have developed in ways which must surely have gladdened his heart. Prior is widely regarded as the founder of tense logic, and as one of the early pioneers of modern modal logic. He was a philosopher who delighted in the exchange of views, and we are sure that he would have welcomed the fact that areas of philosophy so dear to him are still vigorously debated today. The essays in this issue, many of them from philosophers currently working in the country of Prior's birth, and in which he spent the formative part of his philosophical career, pay tribute to Prior in two ways. Some of them are concerned with Prior's attitude to the nature of logic, and its role in philosophy. Other contributions show how the topics that interested Prior have developed into some of the most important current mainstream areas of philosophical work. All of the contributions, in one way or another, establish the importance of comparing time with modality. In reading Prior's work, one is struck by the way in which he found that historical controversies illuminated issues in time and modality. That interest is reflected in this volume by articles that reach from Parmenides in ancient Greece to metaphysicians of the 21st century. We shall let the articles speak for themselves, in what we hope is a fitting tribute to one of the great philosopher logicians of the last 100 years.

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