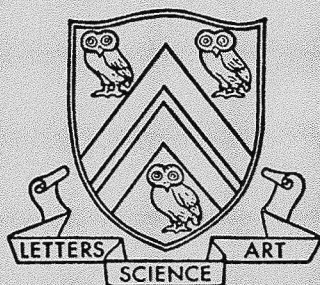


RICE UNIVERSITY STUDIES



CREATIVITY AND OPENNESS

Essays in honor of
JAMES STREET FULTON

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JAMES STREET FULTON

An educator's sphere of influence has several dimensions. He can be active as a teacher, a scholar, an administrator. James Street Fulton's contributions cover all three dimensions.

As administrator, he served as the Chairman of the Philosophy Department at Rice for twelve years, from 1956 to 1968, and also was called upon twice, for brief periods, to perform the duties of the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition, as the first Master of Will Rice College, he helped install the college system at Rice and watched over its evolution from 1956 to 1969. Hundreds of former members of that college remember Street and Edythe Fulton with affection. He now holds the title of Honorary Master of Will Rice, and the College presents an annual Fulton Award to a member who has done outstanding service to the College.

As scholar, Dr. Fulton has written over a dozen philosophical articles (two of which have been reprinted) and one book, in 1955, entitled *Science and Man's Hope*. Over the years he was active in the Southwestern Philosophical Society, serving as President in 1957. As a mark of the esteem in which he is held by its members, the Society arranged, upon his retirement from Rice in 1974, a special symposium in his honor at the annual meeting.

The wider philosophical community also made use of Dr. Fulton's talents from time to time. He was asked to participate in a symposium held by the Southern Methodist University Law School on "Responsibility in Law and in Morals." On another occasion, he was invited to give the main address at the dedication of the Oklahoma Art Center. That address was entitled "An Invitation to the Enjoyment of Learning" and was published subsequent to its presentation in Oklahoma City on December 5, 1958. For several years he participated in the University of New Mexico's Taos Aesthetics Institute, held each June. During his most recent sabbatical leave he presented a paper on American philosophy at the University of Vienna, Austria, and at the University of Regensburg, Germany.

As teacher, Professor Fulton knew how to communicate his love of philosophy. For years he taught an introductory course which commonly drew praise from students who, while concentrating on other subjects, were concerned to gain some insight into the special character of philosophical thinking; but Dr.

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Fulton's special gift is the ability to convey the excitement of gaining comprehension of great ideas to students seriously interested in making philosophy their main academic concern. Many philosophy majors and graduate students learned what philosophy really is by meeting frequently with Dr. Fulton in formal and informal explorations, which were always intense but fairminded, never pedantic, and not the less serious for a frequent touch of humor.

The strong personal impact of Professor Fulton's teaching on many of his students was one of the reasons for giving this *Festschrift* its format. We thought it fitting to invite papers from holders of our Rice Ph.D. degrees who studied in his courses and seminars and in some cases wrote dissertations under his direction, and who now hold teaching positions in various universities. It is important to note in this connection that graduate instruction leading to the doctor's degree in Philosophy was introduced and organized at Rice under Dr. Fulton's chairmanship.

Dr. Fulton received his B.A. degree, with a major in mathematics, from Vanderbilt University in 1925. He returned a year later to begin studying for an M.A. in philosophy, which was granted in 1929 after an interval including a year at the University of Göttingen. He received the Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Cornell University in 1934. His first teaching appointment, at McGill University, in Montreal, was cut short by service in the Canadian Navy from 1943 to 1945. Immediately upon receiving his discharge from the Navy, he joined the staff of the Shrivenham American University, established in England by the United States State Department for our soldiers after the fall of Germany. There he found himself a colleague of Professor Radoslav A. Tsanoff, who invited him to join the Rice faculty. Their life-long professional association and personal friendship culminated in an invitation to Dr. Fulton to deliver the first annual Tsanoff Lecture in Humanities at Rice, on April 4, 1975. Since that lecture (from which we have borrowed the title for this collection of papers) is a good example of Dr. Fulton's philosophical interests and style, we thought it should be included in this volume. The lecture thus becomes permanently accessible to members of the general community and to philosophers interested in the topic to which the lecture makes a contribution.

The lecture moves in the territory in which the author is most at home: contemporary Continental European and American philosophy. Ever since he included a chapter on Husserl in his doctoral dissertation, he has continued to think, teach, and write on subjects arising from the phenomenological approach to experience. But his philosophical horizon is not limited by this particular school of thought. Throughout his career at Rice he taught courses covering a wide spectrum of philosophical thought, from Plato to Whitehead, including such other "footnotes" to Plato as Kant and Hegel.

JAMES STREET FULTON

Those of us who had the privilege of being Dr. Fulton's students and colleagues cannot think of philosophical problems without being instructively and constructively reminded of the ways in which he conceived of them. I believe that the contributions which follow bear witness to this claim.

KONSTANTIN KOLEND
EDITOR