**Glasgow 2015: Conference Report by Christopher Bertram**

In recent years there has been a flurry of new scholarship on the intellectual relationship between Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Adam Smith, with works by scholars such as Ryan Hanley, Charles Griswold, Denis Rasmussen and Istvan Hont appearing. That there was some connection has long been known, as Smith famously reviewed the Discourse on Inequality for the Edinburgh Review and incorporates some of that work in The Theory of Moral Sentiments, but it has only recently that an intellectual industry has sprung up. The conference was an opportunity to explore that alleged link and, as such, it was a welcome one.

The conference marked an unprecedented departure for the Rousseau Association also, as it was the first time we have co-sponsored a conference in place of our biennial colloquium and the event departed from our usual practice in a number of ways, with the topic being less focused than usual and with the conference running concurrent sessions, as opposed to having everything in plenary format.

The conference began with a wine reception in the rather magnificent Hunterian Museum, with brief addresses by the curator of the Hunterian, and by our host and conference organizer, Dr Craig Smith. This was followed by two days of non-stop panels on a vast range of topics including "Rousseau and Smith on Music and the Imitative Arts", "Smith and Rousseau on Justice", "Smith and Rousseau: Education and Virtue", "Smith and Rousseau on Spectatorship", "Commercial Society", "The Moral Sentiments", "Smith and Rousseau on Government", "Smith and Rousseau on Autonomy", and "Sympathy/Pitie". (There were also a number of Smith-only panels.) It would be impossible here to summarize the range of individual contributions, made both by stalwart members of the Association and by others. Three have stuck particularly in my mind, though: Byron Davies on "The Insult of Not Being Believed" was a very engaging attempt to link Rousseau's concerns with truth-telling and communication to modern discussions of epistemic injustice and social and racial inequality; Jinx and Frank Roosevelt's double-act (their first in 52 years of marriage!) on Smith and Rousseau on education; and Mark Hulliung's determined effort at pouring cold water on the very idea that Rousseau was a big influence on Smith. Finally, I should mention the closing address by Charles Griswold (who, contra Hulliung, thinks such a connection established) which was a brilliant and subtle exploration of the different attitudes of Smith and Rousseau to the way in which commercial society shapes the self and whether we should see this shaping as a good thing or as a catastrophic loss of freedom and authenticity.

At the end of the first full day of the conference, we were able to examine a number of texts by Smith, Rousseau and others in the special collections of the University of Glasgow (as well as to enjoy the magnificent view from the library tower). The conference concluded with a fabulous dinner in the the neo-Gothic Randolph Hall.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Rousseauistes to meet both informally and in our business meeting to explore the situation of the Association and how we might develop it in future. The business meeting elected new officers and reduced the annual subscription (to $20 full/ $10 students and retired). We also discussed making more of the Association's online presence, particularly the Facebook page and the main website (with its extensive Rousseau resources). The business meeting approvedthe University of Florida, Gainesville, as the venue for the 2017 Colloquium on the topic "Silences et non-dits chez Rousseau / Silence, the Implicit and the Unspoken in Rousseau.", with Brigitte Weltman-Aron elected as conference organizer. Ourida Mostefai was elected President, John Scott as Vice-President, Jason Neidleman as Secretary/Treasurer and Michael O'Dea as webmaster.

All in all the conference was a very positive experience. Smithians and Rousseauistes mixed amicably enough, though the two groups displayed (as a rough approximation) contrasting styles and modes of being, perhaps reflecting the different groups of people that each thinker exercised a fascination for. It is a matter of some regret for a supposedly bilingual Association that only two papers - those by Iago Ramos (Salamanca)and by Mauro Dela Bandera Arco Junior (University of Sao Paolo) - were delivered in French, and there was a paucity of Francophone scholars present. We shall undoubtely want to remedy this at our next Colloque as well as returning to our preferred plenary format. I shall be thinking about the various idea on Smith and Rousseau discussed at the conference for a long time to come, and I'm grateful both for this and for the impetus the conference gave me to better acquaint myself with Adam Smith's writings and to reflect on the similarities and differences with Jean-Jacques.

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