

SCANCON II

THE SECOND SCANDINAVIAN OBJECTIVIST CONFERENCE

Copenhagen June 5-7 1987

We have the pleasure of inviting you to the Second Scandinavian Objectivist Conference, in Copenhagen.

The first meeting was held in July 1986 and was attended by about a dozen Objectivists from Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. It was initiated by Bo Dragsdal, and was more an informal meeting than a conference, since it was primarily designed to establish connections between people in Scandinavia who knew of each others but were largely strangers. This year we aim for a more organized conference that includes lectures, and we hope to get participants from other parts of Europe as well.

The fee for attending the conference is US \$ 60.

This covers only our expenses, and meals and accomodations will have to be arranged by the participants. We can, however, be of assistance in booking hotel-rooms.

All proceedings will be conducted in English.

All registered participants will be notified of the exact location and time schedule.

Further information can be obtained by writing or phoning the organizers.

This conference or its organizers have no official affiliation to the people and institutions approved of by Ayn Rand or by her Estate as authorities on her philosophy, Objectivism. However, we wish to thank Dr. Michael Berliner of the Ayn Rand Institute for his kind assistance in arranging for Professor Lennox to appear.

We need to know as soon as possible if you will be attending – and we look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen.

Best premises!

Bo Dragsdahl
Tore Beckmann
Klaus A. Nordby

Conference Organizers

Please enclose a check for US \$ 60 made payable to SCANCON II c/o one of the individuals below, when you send him this coupon.

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Yes, I want to attend SCANCON II.

Name

Address

City/Nation

Phone

We are very pleased to announce our main attraction: James G. Lennox, Associate Professor of History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is an Objectivist who received his Ph. D. in Philosophy and Classics from the University of Toronto in 1978 for a dissertation showing the influence of key elements of Aristotle's *Metaphysics* on his biological theory. He has published widely in the history and philosophy of science on such figures as Aristotle, Theophrastus (Aristotle's successor), Galileo, William Harvey, Robert Boyle, and Spinoza. With fellow Objectivist and Aristotelian scholar Allan Gotthelf, he is co-editor of a volume of essays entitled *Philosophical Issues in Aristotle's Biology*, to be published by Cambridge University Press this year.

He has also written for *The Intellectual Activist* (vol. 1, no. 19) and *The Objectivist Forum* (vol. 2, no. 3). Professor Lennox is a former Junior Fellow of the Center for Hellenic Studies, and is currently Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge University, England. He is married and has a daughter.

Professor Lennox will be speaking on *Aristotle's Philosophy of Science*.

Especially since Aristotle – ever since the Renaissance – has been so frequently ridiculed for his scientific views, it should be of great interest to hear what an eminent Objectivist scholar in the field has to say on this subject.

Professor Lennox will be discussing four closely related aims of scientific investigation as viewed by Aristotle: discovering *whether* the subject being investigated exists, achieving ever more fundamental knowledge of *what* the subject of investigation is, discovering what attributes a subject has, *qua* that subject, and identifying the *cause* of that subject's having its attributes. Against the background of this theory of investigation, the nature of explanation and definition will be explored, as will be the place and status of definitions within science – and the roles of induction and deduction in science.

While the lecture does not presuppose familiarity with Aristotle's philosophy, for those who wish to do some advance preparation, the following is a short list of especially relevant texts. (The chapters in italics are slightly more central than the others.)

Posterior Analytics I.2,5,31,33
Posterior Analytics II.1,2,10,11,16,19
Parts of Animals I.1,5
Metaphysics I.1
Physics I.1
Physics II.2,3

After his lecture, Professor Lennox will be staying to have a general discussion with us.

In addition, there will be three other organized activities.

Klaus A. Nordby will be speaking on *From Kant to Kandinsky: The Development of Modern Esthetics*.

Mr. Nordby works as a free-lance commercial artist in Oslo. He is also co-owner of Midas Forlag, the Norwegian publisher of Ayn Rand's books. He spoke at last year's conference on "Talent: A Destroyer of Ability." He is preparing for a career as a painter and writer.

Mr. Nordby's lecture will attempt to show the specific historic and theoretic steps that esthetic theory and practice has taken since Kant – and how his ideas are the fundamental cause underlying today's nihilism.

Henrik Unné will deliver the introduction to a round-table discussion on political theory.

Mr. Unné is a factory worker living in Stockholm. He has written articles for numerous publications, and he is the co-financier of the Swedish edition of *Atlas Shrugged*.

The introduction will seek to differentiate between Dictatorship, Democracy, and Capitalism, and it will be argued that the only real alternative to Dictatorship is not Democracy – as is commonly assumed – but Capitalism.

In addition to the above, we will have an excursion to the *Thorvaldsen Museum*. The Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen is one of the great artists of the 19th century, and his work is definitely worth seeing. We will also visit the church Vor Frue Kirke, to see Thorvaldsen's magnificent sculptures of Christ and the Twelve Apostles.