

P. H. Nowell-Smith  
Wyndham House #7  
Plantation Road,  
Oxford, OX2 6JJ  
England

December 19, 2001

Dear P. H. Nowell-Smith,

I was supplied your address by your daughter Harriet after she took note of, and kindly responded to, an internet posting reminding readers of the historical importance, and rich conceptual content, of your book *Ethics*, which I purchased many years ago at the lucky price of \$1.65. I vowed to read that book, if no other, in modern ethics and thirty-five years later I engaged it in a serious first time read. Your remarks on intuitionism, alone, qualify it as a classic. But this is not the occasion for me to boast of your work, as there is little I can hope to teach, and there is much to learn within the unspoken limitation time imposes.

I would like to solicit an entry from you to my philosophy web page on the Internet, describing in any detail you would care to provide an account of your experience as an Oxford philosopher of significance, during those halcyon years that saw the emergence of luminaries such as J. L. Austin, Gilbert Ryle, Wittgenstein, etc. Any recounting of events, or impressions, would be very greatly appreciated; or, perhaps, even answers to several questions I might have, looking afar from the States, retrospectively, on a period of remarkable productivity. This might be difficult for me.

Yours truly



Steve R. Bayne  
64 Vinal Ave. 6A  
Somerville MA 02143  
USA

28 December 2001

7 Wyndham House  
Plantation Road  
Oxford, OX2 6JJ

Dear Steve Bayne

Many thanks for your letter of December 19<sup>th</sup>  
and your previous e-mail to my daughter Harriet.  
I am sorry to have to say that I cannot give you  
very much help. I am now 87 and not in the  
best of health, and my once razor-sharp brain  
is now sadly blunted.

For example, you praised my chapter on Intuitionism; but  
when I opened the book to read it, I couldn't  
understand it.

It is gratifying to know that you think me "a  
rather remarkable philosopher", but I was not neglected.

The book sold very well and was favourably  
reviewed, for example by Stevenson in, I think,  
Mind, and was much discussed in the years  
following its publication. It is still read, but  
only rarely.

In one respect you over-praised me. You attributed  
the idea of "doing things ~~to~~ with words" to me  
because I published before Austin who was  
its real inventor. It was, indeed, the cornerstone  
of the Saturday morning ~~meets~~ ~~at which~~  
meetings which he chaired. They were  
indeed halcyon years.

If there is any other information you would