

Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy / Franz Rosenzweig
The Dimensions of a Relationship

*A conference at Dartmouth College in
Hanover, New Hampshire*

Friday, July 11 – Saturday, July 12, 2008

ALL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE
HALDEMAN BUILDING, ROOM 041



*Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the John Sloan Dickey
Center for International Understanding, the Fannie and Alan Leslie
Center for the Humanities, and the Department of Philosophy at
Dartmouth College, and the Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy Fund in
cooperation with the William Jewett Tucker Foundation.*

EUGEN ROSENSTOCK-HUESSY (1888-1973) WAS BORN INTO a non-observant Jewish family in Berlin. In his late teens he converted to Christianity. After attending an elite *gymnasium*, he studied law, receiving his first doctorate in 1909 from Heidelberg. Aside from law, the study of history and philology were abiding passions. In 1912 he received a teaching appointment as a *privatdozent* at the University of Leipzig, where he first encountered Franz Rosenzweig. Rosenstock served in the war, as did Rosenzweig, and their famous correspondence in 1916, later published as *Judaism Despite Christianity*, occurred during that catastrophic period. An outline of what was to become a comprehensive philosophy and was a major influence on Rosenzweig was first presented as part of the correspondence and later published as *Die Angewandte Seelenkunde* (1924). In 1914 Eugen married Margrit Huessy, who beginning in 1917 was an inspiration to Rosenzweig while the three were caught in an intense love triangle. In the 1920s, Rosenstock was in and out of academe, devoting himself to labor issues and adult education, but it was also a period of advocacy for new modes of thought, with the founding of the Patmos group and the journal *Die Kreatur*, edited by Martin Buber and others, to which both Rosenstock and Rosenzweig were contributors. Rosenstock returned to university teaching in 1923 as a professor of legal history at Breslau, where he remained until the Nazis came to power in January 1933. With that outcome, he immediately resigned his position and emigrated to the U. S., initially receiving an appointment at Harvard and then in 1935 moving to Dartmouth, where he taught in the Philosophy Department until 1957. The author of hundreds of works of startling originality in multiple fields, it is something of a mystery to those who know this extraordinary *oeuvre* that Rosenstock's thought has not been more widely absorbed into the intellectual mainstream

FRANZ ROSENZWEIG (1886-1929), LIKE ROSENSTOCK, WAS BORN INTO a secular Jewish family, in Kassel, Germany. Initially aiming for a medical degree at Freiburg, he yet acquired a humanistic education such as only Germany could provide in that era. In ca. 1909 he switched his concentration to philosophy and history and in 1912 earned a Ph. D. from Freiburg , writing a dissertation on "Hegel and the State" that Rosenstock later described as "stupendous." In the interest of furthering his studies, he traveled in 1913 to Leipzig where he attended Rosenstock's lectures on medieval constitutional law. It was at Leipzig that the fateful relationship between the two men began. The encounter with Rosenstock led Rosenzweig to the conviction that academic philosophy, the Enlightenment, relativism, and the supposed objectivity of the social sciences provided no sound footing for a fulfilled life. In that period, too, he met the renowned Jewish philosopher Hermann Cohen and thereafter committed himself to justifying the persistence of the Jewish faith in universal terms. In 1916, with both Rosenstock and Rosenzweig serving in the German army, they began a profound, erudite, and remarkably open correspondence on theology and the meaning of Judaism and Christianity in world history. The exchange of letters occurred over a period of only six months, but it resonated permanently in the lives of both men. Rosenzweig shortly thereafter began writing his major work of original thought, *The Star of Redemption*. At about the same time, in June 1917, Rosenzweig met Rosenstock's wife, Margrit Huessy, and fell in love with her. "Gritli" served as Rosenzweig's muse throughout the composition of the *Star*, and in 1918 he wrote her hundreds of letters that parallel the text of the book. In the winter of 1920-21, Rosenzweig learned that he had "Lou Gehrig's disease" (ALS), which turned the remaining eight years of his life into a terrible ordeal. By dint of superhuman effort he maintained his creativity to the end.

Friday, July 11, 2008

Session I: 2:00 p.m.

Chair: Susannah Heschel
Dartmouth College

*

H. Michael Ermarth
Dartmouth College

"From Here to Eternity: The Philosophy of
History of Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy as Eschatology
on the Transmodern Installment Plan"

Response: Michael Gormann-Thelen, Ruhr University, Bochum

Session II: 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Clinton C. Gardner
Norwich, Vermont

*

Claire Katz
Texas A&M University

"Training 'Soldiers' at Camp William James"

Response: Amy Allen, Dartmouth College

Break: 4:00-4:15

Session III: 4:15 p.m.

Chair: Barry Scherr
Dartmouth College

*

Donald Pease
Dartmouth College

"Liturgical Thinking"

Response: Leora Batnitzky, Princeton University

Dinner 6:30- 7:30 p.m.

Dartmouth Outing Club
(Reservations required- \$40.00 per person)

Session IV: 7:30 p.m. (after-dinner talk)

Chair: Norman Fiering
John Carter Brown Library

Greetings from
Kenneth Yalowitz, Director,
John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding
and
Adrian Randolph
Fannie and Alan Leslie Center for the Humanities

*

Wayne Cristaudo
University of Hong Kong

“Rosenstock, Rosenzweig, and Nietzsche”

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Session V: 9:00 a.m.

Chair: Fred Berthold, Jr.
Dartmouth College

*

Peter Leithart
New St. Andrews College

“The Social Articulation of Time”

Response : Wayne Cristaudo, University of Hong Kong

Break: 10:00 - 10:15

Session VI: 10:15 a.m.

Chair: Patricia McKee
Dartmouth College

*

Michael Gormann-Thelen
Ruhr University, Bochum

“Rosenstock-Huessy’s *Soziologie*”

Response: Gottfried Paasche, York University (Toronto)

Session VII: 11:15 - 12:15

Chair: Michael Chaney
Dartmouth College

*

Randi Rashkover
George Mason University

“Judaism Despite Christianity”

Lunch: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Haldeman Building, First Floor

Session VIII: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Angela Rosenthal
Dartmouth College

*

Gregory Kaplan
Rice University

“Why Rosenstock-Huessy Thought Rosenzweig Could
Not Simply 'Remain a Jew'”

Session IX: 3:00-4:00

Chair: Clarence Hardy
Dartmouth College

*

Robert Erlewine
Illinois Wesleyan University

“The Stubbornness of the Jews: Symmetries and Asymmetries
in *Judaism Despite Christianity*”

Lodging: A limited number of rooms have been reserved for the conference at the two hotels listed below. Note: These rooms will not be held after May 15. When calling to make a reservation, specify that you are attending the “Rosenstock conference.”

•Hotel Coolidge, 39 South Main St., White River Junction, Vermont.

800-622-1124 or 802-295-3118. Info@hotelcoolidge.com. Hotel Coolidge is about 20 minutes distant from Hanover via private auto or bus.

•Norwich Inn, 325 Main St., Norwich, Vermont. 802-649-1143.

innkeeper@norwichinn.com. Norwich Inn is about 10 minutes distant from Hanover via private auto.

Travel (to Hanover, New Hampshire, and the nearby towns in Vermont):

By Air

Lebanon Airport: (Lebanon, N.H.) is about 10 miles from campus. Flights are available to and from LaGuardia Airport in New York City. Rental cars and taxis are available at the airport.

Manchester Airport: The Manchester Airport (Manchester, N.H.) is served by the major airlines. It is located about 80 miles southeast of Hanover. Rental cars are available at the airport, and the drive to Hanover takes approximately 90 minutes. The Vermont Transit bus company provides transportation from the Manchester Airport to Hanover. Buses wait outside the airline terminal to transport you to the Vermont Transit station, where you purchase a ticket and then continue to Hanover.

Logan Airport, Boston: Logan Airport (Boston, Mass.) is about 120 miles southeast of Hanover. Rental cars are available at the airport, and the drive to Hanover takes approximately 2 1/2 hours. Dartmouth Coach, a local bus service, provides transportation from Logan Airport and from Boston's South Station to The Hanover Inn next to the Dartmouth campus.

By Bus

From Boston: Service to the bus station in White River Junction, Vt. is provided by Vermont Transit. From New York City: Service to the bus station in White River Junction, Vt. is provided by Greyhound (direct bus becomes Vermont Transit in Springfield, Mass.). The White River Junction bus station is about seven miles from the Dartmouth campus, and taxi service is available.

By Train

Amtrak provides daily passenger service from Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; New York; and intermediate points to White River Junction, Vt. Information is available on the Amtrak website or by calling 800-872-7245 from within the U.S. The White River Junction train station is about seven miles from the Dartmouth campus, and taxi service is available.

For additional information, please be in touch with Ms. Karen DeRosa, Administrator, Jewish Studies Program. Tel.: 603-646-0475 (Karen.L.DeRosa@dartmouth.edu) or with Mr. Mark Huessy (mark@erhfund.org).