

September 10, 2019

Professor Robert Brandom
University of Pittsburgh
Department of Philosophy
1017 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Re: Wilfrid Sellars

Dear Professor Brandom:

I see on your web page that you work on the philosophy of Wilfrid Sellars. Enclosed is a complimentary copy of my "Pre-Socratic Philosophers". I dedicated this little book to the memory of Wilfrid Sellars. It seemed appropriate to send a copy to the University of Pittsburgh's philosophy department. Professor Pozzansa said that a faculty member in the philosophy department suggested I send the copy to you.

I took a summer course from Professor Wilfrid Sellars at the University of Minnesota. He was a very imposing figure in the classroom. He was always dressed in a three piece suite. He looked more like a British banker than a summer school lecturer. He did a lot of walking in front of the class. It was not a very smooth walk but a bit stilted. I remember him as being a very handsome man. His hair was wavy with a bit of a curl to it. He wrote on the blackboard extensively. His lectures were very well organized. I don't remember that he encouraged class discussion. In fact, he seemed a bit unapproachable. I don't remember ever asking him a question. I was almost hypnotized by his lectures. I got an A from him.

Some years later I was teaching political science at a college. An elderly gentleman with the last name Sellars gave a lecture to the faculty about modern philosophy. I remember his saying that previous philosophers said that humans were subjected to bombardments of knowledge. Now, according to modern philosophers, he said that humans reach out to obtain knowledge rather than being the victims of bombardments of knowledge from the outside. After the lecture, I told him that I took a course in philosophy from a Sellars at the University of Minnesota. He said: "He's my son!" Small world.

Hope you enjoy my little book.

Very truly yours,



John A. Winters
12768 Yacht Club Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 357-5379
johnallenwinters@comcast.net

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