

IN MEMORIAM: HUGUES LEBLANC
MARCH 19, 1924–SEPTEMBER 10, 1999

Hugues Leblanc was 75 when he died of cardiovascular disease at the Casey House Hospice in Rockville, Maryland. He authored eight books, edited and contributed to three more, and wrote over one hundred papers on symbolic logic and the philosophy of logic.

Hugues made seminal contributions in the development of free logic, truth-value semantics, and probabilistic semantics. His wide ranging interests led him to studies in classical first-order and second-order logic and the theory of types, many-valued logic, and modal, tense, and intuitionist logics, outfitted with both standard and, most novelly, free quantifiers. He was particularly interested in deductive systems, and developed axiomatic, sequent, tableaux, and (especially noteworthy) modern natural deduction systems. He also published works on confirmation and statistical and inductive inference. Being a very social person, he collaborated with over twenty other logicians.

When questioned about philosophical motivation, Leblanc would defend truth-value semantics on nominalistic grounds. However, Leblanc was more interested in the pedagogical and heuristic roles of truth-value semantics rather than its ontological import. He used truth-value semantics in teaching his introductory logic courses, and he was employing it when he discovered, for example, the truth-functionality of the ramified theory of types. Nevertheless, in later years he expressed some misgivings about truth-value semantics because some of his work, for instance in free intuitionist logic, might have been more widely read if it had been carried out using a more conventional semantics.

Hugues was a citizen of both Canada and the United States. He was born in Quebec in 1924 and lived in Ste-Hyacinth, Quebec, until 1946. He entered the University of Montreal in 1944 and received a Masters degree from there in 1946. He entered Harvard in 1946, and obtained his doctorate in 1948, with W. V. Quine serving as his dissertation advisor. The 1948 Harvard Ph.D. class in logic working under Quine's direction was particularly distinguished, and included, in addition to Hugues, William Craig, Henry Hiz, John Myhill, and Hao Wang.

In 1948, Hugues joined the Philosophy Department at Bryn Mawr College, and served there for nearly twenty years. He retained fond memories of his years at Bryn Mawr throughout his life. In 1967, he moved to Temple

University, until his retirement in 1992. From 1973 to 1979, he served as Chair of the Philosophy Department. After leaving Temple, he joined the University of Quebec at Montreal as an adjunct professor. In 1996, Hugues suffered debilitating strokes, and moved to Northern Virginia to be nearer his children. Memorial services were held for Hugues in Washington, Montreal, and at Bryn Mawr College. His ashes are buried in Ste-Hyacinth with his parents.

Hugues was a Fullbright Fellow 1953–54, an Eugenia Chase Fellow 1958–59, and a Guggenheim Fellow 1965–66. He also received the Paul W. Eberman Award and honorary doctorates from the University of Montreal and Dalhousie University and honors from the University of Quebec at Montreal. He was also a member of the Royal Society of Canada, and he held offices in the Association for Symbolic Logic and the Society for Exact Philosophy.

Hugues is survived by his three children, his three sisters, and his former wife.

RAYMOND D. GUMB