



Review of Roland Hall, Fifty Years of Hume Scholarship: A Bibliographical Guide

P. H. Nidditch

Hume Studies Volume V, Number 2 (November, 1979), 112-113.

Your use of the HUME STUDIES archive indicates your acceptance of HUME STUDIES' Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.humesociety.org/hs/about/terms.html>.

HUME STUDIES' Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the HUME STUDIES archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Each copy of any part of a HUME STUDIES transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

For more information on HUME STUDIES contact humestudies-info@humesociety.org

<http://www.humesociety.org/hs/>

Roland Hall: Fifty Years of Hume Scholarship: a bibliographical guide, University of Edinburgh Press, Edinburgh, 1978. x+150 pages. £ 5.50.

All who work on Hume will be grateful for the extensive and accurate source of bibliographical information on twentieth-century Hume scholarship that Roland Hall's book uniquely provides; his compilation renders a very useful service. Edinburgh University Press have given his work a worthy embodiment; they have fully maintained their usual high standards of production, so that the volume is a pleasure to look at and to read.

The contents are: an introduction which picks out some notable items and outstanding gaps in the literature (pp.1-8; notes, pp.8-14); an annual listing of the main writings on Hume, 1900-24 (pp.17-26), totalling about 150 items; the centrepiece - an annual listing (aiming at completeness) of the Hume literature, 1925-76 (pp.27-114), totalling about 1,600 items; author index (pp.116-27); foreign language index (pp.128-30), where under the heads of nineteen languages items are cited by date and author's name; and subject index (pp.131-50), which is regarded by Mr. Hall as 'the most unusual, and ambitious, feature of the present book' (p.vii).

The entries in the guide cover writings ranging over all of Hume's many-sided interests and works; books, articles, and dissertations, either wholly or partly concerned with Humean texts or topics, are recorded. Editions of Hume's writings are included, except in general for translations of them. Reading through the entries as a whole, one is struck by the very large increase in the Hume literature in the past generation and by how much of this comes from contributions in English. The following years and figures illustrate these points. For 1925 there are 13 entries, of which 7 are in English; for 1926, 9 entries, 3 of them in English; for 1927, 14 entries, 7 of them in English; for 1949, 28 entries, 21 of them in English;

for 1950, 23 entries, 19 of them in English; for 1951, 23 entries, 20 of them in English; for 1959, 39 entries, 32 of them in English; for 1963, 53 entries, 44 of them in English; for 1967, 58 entries, 46 of them in English; for 1971, 65 entries, 46 of them in English; for 1975, 87 entries, 75 of them in English; and for 1976, 133 entries, of which 115 (including 22 new articles in bicentenary anthologies) are in English.

All writings wholly or mainly about Hume seem to have been duly taken notice of in the guide's annual registration. Mr. Hall has been impressively successful in putting all these together. He has, however, been less exhaustive in his coverage of occasional treatments of Hume and of Humean topics in books; he gives an entry such as B. Barry, Political Argument, 319-21, but does not cite many other books which contain more numerous and substantial relevant comments in the course of them, e.g. G. E. Davie, The Democratic Intellect (1961), R. W. Harris, Reason and Nature in the Eighteenth Century (1961), and W. S. Howell, Eighteenth-Century British Logic and Rhetoric (1971).

The book has been carefully printed and proof-read. The only misprints I have noticed are: p.14, note markers 28 and 29 are missing; p.71, Scheffler's initial should be corrected from J. to I. The author has spotted that in line 13 of n.19 on p.12 '258' should read '256' (private communication).

P. H. Nidditch
University of Sheffield