

LESSONS LEARNED FROM JOHN DEELY

A BIT ABOUT ME FIRST

My First Research Question - Why does the world make so much sense, so much of the time, when by all rights it shouldn't?

My Current Research Question – How can semiotics help us to do inquiry that could not be done any other way?

My goal has been to equip the semiotic inquirer with the proper tools to do semiotic inquiry

John's work opened my eyes to possibilities that I never even knew existed

John was most importantly a dear and cherished friend, who taught me lessons simply about how he lived his life

JOHN DEELY AND ME

First meeting 1981 in Nashville

ISIS and Other Adventures

Visiting Home and Away

Last visit

WHO SHAPED JOHN DEELY?

- Numerous Dominicans – Who provided him with a framework for Medieval thought
 - Jacques Maritain, the Philosopher – Who introduced him to John Poincaré
- Jacques Maritain, the Man – Who showed John that real courage and real love were possible
- Brooke Williams – Whose love and whose love of history helped center him
 - Tom Sebeok – Who brought him to semiotics
 - Many Beloved Dogs - Who were all with him even to the end

LESSONS FOR ME FROM HIS WORK

Philosophical Lessons

Semiotic Lessons

PHILOSOPHICAL LESSONS(FOR ME)

- Philosophy made a wrong turn when it pursued Modernism
 - Descartes was the enemy
- Modern philosophy was riddled with specious dichotomies (e.g. Realism/Idealism, Subjective/Objective, and many more) and its insistence on Nominalism severely restricted the place of relation
- The Latin tradition went well beyond the 16th century and reached its maturity in the work of John Poinsot (John of St Thomas)
- The Four Ages of Understanding is a masterpiece in moving beyond the Modernist framework
 - Peirce provided a roadmap for integrating the Latin tradition into our era and providing a path beyond Modernism

SEMIOTIC LESSONS (FOR ME)

- Semiology is Cartesian version of Semiotics
- Dichotomies are actually truncated trichotomies
 - Purely Objective Reality
- Interplay of Deduction/ Induction/ Abduction
 - Role of Relation
 - The Semiotic Animal

LIFE LESSONS (AGAIN FOR ME)

- Stand up for your principles
- Never shy away from a “good fight”
 - Be generous
 - Believe in yourself
- Accept the consequences of your actions
 - Write down your ideas
 - Work as long as you can

DEELYISMS

- Bath Tub Adventures
 - Phyto-Lettuce
- Pizza by the Slice
- “Wheely Deely”
- Thomas of Erfurt