

Mario Bunge

Between Two Worlds

Memoirs of a Philosopher-Scientist

 Springer

Contents

1	Childhood	1
	Family Background.....	1
	Mariechen in Argentina.....	2
	Repercussion of Nazism in Argentina.....	3
	My Parent's Ancestors	4
	The Offspring of Carl August and Genara.....	6
	Mariechen and the Bunges.....	8
	The Shack.....	9
	Shopping	10
	Development of El Ombú	12
	Our Gardeners.....	12
	Our Neighbors.....	13
	Old Bottini's Offspring	14
	Most Interesting Neighbors.....	15
	Sports and Games	16
	Gardening.....	17
	Holidays	17
	Patagonians	18
	Cooking.....	19
	Josef	20
	Learning at Home	20
	First School	21
	City Schools.....	22
	First Encounter with Religion.....	22
2	Adolescence	25
	High School	25
	Near Expulsion.....	26
	Our Teachers	26
	Other Strange Teachers	27
	Classmates.....	28

Girls.....	29
My Mother's Most Interesting Friends	30
El Ombú's <i>Habitués</i>	31
The Sunday Lunches.....	32
The Spanish "Civil" War.....	34
The Friends' Reaction	35
High School	36
Patagonian Lakes	38
Politics.....	38
The Local Communist Intellectuals	40
Ethical Intermezzo: The Committed Intellectual	41
High School: Change of Gear	42
Encounter with Dialectical Materialism	43
To Physics Through Chemistry	44
New Friends	45
Combining Callings	46
Getting Rid of Freud and Ready to Start University.....	47
3 University <i>Et Alia</i>	49
Beginning University	49
My Mathematics Teachers	51
The Teaching of Physics	51
Theoretical Physics Courses	52
Learning Quantum Mechanics.....	53
Other Interesting Teachers	55
Ernesto Sabato	56
My Closest Fellow Students	57
Other Classmates	58
Students of Other Disciplines	60
Integration in La Plata Society	60
Universidad Obrera Argentina	61
Marriage.....	62
First Children	63
Universidad Obrera on Congress Square	64
What the UOA Taught.....	66
Public Impact of the UOA	68
Father's Death	69
Mother in Jail	70
4 Scientific Apprenticeship	73
From Student to Budding Scientist.....	73
Guido Beck	74
Working Under Beck	76
My Doctoral Thesis.....	77
Jailed	78
Thesis Defense	81

Parallel Jobs	81
Interesting Students.....	83
Beck’s Argentine Students	83
Argentine Physical Society	84
Four Frauds	86
Balseiro’s Brilliant Career.....	86
The Pap and Klein Cases	87
The Richter Case.....	88
Uselessness of My Doctorate.....	89
The Dutch Touch.....	91
Bohmian Mechanics and Its Critics	91
Pauli’s Objection.....	92
The Bohm Cult.....	93
Distractions in São Paulo	93
Would-Be Migrants.....	95
Bohm’s Migrations.....	95
Back Home.....	96
Private Seminars.....	97
The Atomic Establishment.....	97
What Makes Scientists Tick?	98
Perón’s Downfall.....	99
5 Philosophical Apprenticeship.....	101
My First Philosophy Textbook.....	101
Other Books That Nurtured My Love of Philosophy.....	102
Science or Philosophy?.....	102
Interlude: Of Amateurs and Professionals	103
First Philosophical Paper and Seminar	104
Earliest Philosophical Problems	105
<i>Minerva</i>	105
What <i>Minerva</i> Published.....	106
Minerva’s Reception	107
How <i>Minerva</i> Affected My Life.....	108
Political Intermezzo	109
Centered in Physics with Occasional Forays in Philosophy	110
Other Occasional Philosophical Meetings	111
What Is an Electron?.....	112
The Buenos Aires Circle	113
Discovering Modern Logic	114
How I (Nearly) Made Ends Meet.....	115
Encounters with the Great Houssay	115
A Productive Year	116
Bolivia and Chile	117
Chile.....	119
1955.....	120

	Andrés Kálnay	121
	Vlady, Fatone, and García.....	122
	Teaching Quantum Mechanics.....	123
6	First Jobs	125
	Accepted by Philosophers.....	125
	Quine.....	126
	Faculty of Philosophy and Letters	127
	First Steps in the Faculty of Philosophy's Corridors	129
	First Philosophy of Science Course	130
	1958.....	131
	American Interlude	132
	University Administration.....	133
	First Visit to Europe	134
	Congress in Venice.....	135
	New Acquaintances.....	137
	Karl Popper	138
	Marta.....	139
	Newly Married	140
	The Buenos Aires Philosophy Congress	141
	To the USA.....	142
	First International Congress of Philosophy of Science et al.	142
	Penn.....	144
	My Courses and Stray Lectures	144
	Nelson Goodman	145
	Other Colleagues.....	146
	Mathematical Psychology	146
	Interesting Students.....	147
	Goodman's Lie and Hook's Bait.....	148
	Approximate Truth.....	149
	Europe with Marta	149
	France and Italy.....	151
	Return Home	151
	Birth of <i>Scientific Research</i>	152
	Taking the Gospel Across the River.....	153
	Research Projects	154
	The Silent Coup Against Presidente Frondizi	155
	Leaving Home for Good	155
7	Itinerant Professor	157
	Texas	157
	Colleagues.....	158
	Memorable Texan Experiences	159
	Marta Discovers Corfu.....	159
	Miltiadis	161
	Daily Life in the Enchanted Island	162

Exploring Corfu	163
Back in the USA	164
Truesdell and Neoclassical Mechanics	165
President Kennedy's Assassination.....	166
Corfu Revisited	166
First Visit to Israel.....	167
Delaware	168
Relativities Congress.....	170
The Carnap-Popper Debate.....	170
The Kuhn-Popper Match.....	171
To the Black Forest	172
Freiburg Friends	173
The Two Berlins.....	175
Portugal	176
To Heaven and Back	177
Back in Heaven	178
Looking for a Job	178
Canada Calls	179
First Visit to Spain.....	180
Piaget and Kuhn in Geneva.....	181
8 Canada and Scientific Realism	183
Montreal.....	183
Raymond Klibansky.....	184
Walter Hitschfeld, Scientist and Administrator.....	185
Storrs McCall: Scholar and Farmer	186
William Shea: Catholic Historian of Science	186
Three Psychologists: Hebb, Milner, and Bindra	187
Other Valuable Colleagues.....	187
Claudio Cuello and the Status of Pharmacology	188
Bernardo Dubrovsky and the Two Psychiatries	189
Less Interesting Colleagues	190
Integration	191
Canadian Winter.....	192
First Courses and Talks	194
Foundations Center Aborts	194
First Auspicious Event	195
Reception of <i>Foundations of Physics</i>	197
Treatise on Scientific Methodology	198
Reception of <i>Scientific Research</i>	199
Popper's Reaction	200
Lakatos' Attempted Extortion	201
Second Auspicious Event.....	202
The Laval Congress.....	202
To Corfu, Liège, and Amsterdam.....	203

Back from Europe	204
Summer in Cuernavaca	205
Salzburg	206
Vienna Congress	206
Reactions to My Defense of Scientific Realism	207
The Place of Mathematical Objects According to Realism	207
<i>Library of Exact Philosophy</i>	208
The Two Faces of the 1960s Student Revolt.....	209
German Tour	209
Reality Is There, but the Reality Concept Is Still Elusive.....	210
9 Exact Philosophy	211
From Intuition to Rigor.....	211
Exactification	212
Misunderstandings About Exact Philosophy	214
Philosophical Analysis Unveils Hidden Complexity	215
From Parmenides to Hegel.....	216
Clarity Without Triviality.....	217
Linguistic Philosophy and Phenomenology.....	218
Exactness Is Not Enough to Philosophize	219
What Exact Philosophy Can Deliver.....	220
First Encounters with Exact Philosophy	221
Semantics	222
Analysis of Predicates.....	223
Existences and Someness, Factual and Formal Truths	224
Bloopers in the Name of Logic.....	224
Partial Truth	225
Books	226
Foundations and Philosophy of Science Unit	226
Society for Exact Philosophy	228
Scientific Metaphysics	229
Corsica	229
Bucharest Congress.....	230
Essentials of My Scientific Metaphysics	232
The <i>Treatise</i> Plan Is Born in Spain	233
Denmark.....	234
Arguing with Danish Academics	235
Zürich.....	236
Two Catastrophes.....	238
Return to Montreal.....	238
Another Congress in Israel.....	239
México Calls	240
Seminar and Association.....	242
From México City to Boston	243
Back in Canada	243

10	Systemic Materialism	245
	Spontaneous Materialism.....	245
	Philosophical Materialism	246
	Systemic Materialism.....	247
	From Billiard Balls to Fields and Quantons.....	248
	Building Blocks.....	249
	Systemism	251
	The Individualism-Holism-Systemism Trilemma.....	252
	Projections of the Quadruple.....	253
	Values Too Come in Bundles	254
	Emergence and Levels.....	255
	Integrative Levels	255
	Reduction and Reductionism	256
	Space and Time in Materialism.....	258
	Ideal Objects in the Light of Systematerialism	258
	Modernity of Systemism	259
	My Main Systematerialist Work.....	260
	Systemic vs. Dialectical Materialism.....	261
	My Philosophy in the Cradle of the Enlightenment.....	262
	Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics	263
	After the 4th Volume	264
	Exchanges with Spanish Philosophers	265
	Stopover on the West Coast.....	266
	Epistemology.....	267
	Reality Equals Materiality.....	267
	Back to Spain: Environment and Carnivory.....	268
	Festschrift.....	269
	Toledo/Madrid: Meeting in the Young Spanish Democracy	270
	Cuba: Yes, But.....	271
	Philosophy Congress in Montreal	272
	Holidays	272
	More on Systematerialism.....	274
	My Contributions to Ontology: Summary	274
	Debunking Pseudocience	275
	Science Alone Does Not Immunize Against Pseudoscience.....	276
	Why Debunk Pseudoscience?	277
	Coda	277
11	Biophilosophy	279
	Early Curiosity About Living Things.....	279
	First Inkling of Biophilosophy	280
	My First Biologist Friend.....	281
	Mayr and Simpson	282
	Stephen Jay Gould	283
	Earliest Essays on Biology.....	284

Biospecies	285
Essentialism Pro and Con	286
Information and Life	287
Biological Laws?	288
Cybernetics Explains Teleology Away.....	288
My Main Writings on Biology.....	290
Foundations of Biophilosophy	292
Puncturing Biophilosophical Balloons	292
75th Birthday Party	293
Biologists Visiting My Unit	295
Canadian Students Interested in Biophilosophy	296
Does Biology Explain Human Nature?.....	297
Human Nature Is Quite Unnatural	298
New Science of Human Nature?	299
Continuing Interest in Biophilosophy	300
Coda	300
12 Psychoneural Monism	301
Early Infatuation with Psychology.....	301
Philosophy of Mind.....	302
Main Answers to the Mind-Body Problem	303
Materialist Monism	304
Psychoneural Dualism	304
How to Study the Mental	305
Systematic Tackling of the Mind-Body Problem.....	307
Repercussions	308
Political Interlude: The Attempt to Break Up Canada	308
The Brighton Congress	311
Other Meetings At the Time.....	312
Aborted Book with Llinás.....	312
Noam Chomsky	313
Psychology Meetings	315
Encounter with Islamic Fundamentalism.....	316
Spain Again	317
Relations with Catholics	318
Reception of My Philosophy of Mind in My Native Land	320
In Calvin's Country	321
Moscow Congress	323
My Protracted and Fruitless Feud with Psychoanalysis	324
Lecterns from Which I Have Preached My Psychological Gospel.....	324
Encounters with Professional Dualists.....	325
The Place of Psychology.....	327
My Contributions to the Philosophy of Mind	328
Coda	328

13 Social Philosophy	331
The Great Depression	331
USSR.....	332
Political Concomitants of the Great Depression.....	333
From Juan B. Justo to Augusto Bunge to Raúl Prebisch	334
Gino Germani and Serious Sociology.....	334
First Publications in Social Science.....	336
Game Theory.....	338
Development Theory.....	339
UNDP Seminar in México City	340
Bento Spinoza and Marcel Roche.....	340
Repercussion of My Thesis on Integral Development.....	341
From Perú to Chile via Bolivia	343
Opposition to Integral Development.....	344
Dissatisfaction with Orthodox Economics.....	345
Economics and Philosophy	345
Prince of Asturias Prize.....	347
Meeting for Democracy	348
JoLu.....	348
Making Friends in the Social Science Community.....	349
Coda	350
14 Weird Ideas, Strange Places, and Freak Events	353
Retreat from Reason in the Humanities and Social Studies	353
From Merton to Kuhn	354
The Legendary Elephant Vanishes	355
Participation in the Science Wars.....	356
Contact with European Social Scientists	357
Hungary and the Philosophy of Mathematics.....	358
Czech Interlude	360
Turkey in Transition.....	360
Tegekkür Ederim.....	361
Lectures in Foreign Parts.....	363
Lecturing in Portefiol.....	364
Portuguese Interlude.....	364
Bright Spots in Dark Times.....	365
Writing About Social Mechanisms	366
Interacting with Canadian Social Scientists.....	368
Preaching in Exotic Places.....	369
The Great Ice Storm.....	370
The Paradise of Marsupials and Possible-Worlds Philosophers	371
Australian Talks.....	374
The Flood	375

Beijing	376
Beijing Lectures	377
Coda	378
15 Practical Philosophy	379
Axiology	379
Value Systems	380
Analethic Values.....	382
Evaluating Alethic Items.....	383
Technophilosophy	385
Ethics and Praxiology	388
Ethics and Praxiology	392
Medical Philosophy	394
Political Philosophy	396
Legal and Criminological Philosophies	398
Evaluating Disciplines	400
Enjoying Life	402
Coda	404
16 Summary.....	405
Marta's Appendix: My Life with Mario	409
Religion.....	409
An Unpublished Poem: 'The Secret of Happiness' by 'Mario Bunge'	411
Between Philosophy and Mathematics	411
Category Theory	413
Politics.....	414
Family	416
The Arts.....	418
Trips	419
Epilogue	421
Illustrations.....	423
References.....	457
Name Index.....	473
Subject Index.....	485