



Professor Timothy Smiley at the presentation of his Festschrift in Clare College, 15 January 2010. Photo: Geoff Durrant.

“Throughout the second half of the twentieth century Timothy Smiley gave lectures on logic at Cambridge University. It is not an exaggeration to say that the lectures are a life-time memory for many who heard them. A remarkably large number of those students decided to pursue philosophy as a profession and have gone on to distinguished careers of their own: when asked, they cite Smiley’s lectures as an inspiration. . . . Smiley has displayed unplumbable generosity towards students and colleagues. Whether he is pointing a student towards a fruitful area of research, or helping him see that his current conceptualization is not yet quite right; whether he is spurring on a colleague with a unique blend of serious challenge, honest encouragement and teasing; whether he is meticulously correcting draft after draft of a student’s paper (literally dotting the i’s and

crossing the t’s), Smiley has done the best he can to bring out the best in all around him. For five decades he and his wife Benita have opened their home to students who in a weary moment, or a moment of insecurity, could use a home-cooked meal and a laugh. A small sample of those who are grateful have put together this volume on the many ways that good arguments actually work”.

So says the Preface to Professor Smiley’s Festschrift, *The Force of Argument* (Routledge, 2010), which celebrated his groundbreaking achievements in logic. Readers will know many of the contributors: Jonathan Lear and Alex Oliver, who also co-edited the volume, and Kwame Anthony Appiah, Tom Baldwin, Jim Cargile, James Doyle, Ian Hacking, Lloyd Humberstone, Rosanna Keefe, Michael Potter, Graham Priest and Neil Tennant.