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George Boolos

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It is a great honor to play this special role in honoring the memory of our sorely missed colleague George Boolos, who died of cancer May 27, 1996, after an illness of about six months. Many of us counted him as a friend and feel his loss very personally. So many of his good friends are here that I have to assume that the only sensible reason for me to have been accorded this honor is seniority. But in fact I am far from being the longest standing of George's friends in our field, and I am not confident of being the longest standing of those present here.

We are here to commemorate George Boolos in a way he would have wished to be commemorated, by continuing the work in the fields to which he dedicated his own career. Those of us who knew him will not be able to stop ourselves from trying to imagine what sharp comments he would offer on our efforts and what in the way of a finely crafted talk, with penetrating mathematical and philosophical analysis, he would have offered to the latest gathering of the fraternity.

As many of you know, one of George's last professional acts was to plan and arrange for the publication of a collection of his philosophical essays. It is appearing under the title *Logic, Logic, and Logic* [3]. By that title, George surely wanted to tell us something. The identification that governed all the others in his professional work was that of logician. George wanted to stress that in collecting his philosophical work, which was done very much from the point of view of a logician, which is not to say that George was only a logician. It was for a thesis in mathematical logic that he received MIT's first philosophy Ph. D in 1966. And he continued to work in that field for the rest of his life. To do justice to George's self-identification, we should begin with his logical work. But I won't try to give an account of his content. In any event, in a brief account I could not improve on what has already been published by Warren Goldfarb [4].

Boolos's work in mathematical logic straightforwardly falls almost entirely into three categories: early work belonging to the research program pursued by his teacher, Hilary Putnam, on hierarchies of sets of integers, provability logic, and exposition. But one should add work that was published mostly in philosophical papers:

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