

Review of
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KREISELIANA:
ABOUT AND AROUND GEORG KREISEL

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There are many good reasons for regarding the task of writing a review of a volume about and dedicated to Georg Kreisel (G.K.) as a challenging, and even rather intimidating task. To mention just two obvious ones: Firstly, very few people, and the present author is certainly not among them, have the necessary scientific and philosophical competence to deal with the wide range of Kreisel's interests and publications. (Perhaps G.K. himself, the author of some memorable reviews, would be the natural choice.) Secondly, it is hard to resist the temptation to write about Georg Kreisel the man rather than this book about him.

Kreisel is difficult. His papers are difficult, most of his ideas, insights, appraisals, criticisms and suggestions are anything but simple. This is by no means an isolated personal opinion. Similar remarks will be found in many places in the book under review. And, as the reader of this volume will surely agree, especially after having read its first part, the man himself is difficult.

This volume, *Kreiseliana: About and around Georg Kreisel*, is a heterogeneous collection of twenty-five papers. The list of authors is a most impressive one. Most of them have played, and many continue to play, a fundamental role in contemporary logic. The book is divided into four parts. The first, "Reminiscences," as the title indicates, consists of personal recollections of various kinds. The second and third parts are devoted to Kreisel's work in mathematics and in philosophy, respectively. The final part, entitled "Technical Tribute," contains two original technical papers. Clearly, a volume of this kind cannot be assessed according to normal standards.

The first part contains thirteen personal recollections, some of them very vivid, which will undoubtedly contribute to the aura of mystery