Volume 10 Numbers 3 & 4 (March 2005–May 2007) [Issue 32], pp. 149–154.

J. Hintikka, T. Czarnecki, K. Kijania-Placek, T. Placek, and A. Rojszczak†, eds.

Philosophy and Logic: In Search of the Polish Tradition: Essays in Honour of Jan Wolénski on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday

Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 2003 xiii + 290 pp. ISBN 1-4020-1721-9

REVIEW

NATAN BERBER

The volume, as well as this review, is a tribute to Jan Woleński, a leading world expert on the history of Polish logic and philosophy. Its main themes are truth, logic, semantics, and the history of logic and philosophy. Thus, it comes as no surprise that Alfred Tarski, the most respected representative of the Lvov-Warsaw school, receives prominent attention here. The volume encompasses seventeen papers contributed by highly distinguished logicians, philosophers and mathematicians. The papers are divided into three parts, each related to many of Woleński's publications.

Part I, entitled "Truth," opens with Paul Horwich's paper "A Minimalist Critique of Tarski on Truth." This paper is another defense of minimalism, Horwich's version of a deflationary theory of truth. Horwich raises several objections to Tarski's semantic theory of truth, concentrating particularly on Tarskian truth definitions, in order to show that minimalism is immune to those objections, and is thus preferable. He then goes on to suggest reasons for Tarski's adherence to sentences as truth-bearers. Two reasons for favoring Tarski's semantic theory over minimalism are also confronted. First, based on an outline of what Horwich conceives as a finer solution to the liar paradox, one which accords with minimalism, he argues tha Tarski's solution gives no support for rejecting minimalism. Second, he attempts to show why minimalism is not inferior to the semantic theory when it comes to deriving generalizations about truth.