

In Memorium



Max Weismann
1936-2017

December 28, 1990

My Dear Maestro,

This small gift pales by comparison to the profound positive influence that your teachings have had on my life both as a man, as well as, a philosopher.

As a philosopher, let this gift serve as a symbol that memorializes a significant day in the history of philosophy. For on this day, the only empirical philosopher in 2500 years came on the scene - no other philosopher since then has conducted his lifelong endeavors on Aristotle's common-sense mandate "...to call into council the views of our predecessors in order that we may profit by whatever is sound in their views and avoid their errors."

The continued lack of embarrassment on behalf of contemporary philosophers serves as their indictment for ignoring this elemental mandate and further frustrates philosophy's intellectual maturity.

Today is further memorialized as the day the Center for the Study of Great Ideas has been legally established indicating my commitment to serve this virtuous enterprise with the best of my abilities and resources.

As a man, let me say if Wordsworth grant me license:

ON MORTIMER ADLER

"If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
I have not reason to lament
What this Man has made of Man."

With my warmest regards always,

Max

**Mortimer J. Adler, *Adler's Philosophical Dictionary*
(1995), p. 7, Acknowledgements (excerpt):**

Upon completion of my last book, *Art, the Arts, and the Great Ideas*, my good friend and colleague Max Weismann, cofounder and director of the Center for the Study of Great Ideas in Chicago, urged me to undertake the writing of this book. His conviction was that not only would this book represent a summation of my philosophical views, but it would afford readers, when read with my other works, an invaluable guidebook on how to think about the future.



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