BUCKINGHAM PALACE

26th May, 2004

Dear Mr. Hardcastle

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your letter of 6th May asking Her Majesty to contribute an essay for a book called *Monty Python and Philosophy* which will be edited by you and Mr. George Reisch.

Although it was kind of you to invite The Queen to participate in your project, I am afraid that your offer must be declined.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. GILL MIDDLEBURGH
Chief Clerk

Mr. Gary Hardcastle
The Queen  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA.  

Your Majesty,  

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to contribute an essay to a volume entitled Monty Python and Philosophy. I will edit the book with George A. Reisch and it will be published by Open Court Publishing Company.  

As you are no doubt aware, Monty Python’s humour has touched on fascinating and important philosophical themes. Our volume will contain essays that take up this intersection of Monty Python and philosophy. Eminent philosophers and public intellectuals have signed on, and I can assure you that your contribution will be in fine intellectual company.  

Perhaps you are stymied for ideas. Recall that Python humor as often been at the expense of your own Royal Family, and of institutions dear to England. This could be your chance to even the score or, if that is not to your liking (I tend to just ignore criticism, myself, and maybe this is how you handle it), you may find this just the chance to comment on the place the Pythons have in the hearts of the Royal family. Your call entirely.  

Of course, you must have a very busy schedule. But I hope you will find time to contribute an essay—even just a few words—to our volume. Space is limited, though, so please do not delay in your response. On the other hand, we could bump an assistant professor from the volume to make room for your contribution, if it came to that. But please keep that fact under your crown.  

I eagerly await your response. Ever Yours,  

Gary L. Hardcastle  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Bloomsburg University
Monty Python and Philosophy
Popular Culture and Philosophy™

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Monty Python and Philosophy

Nudge Nudge, Think Think!

Edited by
GARY L. HARDCASTLE
and
GEORGE A. REISCH

OPEN COURT
Chicago and La Salle, Illinois
To Kiah, Cheshire, and Quinn, who’ve never had to be told to think for themselves

—G.L.H.

And to Bruces Everywhere

—G.A.R.
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