

Lecture 3: ‘Über Sinn und Bedeutung’

Philosophy of Logic and Language — HT 2017-18

Jonny McIntosh

jonathon.mcintosh@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Works by Frege

The main texts this week are ‘Function and Concept’, ‘On Sense and Reference’, and ‘Concept and Object’, all in *The Frege Reader*:

The Frege Reader, ed. by Michael Beaney (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997).

The unpublished ‘Comments on Sense and Reference’, is also very useful, as are parts of Frege’s correspondence, in particular his letters to Husserl (dated 24.5.1891), Jourdain (Jan 1914), and Russell (13.11.1904). You can find all of these in *The Frege Reader*.

Secondary Reading

As always, starred items (*) are introductory, and good places to start. Weiner (2004) discusses all the issues discussed this week. Textor (2011) is more focused on ‘On Sense and Reference’, and Sainsbury (2005) on the subsequent debate over proper names. Dummett (1975) and McDowell (1977) are two influential neo-Fregean accounts of the sense-reference distinction. They are not easy reads, however. Sainsbury (2005) discusses McDowell, and Taschek’s contribution to Potter and Ricketts (2010) discusses both. In the same volume, Michael Kremer’s essay (on sense and reference) and Thomas Ricketts’ essay (on concepts and objects) are both very helpful too. For more on the concept *horse* paradox, see Diamond (1978), Dummett (1981), and Parsons (1986).

Cora Diamond (1979) ‘Frege and Nonsense’ in Cora Diamond and Jenny Teichman, eds. *Intention and Intentionality* (Brighton: Harvester).

Michael Dummett (1975) ‘Frege’s Distinction between Sense and Reference’, reprinted in his (1978) *Truth and Other Enigmas*, (London: Duckworth).

Michael Dummett (1981) *Frege: Philosophy of Language*, 2nd ed. (London: Duckworth), Ch. 7 and 8, see esp. pp. 212-8.

John McDowell (1977) ‘On the Sense and Reference of a Proper Name’ in *Mind* 86(342), pp. 159-185.

Charles Parsons (1986) 'Why Frege Should Not Have Said "The Concept Horse is not a Concept"' in *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 3(4), 449-65.

Michael Potter and Tom Ricketts, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Frege* (Cambridge: CUP).

*Mark Sainsbury (2005) *Reference without Referents* (Oxford: OUP), Ch. 1.

*Mark Textor (2011) *Frege on Sense and Reference* (London: Routledge), Ch. 4.

*Joan Weiner (2004) *Frege Explained* (Chicago: Open Court), Ch. 5 and 6.