

EDITORIAL

As the current number was going to the press, we learned of the death of the distinguished philosopher, A. J. Ayer, who served briefly on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Utilitas*, but who was associated with the Bentham Committee at University College London from its foundation thirty years ago. The decision to create the Bentham Committee and to undertake the massive task of editing Bentham's *Collected Works* was taken while Professor Ayer held the Grote Professorship of the Philosophy of Mind and Logic at University College London. As he himself claimed, he was the main force behind this decision. For many years he served as the representative of the British Academy on the Committee and on numerous occasions assisted Bentham studies in a variety of ways. He will be greatly missed as not only a friend of those involved in the Bentham edition but also as a philosopher who could fully appreciate the importance of a journal like *Utilitas* to that philosophical tradition in which he worked. A full tribute will appear in the next number.

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