

## SWAN Flies at Oslo Reception

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Alan Drengson

We are pleased to announce the official publication of the *Selected Works of Arne Naess (SWAN)* in ten volumes by Springer Publishing.



Alan Drengson (left), co-editor of the ten-volume *Selected Works of Arne Naess*, with Arne and Inge Bostad, professor of philosophy and vice Chancellor of the University of Oslo at the book launch in Oslo.

*Photo by Kit-Fai Naess*

The official reception, announcing the publication of *SWAN*, was held at the University of Oslo on November 17, 2005. The reception was attended by Arne Naess; his wife Kit-Fai; Harold Glasser, the series editor; Alan Drengson, associate editor; Charles Erkelens, representative of the publisher; Inge Bostad, professor of philosophy and vice Chancellor of the University of Oslo; and many other

distinguished guests. The launch, moderated by Nina Witoszek from SUM, was a great success. There was considerable interest in the 10 elegant volumes that were on display. Music was provided by Norwegian violinist Arve Tellefsen, one of Norway's top violinists. His pieces were drawn from traditional folk as well as contemporary music. One piece he played is named "Mountains." Arne's son Ragnar spoke movingly about what he had learned from his father. The reception was a solemn and yet funny, joyful celebration of Naess's life and work. Arne arm-wrestled many of the people who shook his hand, and also offered to spar with several of them using Gandhian boxing. There were many toasts.

This letter from Doug Tompkins, of the Foundation for Deep Ecology, which sponsored the *SWAN* project, was read by Rob Waring at the reception.

Hi Arne and Kit-Fai,

I have just read your email and was very excited to hear that the set of *SWAN* finally arrived in your hands. I feel like *Mission Accomplished!* It may have taken longer than planned, but it goes to show that if you put your mind to something, keep working on it long enough, you can get it done!

Of course all the credit really goes to you Arne, because you not only are the person behind the thousands and thousands of words and ideas contained between the covers, and the reason that all of us worked to get them there. You are the light that shines on the path of most all of those who worked on the books, each in our own way, within our own capabilities. This was a true labor of love. Speaking for myself, although I think I can speak for everyone, it is because you changed our thinking and taught us, and we love you for that. You have given us reasons beyond those we also may have had to do whatever we are doing. There are few who inspire, you are one of them.

I hope too that this compilation of your most important work, extraordinary by any standard anywhere, will serve its intended purpose and put you forever in your rightful place in philosophy history, at the top. Although I am not going to say that the Nobel Committee will come around to the Philosophers Prize within the next 15 or 20 years while you are still alive, but somewhere down the line there will be something to that effect!

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All the very best, and have drink for me.

Doug

The *Selected Works of Arne Naess (SWAN)* is now available as a complete, boxed set. *SWAN* information is available from Springer Publishers: [www.springeronline.com](http://www.springeronline.com)

Price: October 2005, ISBN: 1-4020-3727-9, US\$1,900 (before March 2006), US\$2,300 (after March 2006).

The 10 SWAN volumes are:

Volume I *Interpretation and Preciseness*

Volume II *Scepticism*

Volume III *Which World Is the Real One?*

Volume IV *The Pluralist and Possibilist Aspect of the Scientific Enterprise*

Volume V *Gandhi and Group Conflict*

Volume VI *Freedom, Emotion, and Self-Subsistence* (in Spinoza)

Volume VIII *Communication and Argument*

Volume VIII *Common Sense, Knowledge, and Truth* (Selected Papers)

Volume IX *Reason, Democracy, and Science* (Selected Papers)

Volume X *Deep Ecology of Wisdom* (Selected Papers)