March 5, 1965

Professor Nicholas Rescher
Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Nicholas,

I am sorry to learn about the negative reaction to
my paper, but, of course, it is the privilege of editors
and referees to accept or reject material as they see
fit. In any case, this unhappy episode, as you call it,
needs not diminish an iota the cordial relations and
friendship between us. I am not the sort of person to
make such a thing as rejection of a paper for publication
stand in the way of friendship.

The fault may lie in sending a paper which is only
a part of a much longer affair; indeed, the paper is
a somewhat revised version of Chapter One of a book whose
successive chapters deal more in detail with matters
scarcely broached upon in my paper. The whole thing
may dispel some of your referee's misgivings about
excessive generality and lack of argument, but the whole
thing is still far from being a whole, so that it may be
wise to abstain from making undue claims. After all, I
may have been barking up the wrong tree all along.

I have the impression, however, that your referee has
misunderstood one point. I am not claiming that linguistic
philosophy --or, more specifically, linguistic philosophy
of the Oxonian type-- is a form of idealism. I only claim
(or hope that I do) that it may lead to some sort of idealism.
Thus, my target is not, properly speaking, linguistic philosophy
(for which, believe it or not, I have a great deal of respect)
but only some uses to which it may be put. To be sure, if the
target proves to be a ghost it may be a waste of time to make
any fuss about it, but then all I can say is that I have
(unwillingly, or perhaps unconsciously) surrendered to a
temptation much too frequent among philosophers, assuming
that I am one, which is to make targets of views in order to
disclaim them. In short, I do not claim the possibility of having
misunderstood your referee's simple-minded remarks on this
one point.

You may rest assured that, as far as I am concerned, our
friendship goes through it all the same as before whatsoever.

Cordially,