

Existentialist Society, Melbourne - Tuesday 1st March 2016.

Dr Pierre Van Osselaer

"Heidegger: Questioning Causality?"

Heidegger, Martin. "The Question Concerning Technology". *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*. Trans. William Lovitt. New York and London: Garland, 1977.

"The closer we come to the danger, the more brightly do the ways into the saving power begin to shine and the more questioning we become. For questioning is the piety of thought." (35)

"For centuries philosophy has taught that there are four causes: (1) the *causa materialis*, the material, the matter out of which, for example, a silver chalice is made; (2) the *causa formalis*, the form, the shape into which the material enters; (3) the *causa finalis*, the end, for example, the sacrificial rite in relation to which the chalice required is determined as to its form and matter; (4) the *causa efficiens*, which brings about the effect that is the finished, actual chalice, in this instance, the silversmith." (6)

"Questioning builds a way. We would be advised, therefore, above all to pay heed to the way, and not to fix our attention on isolated sentences and topics. The way is a way of thinking. All ways of thinking, more or less perceptibly, lead through language in a manner that is extraordinary." (3)