

RICHARD ROBERT SLOMON

1941 – 2010

An Introduction to his collected works

By

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I have had a number of mentors during my life. The most important in chronological order are: My father, William F. Buckley, Jr., Ayn Rand, Grant C. LaPoint, Virginia Tilling, Ludwig von Mises, and Richard Robert Slomon. The Road to Slomon was a long one. Here it is:

My father, William Sinclair Colver (1930-1985), was an exacting, logical thinker and musician. Seeing the necessity of preserving freedom in a world truly devastated by socialism, he dedicated his life during the Cold War to fighting the greatest menace that human-kind has ever known as a Lt. Col. in the US Air Force Air Defense Command. I remember him railing against the Communist American unions and Democrat Party which were destroying the last best hope for freedom. He led me to thoughts of what made up the foundations of freedom and prosperity. He was of what Richard Slomon called the Warrior Class.

During high school in Colorado Springs, I found William F. Buckley, Jr., another intellectual giant who forced one to think logically about ends and means in the fight for liberty. I joined his Young Americans for Freedom. He was of what Richard Slomon called the Creator Class.

I found Ayn Rand during my first year of college in 1972 while attending what can only be described as the radical leftist institution of Nebraska Wesleyan University. I still feel that “Capitalism, the Unknown Ideal” and “The Virtue of Selfishness” are her best non-fiction works. Here was someone who had put into writing what I had for a long time sensed as true. She fundamentally transformed my life. Vague thoughts of ethics and values became concrete after understanding the role of philosophy in one’s life. Understanding her concept of one’s “sense of life” allows you to see through to the heart of others in an instant. I read all her works, and became an Objectivist. I regret never having made a great effort to meet her while she was still alive. She was the original Class Creator, the Twentieth Century’s greatest philosopher and writer. Her books still sell hundreds of thousands each year.

After having failed at NWU due to my lack of being able to “understand the Communist way” I spent my next three years of college at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Cold as hell. One of the few things you can do is read. I met Grant LaPoint who was manning a Libertarian Party booth at the Student Union which had signs like “In Gold We Trust” and “Hospers for President.” Within two days I was behind that booth absorbing everything Grant could teach. He became like another father to me. I lost track of him for a long time when he joined Michael Oliver in their “New Country Project.” They tried for years to find a place in the world where they could set up an actual Libertarian Country. Richard Slomon had a similar goal, only his was (at first) in outer space. Grant was also of the Creator Class. I ended up working for a long time in the Libertarian Party.

Graduating college, I went to Law School at the University of Idaho. There I read all the works of Ludwig von Mises. A firm grounding in economics is necessary for an understanding of how the world works. The works of Murray Rothbard were next. Murray was a great intellect and lots of fun. Both were some of the greatest Creators.

After law school I moved to Seattle specifically to work with Richard Slomon. He was a mentor to me for several years starting in 1979 when I joined him working on radical libertarianism. He was a gruff, sometimes frustrated, but brilliant intellectual genius who often reminded me of Ayn Rand in that he would prefer to work alone than to compromise one iota of his ideas. It was those ideas that seemed to pour forth from him with abandon. I made sure to keep as many of his articles as possible, and in this compilation are over 90. I think I was always hoping to provide posterity with a glimpse of his intellect. He never received recognition during his life for his work, other than “Liberty Defined” (also listed as Libertarianism Defined”) which is one of the best, concise statements of the Objectivist (Randian) view of the proper role of government. I hope that his views will be sought out now that he is gone.

Richard Slomon’s intellectual background started with Ayn Rand and the Objectivist philosophy she founded. He always signed his name “\$lomon,” in honor of Rand and the last sentence in her magnum opus, “Atlas Shrugged:” “He (Galt) raised his hand and over the desolate earth he traced in space the sign of the dollar.” That sentence still sends goose bumps over my body, and those who have read her book know what I mean. Slomon’s thorough intellectual thought processes reminded me of the writings of Rand, Barbara Branden’s “Principles of Efficient Thinking”, Lysander Spooner, Murray Rothbard and Ludwig von Mises all rolled into one. It was his logical, consistent ideas compiled with a biting and grand radical rhetoric and masterful use of the English language which put him with the likes of the above. His step by step progression made his positions irrefutable and left no stone unturned, no avenue for rebuttal from the opposition. He had a thorough background in history, philosophy, economics, culture and science. He defined the term Creator Class, literally.

Slomon advocated the founding of colonies in space by libertarians. When I was in seventh grade in 1967 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, my science teacher saw a spark in the “smart kid in the back of the class.” He sent me to attend college classes at the local

university where I heard Freeman Dyson. (See also, Dyson Sphere.) In that lecture Dyson described how space would be colonized by small entrepreneurs and frontiersmen similar to how the US was won: by people like the Puritans and the Mormons. Slomon wanted to lead one of those groups. He developed the intellectual grounding necessary for the future in space (and on earth). The philosophy was there. The means to get into space on a shoestring were not.

After having been unable to get the space project off the ground, Slomon turned to breaking the boundaries of libertarian philosophy with his radical anti-state publications.

Slomon had specific plans for the development of a libertarian cadre, a revolutionary core, grounded in what he called the “Creator Class” theory. Everyone feared this development because it reminded people of communist organizing. But it would be best to describe Slomon’s methods as being “Leninist.” He was an avowed opponent of Marxism and any type of statism, however, he understood the Leninist method of organizing as being most successful. (Lenin is a must read for anyone who opposes totalitarianism.) The Creator Class theory, and its subset, the Warrior Class (as well as most of Slomon’s writings) are the logical progression of the ideas of Rand.

He furthered Rand’s ideas on mysticism, altruism, collectivism and statism. Mysticism is necessary but not sufficient for altruism; altruism is necessary but not sufficient for collectivism; and collectivism is necessary but not sufficient for statism. “MACS” is what he called this philosophy. Almost all the world’s evils and problems can be traced back to this axis.

Slomon’s “Retaliatory Recapture” was the concept that those of us who were being plundered by the State were entitled to retaliate against it, and recapture our (and others’) stolen property, to use against the State.

Finally he anonymously called for the creation of underground libertarian cells for outright revolution against the State in his Manifesto of the Anarcho-Capitalist Revolution.

I hope you find him as interesting, challenging and convincing as I did.

His attached works are in chronological order, divided into the time frames of the organizations he founded:

1. The International Society of Free Space Colonizers (SFSC) and its publication “Quest” from 1972 to 1977.
2. Political Action Caucus (PAC) and its publication “Versus State” from Feb, 1977 to Feb, 1980.
3. Movement to End Racial Injustice and Tyranny (MERIT) from Feb, 1978 to about 1980.

4. The American Abolitionist Movement (ABM) from April, 1980.

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