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The Professor and the Wall

Berlin 1960-1989: The Untold Story

Klaus Hochstapler



THE
THREAD
BONE

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Mrs Amanda J Threadbone

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Group Captain Sandy “Y’ll Have Had Yr Tea” Thompson

Herbert von Küche, Präsident, Volksmuseum der Ehemalige DDR

He further acknowledges financial assistance from the Deutsche Bundesbank to meet the cost of hiring a bicycle.

Editor's Note:

The worldwide fascination with Professor Thrupiece and his doings grows apace. No sooner had *Professor Thrupiece and the Cuban Conference* appeared than I was approached by Klaus Hochstapler’s literary agent and former Senior Bursar of Magdalene College Cambridge, Group Captain Sandy “Y’ll Have Had Yr Tea” Thompson, who assured me in no uncertain terms that Klaus was sitting on something “really big”. Keen to explore the possibility of handling this, I set off for the Iron Chancellery armed only with a small (expandable) suitcase and a Matalan weatherproof overall. Once safely inside the Blick auf die Berge Cafe, Abensberg, Herr Dr Dr Dr Hochstapler lost no time in pulling out his package. I had been promised a big one and he did not disappoint. The briefest glance quickly confirmed it was huge: far bigger than I could possibly have imagined. Rumours of the existence of what Herr Dr Dr Dr Hochstapler now waved before me had been in circulation for some time, but here it was in the flesh. Keen to dive straight in, I hesitated nevertheless: something this big required very careful handling. But, after a thorough shake-down, both the good Dr and I were well-satisfied and a rights deal quickly followed. Perhaps the single biggest contribution to the still incomplete Thrupiece story - Brian in a completely different light - was on its way back to the land of his birth.

Readers will again be struck by Professor Thrupiece’s uncanny ability to find himself in the right place at the right time and some will perhaps conclude that more than coincidence is involved. During his lifetime, stories frequently circulated that the Professor was in the pay of an agency (MI6, CIA, Mossad - and even bizarrely the KGB) but no proof has ever been advanced to substantiate these claims. Here at the RSCBE we prefer to think he was simply a man with his finger on the pulse, driven by nothing more sinister than a burning need to resolve the outstanding culinary bio-ethical issues of his day whenever and wherever they erupted. And - lest we forget - he gave his life in so doing. “*Maiorem hac dilectionem nemo habet ut animam suam dat tessera peregrinorum.*”

A shorter version of this article appeared in the Summer 2016 edition *The Cambridge Magazine* and is here re-printed (in full) with the kind co-operation of the publishers, Pointless Freebies Ltd.

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thrupiecedigitalmedia

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Readers of earlier papers in this prize-winning series¹ will need no reminding of Professor Thrupiece's pioneering visit to the former German Democratic Republic (DDR) or of the impact of that historic event on the thawing of east-west relations which followed shortly thereafter. The DDR's democratically elected and hugely popular General Secretary and national spokesperson, Erich Honecker surely spoke for a grateful nation when, asked to sum up the impact of the Professor's many visits, had no hesitation in saying "*Es war ein bisschen lustig. Wir entspannten uns und genossen eine Wurst.*" (Loosely: "*It was a bit of fun. We relaxed and enjoyed a sausage.*")

Even so, it will come as a surprise to even the most informed Thrupiece *aficionado* to learn of the Professor's much longer, more consistent and more significant involvement in the affairs of that semi-nation and of his tireless efforts to bring about the political conditions which made possible the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989. To say that he provided the building blocks which protestors would tear down would be no exaggeration - and all this whilst researching and writing his 3 volume treatise on *The Role of Ersaz Pistachio (pistacia vera ersazia) in Re-negotiating Khabibullin's Conjecture on Integral Inequalities*². Klaus Hochstapler's magisterial account - here presented in the original german and in a translation by the DHRA Netherlands corresponding member Anouk van den Heuvel - will, we hope, lead to many more discoveries. It is currently estimated that Professor Thrupiece visited some 38 countries, leaving - if his Cuban and East German exploits are any indication - a trail of evidence, of which recoverable DNA samples are not the least important.

A NOTE ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS: The photographs published here in English for the first time (the conversion from Agfa-Gaevert to Kodachrome was undertaken at **thrupiecefim's** digital facility in Marin County) were assembled by a junior staff member of the *Berliner Zeitung* at great personal risk to himself, his consumables allowance and his elderly parents. The collection subsequently passed into the hands of Dr Dr Dr Hochstapler in circumstances which are not altogether clear, but are believed to have involved the exchange of several tins of *Tulip Brand Luncheon Meat* for which the RSCBE has not recompensed the author. Yet again, Professor Thrupiece has been fortunate in his unintended historians.

Mrs Amanda J Threadbone
Great Heaving | Dorset
November 2016

¹ The audio version of *The Thrupiece Story* narrated by David Dimblebone - and available from the RSCBE Giftshop - has recently received the Radiocentre Arqiva Commercial Radio Award for Third Most Interesting Story by a Dorset Author.

². Documentary evidence suggesting that Thrupiece Building Supplies (later Threadbone-Hornimint-China Construction Inc) exported a large number of reinforced concrete slabs to the Eastern Sector in late 1961 and early 1962 was discovered by Cambridge historian David Starkey-Raving-Bonkers. They were returned in 1989.



Königliche Gesellschaft der Kulinarischen Bioethik

Der Professor und die Mauer: Berlin 1960-1989: Die Unbekannte Geschichte

Herr Dr Dr Dr Klaus Hochstapler

Als lebenslangen Verehrer von Professor Thrupiece ist es eine Ehre für mich, den englischsprachigen Völkern diese Darstellung der angesehenen kulinarischen Bioethiker in den Angelegenheiten meines Landes vorzustellen. Ein Teenager zum Zeitpunkt des Falles der Mauer, ist dieses Ereignis von vielen Meilen das größte Ereignis in meinem Land und meine eigene persönliche Geschichte. Nichts ist größer. Selbst die Berliner Olympiade von 1936 unter dem Vorsitz von meinem großen Onkel Adolf, dem ich nie begegnete, er ist gegen Ende des Krieges in einer unterirdischen Residenz im Reichskanzleramt gestorben. Petroleumgeist.

Professor Thrupiece besuchte zuerst die dann Ost-Deutschland in den späten 1950er Jahren, als er Teil einer Delegation war die junge Gesellschaft Deutscher kulinarischen Bio-Ethiker (gegründet 1884) zu helfen Vokabular für Dual-Säulen-logico-sprachlichen Artikulation Gleichungen Verwendung zu standardisieren. Mit der Möglichkeit, in Kontakt zu treten beide Regierungsbeamten und U-Bahn-Dissidenten (die vermutlich waren Abkömmlinge von meinem Bunker liebenden Großonkel Adolf) wurde der Professor ideal positioniert zwischen den beteiligten Parteien zu verhandeln, wenn Hinweise Entspannungstaucht.

Berichte, dass er anwesend war, als die Mauer zahlreiche und plausibel fiel sind. Dass er ausübte der erste Schlitten-Hammer zweifelhaft ist. Er war sicherlich ein Ehrengast an der Freedom Concert arrangiert und dirigiert von Herrn Leonard Bernstein nach dem Morgen.

Die hier reproduzierten Fotos reflektieren nur unvollkommen die Arbeit und das Engagement des Professors. Es genügt, in den Worten von Helmut Schmidt zu sagen: "Ich glaube, er könnte wichtig gewesen sein, aber auf genau das, was ich nicht sagen kann."

Schöne Ferien

Klaus Hochstapler

Ehrenmitglied, Königliche Gesellschaft der Kulinarischen Bioethik
Berlin Oktober 2016



Königliche Gesellschaft der Kulinarischen Bioethik

The Professor and the Wall: Berlin 1960-1989: The Unknown Story

Herr Dr Dr Dr Klaus Hochstapler

[translated by Anouk van den Heuvel]

As a lifelong affection of Professor Thrupiece, it is a pleasant happening for me to present to the English-speaking natives this image of the respected culinary bioethics man in the affairs of my country. A teenager when at the time of the Wall fall, this event of many miles is the greatest event in my country and my own living story. Nothing is bigger. Never even the Berlin Olympiad of 1936, chaired by my great uncle Adolf, in whom I am not meeting, he is no longer anymore at the end of the war in an underground residence at the ReichChancellery. Petroleum spirit.

Professor Thrupiece he was first visiting the East Germany in the late 1950s, when he was made a delegation to help the young German Society of Culinary Bioethics (founded in 1884) to make nice-words for dual-column logico-language articulation equations of abysmal mystery. With the opportunity to touch with both government officials and subway dissidents (who were perhaps newer descendants of my hole-loving big-eyed Adolf), the professor was perfectly stanced between the parties involved to negotiate when indications of relaxation appear.

Reports that he was in ground when fell the Wall being numerous and plausible. That he exercised the first hammer is doubtful. He was though surely arranged an honoured guest at the Freedom Concert made by Mr. Leonard Bernstein after the morning.

The photographs on display here make pictures only badly of the work and the effort of the Professor. It is perhaps much to say in the sentence of Helmut Schmidt: "I think he might have been yes, but exactly what I cannot say."

Happy Holidays

Klaus Hochstapler

Honorary Member, Königliche Gesellschaft der Kulinarischen Bioethik
Berlin October 1206



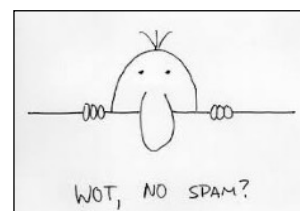
Das Berliner Airlift. Always even-handed in matters of international diplomacy, Professor Thrupiece was active in the Berlin Airlift advising the western powers on a number of issues ranging from pre-natal nutrition to the resolution of competing meta-narratives in the description of impalpable night time urges [later identified as “night starvation”]. Acute food shortages made the recently elaborated Thrupiecediet™ popular since it required only the re-hydration of large accumulations of fluff. Here, however, we see German children throwing stones at an aeroplane in the mistaken belief it is a large edible *accipitridae*. Bird protection was not a priority at the time. It is not clear whether Professor Thrupiece was actually onboard Olympic Airways flight OA 17 to Nyasaland,



Checkpoint Charlie: This vital point of exchange became very familiar to Professor Thrupiece as he criss-crossed between sectors in the early 1960s. As a respected authority, he was relatively free from the restrictions which so insistently marked the lives of others, but such was the weight of expectation on his shoulders, it was important occasionally to move undetected. The Professor’s cover on such occasions was that of a bio-ethical sanitary technician charged with updating bi-polar slip-valves in pipework at the *Kontrollpunkt Charlie Diner und Cafe-Bar*. Since his knowledge of jargon more than compensated for deficiencies in his manual skills, he was never unmasked (see Amalfried Schalentänzer, “Such Big Hands: casual encounters with famous culinary bio-ethicists” *Berliner Morgenpost*, 19 January 1963). Scholars have speculated that Professor Thrupiece’s occasional flirtation with a moustache may have had its origins in these early covert operations.



What Goes Up...: Much to Professor Thrupiece's horror, the East German authorities took advantage of his temporary absence in Cuba (where he was involved in a brave but widely misunderstood attempt to improve the island's pig stocks), to build the wall in earnest. [top] In August 1961 blocks, to a design created by Professor Thrupiece for use in combating bio-ethical hazards, began to appear. [second from top] East German indoor bowls champion Fritz Bälle tests the walls for level [third from top] authorities were so stretched that by 1962 they had seconded more than a dozen former RAC motorcycle rescue officers to help control crowds. Their calm roadside salutes did much to ease tension at a difficult time [bottom left] Having heard hilarious stories of the cartoon character Mr Chad, East German guards never tired of repeating the impression Professor Thrupiece had taught them. Perhaps for the same reason "*Wot No Spam*" became a common cry amongst *hausfrau* queueing outside East Berlin butchers. [bottom right] After the wall came down, a section illustrating the Chad character, was Presented to Professor Thrupiece and now stands in the DHRS' Garden of Remembrance in Piddletrenthide. [Inset] Professor Thrupiece's 1961 rendering of Mr Chad which started it all.





Is He, Isn't He?: Rumours of Professor Thrupiece's presence on either side of the wall always aroused huge local interest. Here visiting students from the Bio-Ethical Experimental Research Station, Leipzig peer through a crack in the wall in the belief that the Professor is undertaking routine maintenance on the other side. Brian was in fact in Barbuda searching for *Griswold's ameiva* which he believed might provide a key to early formulations of the Thrupiece Table. He was wrong. Ironically it was the *Antiguan racer*, one of the rarest snakes in the world, which held the key ($ARr = 3.94thru$). STASI Officer Fotze looks on.



Extramural Love: a rare photograph in experimental Agfa technicolour taken by Professor Thrupiece in 1963 using an Ilford Sporti4 Variflex. Not normally given to recording human activity outdoors (he preferred the intimacy of indoor subjects) he was clearly drawn to this composition in a moment of whimsy. The stark neo-brutal architecture, unforgivingly sharp-edged grass and incongruously loose pre-postmodern drollery of the graffiti by Gerd ScheißeKunst in the midst of which two young lovers stroll parenthetically “as it were” was another example of contrarian typology of the kind with which the Professor wrestled each day. His was a mind only rarely at rest.



A Home from Home: Frequent residence in hotels in East Berlin where celebrity robbed him of time for critical thinking, tired the normally gregarious Professor leading him to seek accommodation closer to that which he had known as a child in Batcombe. He found it in the home of attractive divorcee Brigitta Machmich, an open-hearted and indulgent woman who - *"neigte zu meinem jeden Bedarf"* - often bent over backwards when he preferred her to do so. Here, in the shadow of the wall, she hangs out a selection of the Professor's Jermyn Street attire. The scooter (foreground) is the Professor's. He was temporarily unable to drive and had all but given up on public transport.



Public Rally: though he succeeded for the most part in remaining above the political fray, Professor Thrupiece came under constant pressure to join popular movements and to speak at dissident rallies. The mass meeting pictured above took place on 8th February 1964 and was not one of the more successful examples. The stand from which Professor Thrupiece delivered his *"Ich bin ein Frankfurter"* speech can be seen centre left. It is far from clear from the photograph whether it was taken just before or just after the rally or - as some have suggested - during the rally when Party Chairman Erich Honecker and his associates made a surprise appearance. Professor Thrupiece was critical of Honecker, though fond, as we have seen, of his Company's eponymous After Dinner Mints, a tin of which often accompanied him back to England.



Early Blows: Students set to work dismantling the wall in the early hours of 10 November 1989. Recently released papers prove beyond doubt that it was Professor Thrupiece's intervention which dissuaded the East German authorities from taking retaliatory action. He had warned them of the likely consequences, going so far as to threaten them with expulsion from the 1990 RSCBE Open Championships to be held at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre. Keen to field an all German team in the Coxless Bovine-semantics Canaster Super League (Bantamweight Division), Honecker reluctantly agreed.



The Hammer of History: Under strict instructions from the Professor and with meticulous planning in place, repatriation of the Thrupiece Blocks begins. Brian (amongst the crowd holding a Zorki-4K camera aloft) watches on as construction chief Axel Schläger explains the correct lift and hold position. A martyr to back problems, the Professor would have been keen to learn. Almost a quarter of a million concrete slabs found their way back to the Thrupiece works in Bradpole where they would be re-engineered as commemorative book-marks. Several examples were found in the Professor's library mostly on top of broken coffee tables. The writing on the wall reads: "Long Live Dalai Li" which makes no sense to non-Tibetan speakers. Translated it means "Professor Thrupiece is our hero, he made this happen. Culinary Bio-ethics rock".

[illegible]

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT II | Page 12



Beethoven, Bernstein and the Professor: As the world knows, jubilation following the fall of the wall was unbounded and many celebrities flocked to Berlin to associate themselves with the momentous events of that time. Amongst these was the distinguished American conductor, composer and civil rights activist Leonard Bernstein who Professor Thrupiece had met backstage at Carnegie Hall following a performance of child prodigy Addinsell Threadbone's *Dorset Folksong Suite*. He quickly responded to Brian's call to join him.



[top] Bernstein *en route* with RSCBE representative Camilla Indoor-Bowls [second from top] Bernstein attacks the wall. He had asked to borrow the Professor's electro-mechanical nasal clippers for the purpose but, fearing for their diamond-sharpened blades, the Professor refused [bottom left] having packed in a hurry Bernstein was pleased to be offered the use of Brian's dressing gown - a gift from a grateful Cuban government in the early 1960s [below] Crowds at the Beethoven Concert. Brian is seen holding his own - centre left [bottom] members of the orchestra improvise a *Song of Thanksgiving* to words hastily assembled by DHRA member Susan Sizemore. It began "*Geliebt Brian 'tis of thee we sing*". No-one knows how it ended.





Ode to Freedom: [right] Cover of an early LaserVideodisc™ featuring the concert outside the Brandenburg Gate in which Professor Thrupiece's friend Leonard Bernstein conducted a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony in celebration of the Wall's fall. The words to Schiller's *Ode to Joy*, were subtly changed by DHRA favourite Susan Sizemore, more properly to reflect the new sense of freedom. Bernstein drew sustained applause from the crowd when he singled out Brian as "a modern day Joshua", before whom "walls come a tumblin' down". [below]. When called upon to provide inspirational words, Susan Sizemore once again failed to deliver. Her 'modernization' of Schiller's original was not to all tastes.

Ode to Joy from IX Symphony

© Susan Sizemore

Ludvig van Beethoven

Professor Thrupiece made this happen, he's the one we all agree

arr. Tadeusz Krystyniak

soprano

mf

Joy re-splen-dent God-sent glim-mer, daugh-ter of a bliss di-"vine!"

alto

Joy, re-splen-dent God-sent glim-mer, daugh-ter of a bliss di - "vine!"

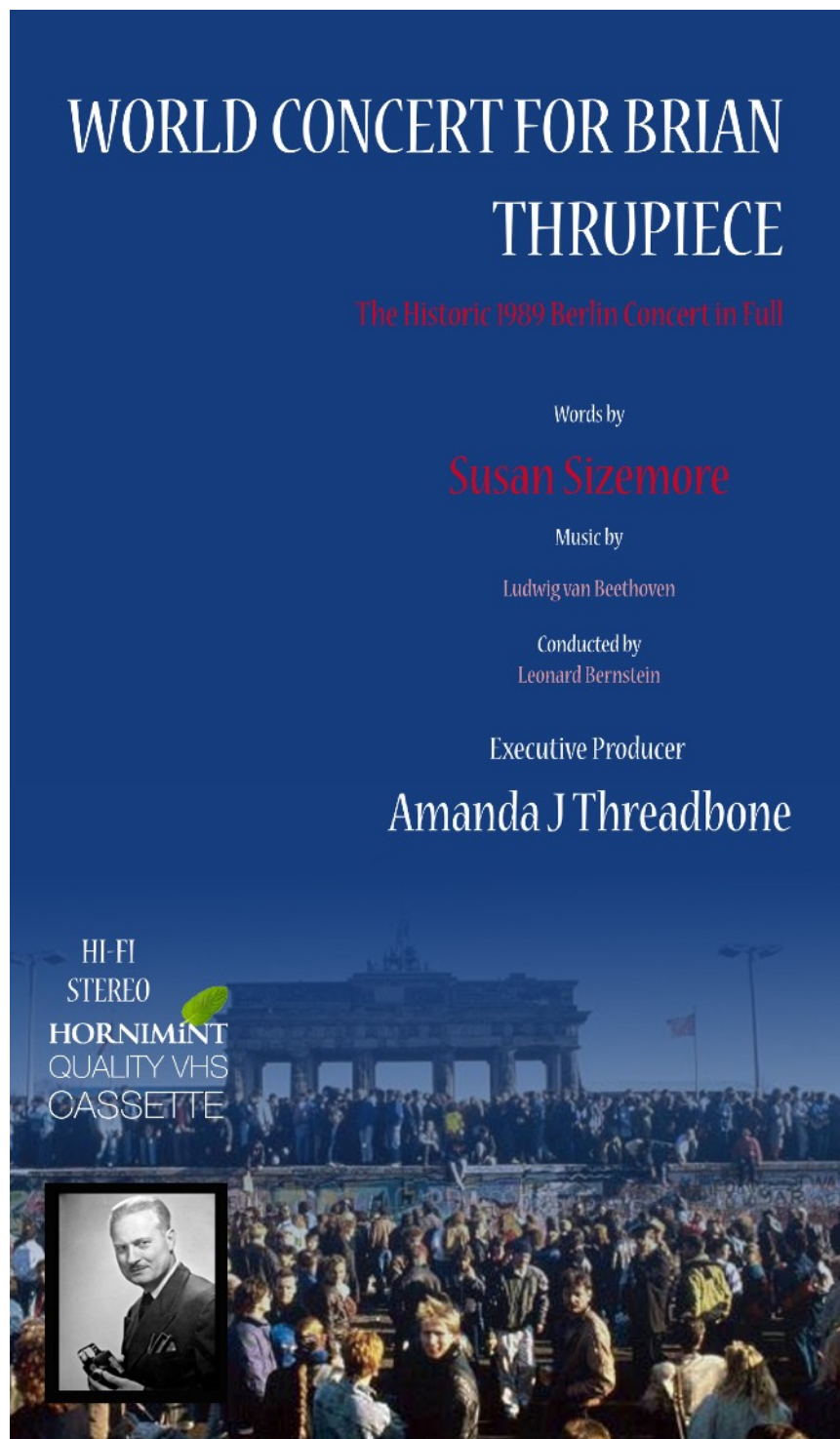
5 *At bio-ethics he's the greatest, this is plain for all to see*

s.

Drunk with "flames" that in us sim-mer en-ter we Thy ho-ly "shine." What rou-"tine" hath *mp*

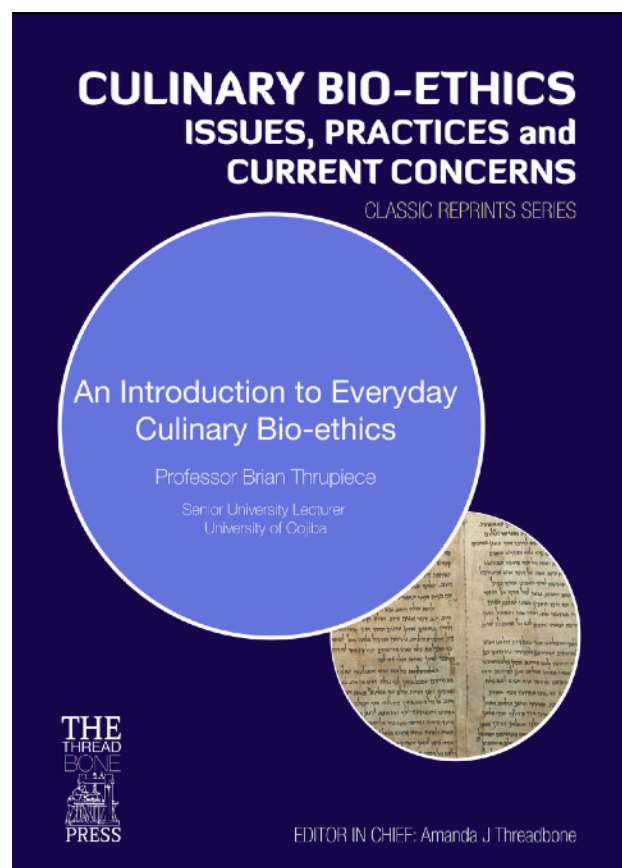
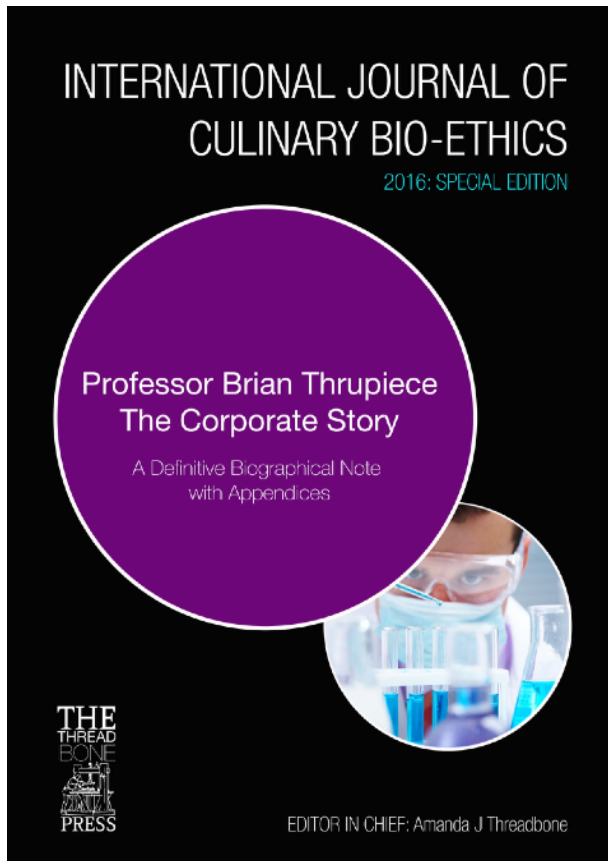
a.

Drunk with "flames" that in us sim-mer en-ter we Thy ho-ly shine. What rou-"tine" a



Take Two: Hornimint's 2006 reissue of the Historic Concert on conventional VHS tape. The eagle-eyed will notice a change of emphasis compared to the original Deutsche Grammophon release. By now Professor Thru-piece's best days were behind him. Indeed he had been dead for over a year.

Also available from the Threadbone Press



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