From Edinburgh to Algiers: Hume and Camus on Philosophical Modesty

David Hume and Albert Camus seems as impossible a pair as, well, David Hume and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Yet not only were Hume and Rousseau (briefly) friends, but their relationship also cast remarkable light on the purpose and ends of philosophy. This also applies to Camus and Hume. As we pause between two anniversary celebrations—Hume’s tercentenary in 2011 and Camus’ centenary in 2013—there is much the two men share and offer to our own age. In their tempestuous ties to their native countries, their marginal standing among traditional philosophers, and their uncompromising, yet complex attitude towards Christianity, Hume and Camus are two of a kind. Moreover, as essayists, both men succeeded in reaching a popular readership far beyond their professional peers. Finally, though both thinkers revolutionized the way in which we have come to see the world, they were also conservatives wedded to a philosophy of limits.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/07/opinion/07zaretsky.html?emc=eta1

Dr. Robert Zaretsky
Professor of French History
The University of Houston

Thursday, February 23rd, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Alumni Hall in Randolph Hall

A reception will follow immediately afterwards

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy; The Coastal Carolina Conservation League; the Department of French, Francophone, and Italian Studies; the Honors College; and the Philosophical Society