

FORUM FOR HISTORY OF HUMAN SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 2

Winter 1999

Message from the Chair
Deborah J. Coon
University of New Hampshire

FHHS

A Decade Old and Thriving

Welcome to the year 2000, which we will pointedly refuse to call the new millennium. The minutes of the 1999 business meeting are enclosed and include important thanks to many of the individuals who have been conducting the ongoing business of the Forum, but in this column let me publicly welcome our new newsletter editor, Kathleen Jones, and than our outgoing editor, Richard von Mayrhauser, who has done such a fine job with the newsletter for the past three years. We will miss him, but we welcome Kathleen as his successor.

At the 1999 business meeting we marked the tenth anniversary of official existence for the Forum. As we reflect on the Forum's founding goals in the late 1980s, it can surely be said that much of what we had hoped for has been accomplished. The Forum is a focal point for many of us who share common interests in the history of human sciences broadly construed. The small but convivial business meetings at History of Science Society meetings are a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones as graduate students and older scholars discover us and join our ranks. There is now a steady diet of high-quality HSS sessions dealing with aspects of the human sciences, and the human sciences have become more a part of the mainstream within history of science than they were fifteen years ago. Of course the Forum can't take credit for all of this; the growth of interest in the human sciences and the recognition of their importance within the history of science has come about as increasing numbers of excellent scholarly works have been published by members and non-members alike. But the Forum can justly take credit for being a visible and lively presence within the History of Science Society and within the scholarly world more generally, for celebrating excellence kn our field through our prizes for best dissertation and best article and our regularly organized symposia at HSS, and for providing scholars of human science at all career stages a point of contact, a web of support, and a source of information through our newsletter, website, and informational page in the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*. Where the Forum goes in the future will be up to its membership. We welcome and need your input.

Matti Bunzl Wins FHHS Article Prize

John Carson

The Forum for the History of the Human Sciences article prize is awarded every other year to the best submitted article published in the preceding three years. The committee – this year consisting of Tim Alborn, John Carson, and Henrika Kuklick — announced at the FHHS business meeting in Pittsburgh that its selection is Matti Bunzl, for his article “Franz Boas and the Humboldtian Tradition: From *Volksgeist* and *Nationalcharakter* to an Anthropological Concept of Culture,” published in George Stocking, ed., *Volksgeist as Method and Ethic: Essays on Boasian Ethnography and the German Anthropological Tradition — History of Anthropology*, vol. 8 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996): 17-78.

In “Franz Boas and the Humboldtian Tradition,” Matti Bunzl provides a sweeping survey of what he calls “historicist Counter-Enlightenment thinking” to argue that American cultural anthropologists are more German than most of them are willing to admit. Bunzl makes two distinct and important contributions to the history of the human sciences: he adds an enormous level of detail to what we know about the ethnographic, linguistic, and methodological work of Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt and their disciples, stretching from the 1770s to the 1880s; and he uses a close study of Boas's early career in America to offer a nuanced account of what happens when a “national style” of doing science is transported into a foreign intellectual and institutional environment. Bunzl's assiduous delineation of the Humboldtian tradition, with its links to Romanticism and historicism, sets the stage for one of his central arguments, that Boas, steeped in this

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Forum for the History of Human Science

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Matti Bunzl, continued from p. 1

tradition, developed his culture concept in response to debates between historicism and "natural law," rather than, as in the standard story, in reaction to the emergence of Darwinism. Where evolution did play a central role, Bunzl makes clear, was later, when Boas emigrated to the United States and confronted an anthropological community deeply committed to evolutionary positivism. There, Bunzl argues persuasively, in response to this environment, Boas elaborated and developed his historicist notion of cultural anthropology, as he did studies of the cultural productions and languages of a number of groups in order to substantiate his claim that anthropology could not proceed by discovering universalist laws but rather must focus on empirically grounded studies of individual

cultural trajectories, with the goal of understanding a given group in as much of this totality and specificity as possible. Throughout his article, Bunzl practices what Boas preached. While convincingly refuting the assumption that American cultural anthropology was largely home-grown, he refuses to adhere to a simplistic "diffusionist" model which would have everything that was new in the field come from the more-developed German tradition. Rather, it is the interactions between old world and new, Darwinism and historicism, and innovation and tradition building that lie at the heart of Bunzl's fine piece of scholarship.

Congratulations to Matti Bunzl, Aaron and Robin Fischer Assistant Professor of Jewish Culture and Society, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

FHHS Business Meeting

Meeting during the Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Pittsburgh, Nov. 6, 1999.

1. Tim Alborn, vice-chair, called the meeting to order since Deborah Coon, chair, was unable to attend.
 2. Report by the secretary-treasurer, David Valone. We have a balance of \$ 979 as a result of an income of \$ 474 and expenses of \$ 611. The newsletter is currently sent out to 173 members. Of those, 43 are up-to-date with respect to their annual dues; 55 are one year late; while 61 have never renewed after signing up (some of these are dues-exempt). Reminders will be mailed out to those who have not paid their dues for this year. David also agreed to stay on as secretary-treasurer and was elected by acclamation. Members unanimously expressed gratitude to David for all his work.
 3. Newsletter report, by the newsletter editor Richard von Mayrhauser. Richard reported on his production of the newsletter as well as the "Notes" page in JHBS. Richard will step down as editor; in his place, Kathleen Jones will assume his duties. Members unanimously expressed gratitude to Richard for all his work and to Kathleen for her willingness to take over these duties.
 4. John Carson, as chair of the prize committee, reported on the work of the committee, which met this year to award the best article prize in the history of the human sciences (for an article published in the last three years). The prize was awarded to Mattie Bunzl, for his article, "Franz Boas and the Humboldtian Tradition: From *Volksgeist* and *Nationalcharakter* to an Anthropological Concept of Culture," published in *History of Anthropology*, vol. 8: *Volksgeist as Method and Ethic*.
- Next year, the Forum's award will be given to the best
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Business Meeting, continued from p. 2

dissertation on a topic within the history of the human sciences. Members expressed unanimous gratitude to the members of the 1999 FHHS prize committee, John Carson, Tim Alborn, and Henrika Kuklick. Members also expressed gratitude to John P. Jackson for advertising the competition in relevant professional newsletters and to David Valone, who received the entries and forwarded them to the prize committee.

5. Report by our web-site editor David Robinson. Dave reminded us that the Forum exists 10 years this year. The web-site lists all the officers the Forum has had, and all the prizes that have been awarded thus far. The organization of the web-site was extensively discussed. The web-site address is: <http://www2.truman.edu/fhhs>. Members expressed unanimous gratitude for the work done by David Robinson.

6. Deborah Coon has had contact with the History of Science Society about an extra volume of ISIS with articles that have appeared in that journal that are relevant to the history of the human sciences. It is proposed that a committee consisting of the current executive committee with two additional members will further study the list of relevant articles. Since Deborah has maintained contact with HSS about this matter, it is suggested that she will continue to do so.

7. Election of new officers. Chair is Deborah Coon, who expressed her intention to step down but who is willing to serve another year. Deborah is reelected for another year by acclamation. A suggestion was made to appoint the chair for a three year period in order to preserve continuity. It has also been suggested that the vice-chair becomes chair after the chair position becomes vacant. It was agreed to postpone a vote on these proposals until next year's meeting. Hans Pols was elected as vice-chair to replace Tim Alborn, who is stepping down after serving in that function for three years. Richard von Mayrhauser was elected as recording secretary. John Carson stepped down as representative after serving in that function for three years. Jamie Cohen Cole was elected as representative in his place. David Valone was willing to continue his position as treasurer and corresponding secretary (a position he has held since 1992). Kathleen Jones was elected as newsletter editor. From the list of nominees, Leila Zenderland is willing to stand for election in 2000; others interested in nominating someone (including themselves) should contact a member of the executive committee.

8. Several ideas were floated with respect to panels FHHS could organize for next year's meeting. Next year will be a joint meeting with the PSA. Several book panels were proposed, as well as a "Where have we been/where are we going" panel.

9. The newsletter editor requests contributions for the newsletter.

for example in the form of short summaries of panels relevant to our interests.

10. The meeting is adjourned by Tim Alborn.
Minutes submitted by: Hans Pols, Secretary

Snapshots of Psychology in 1900

Donald A. Dewsbury, Editor

Like many others, psychologists have wanted to celebrate the year 2000. We thought about an appropriate way for the *American Psychologist* to celebrate; the most obvious would be to choose the 10, 50, or 100 greatest psychologists, events, or accomplishments of the century or even of the millennium. Such endeavors often produce results of considerable interest but are arbitrary and often uninformative. In the end, we decided upon a different approach. Rather than a survey of the century, we would examine psychology as it was a century ago. Twenty-four of the leading historians of psychology of our time agreed to write "snapshots" of various aspects of psychology circa 1900. The articles will appear in the *American Psychologist* throughout the year 2000. We could not cover the entire field with twenty-four short articles; the reader will easily find topics that are not covered. However, we believe that we can provide a good general sense of where the field was a century ago.

The articles are brief "snapshots" with diverse approaches. Some cover such critical aspects as the founding of laboratories (Ludy Benjamin, Jr.), the development of instruments (Rand Evans), introductory courses (Alfred H. Fuchs), journals (Deborah F. Johnson), departments of psychology (Charles E. Rice), and organizations (James L. Pate). They consider some of the external influences on psychology from philosophy (Daniel Robinson), spiritualism (Deborah Coon), religion (Wade E. Pickren), and the culture of science (Ryan D. Tweney & Cheri A. Budzynski). The genesis of several fields of psychology, including clinical psychology (Eugene Taylor), social psychology (Jill Morawski), school psychology (Thomas K. Fagan), neuropsychology (Harry Whitaker), and comparative psychology (Donald A. Dewsbury), are considered. Such issues as gender (Katharine S. Millar, Henry L. Minton) and race (Robert V. Guthrie) are also addressed. Some authors will consider some such subtle aspects of our history as methods of data analysis (Laurence D. Smith et al.), the introduction of control groups (Trudy Dehue), and the development of the verbal learning tradition (Edward J. Haupp). Another will describe the introduction of Freud to American audiences (Raymond E. Fancher). Although we tried to cover some international aspects, as with articles on European psychology (David Murray et al.) and the introduction of psychology to China (Geoffrey Blowers), there is a clear emphasis on American psychology.

Notes and News from the Archives of the History of American Psychology

David B. Baker, Director

There are a number of new developments at the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP) at the University of Akron in Akron, OH. On June 30, 1999, John Popplesone retired as director of the AHAP. Along with Marion White McPherson, John founded the AHAP in 1965 and both have championed its growth over the past thirty-five years. David B. Baker has been named as successor and began his duties on July 1, 2000. A counseling psychologist, David took his Ph.D. from Texas A & M University in 1988, where he was a student of Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Prior to joining the AHAP, he was a faculty member in the psychology department at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

A number of initiatives are underway at the AHAP. In recognition of the achievements of John Popplesone and Marion White McPherson, a Festschrift has been planned for April 7-8, 2000 at the University of Akron. The two day event will feature a series of invited addresses and provide opportunities for the history psychology community to honor John and Marion's significant contributors to the field. In addition, an Honorary Fund has been established. For more information about the Festschrift or the Fund please contact the AHAP.

A second AHAP initiative is the development of computer based systems that will enhance data management and electronic access to the collection. An initial step has been the redesign and update of the AHAP web page (www.uakron.edu/archival/psychology). The site is under construction, and users are encouraged to check-in frequently. The AHAP welcomes inquiries, comments, and questions. Contact the AHAP by phone: (330) 972-7285, email: Gruich@uakron.edu, or by mail: Archives of the History of American Psychology, The University of Akron, Polsky LL-10A, Akron, OH 44325-4302.

News from FHHS Members

Gary Hatfield gave two papers in Rio during October, 1999: "Hume and Kant on the Understanding" at the Pontifical Catholic University, and "What Can the Mind Tell Us about the Brain?" at the Center for Moral and Mental Philosophy of the Federal University. During November he was a participant in the Stanford Presidential Symposium on Past Dependencies, speaking on "The Separation of Philosophy and Psychology: Past Dependency and Intellectual Identity."

Geoff Bunn would like to thank all those members of FHHS who have contributed to the preliminary stages of planning an exhibition on the history of psychology in Britain. The exhibition will open at

the Science Museum in January 2001 to coincide with the Centenary of the British Psychological Society. Should members find themselves in London during 2000, Dr. Bunn would be delighted to show them the Museum's new mini-exhibit, "Psychology in Britain," a preliminary exploration of some of the major areas of applied psychology. Please contact: Dr. Geoff Bunn, BPS Research Fellow, The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD. Tel: 0171 603 4918. Email: g.bunn@nmsi.ac.uk.

Roger Smith took early retirement from Lancaster University in 1998 and now lives in Moscow, where he is a 'consultant' at the Institute of the History of Science and Technology of the Academy of Sciences. He has contributed to Claude Blankaert, Loic Blondiaux, Laurent Loty, Marc Renneville and Nathalie Richards (eds), *L'histoire des sciences de l'homme: trajectoire, enjeux et questions vives* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999), a volume of interest for attempts to define the scope and nature of the history of the human sciences. He currently working at a series of papers on C. S. Sherrington and the concept and values of 'integration'. Address: Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Staropansky per 1/5, 103012 Moscow, Russia. email: sitro@history.ihts.ru, home phone and fax: (+7 095) 246 66 24

There will be a special section of the *American Psychologist* (February, 2000) devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Boulder Conference that endorsed the model of clinical training known as the scientist-practitioner or Boulder model. Ludy Benjamin, Jr and David B. Baker organized that section which includes two historical articles and five brief commentaries on the aftermath of the Boulder Conference.

Update on the FHHS Webpage

Dave Robinson

The Forum's website was announced in the previous FHHS newsletter, and was supposed to be on-line August 1, 1999. It took a little longer than that, but it has been up and running since mid-October. So apologies to anyone who tried earlier; do try again! All Forum members should check to see that their entries on the membership list are correct, and that there is no other mistaken information. The website editor welcomes and depends on help from the members. Discussion of the website at the annual meeting produced several suggestions for improvement. By mid-January, the links to other sites and resources will be substantially revised. Send your ideas and the web addresses of your favorite sites on Human Science to the website editor at drobinso@truman.edu. The URL for the website of the Forum for History of Human Science is www2.truman.edu/fhhs

Upcoming Events

CALL FOR PAPERS: CHEIRON, The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 21st Annual Meeting, June 22-25, 2000. University of Southern Maine, Gorham Campus.

PAPERS, POSTERS, SYMPOSIA, or WORKSHOPS may deal with any aspect of the history of the behavioral and social sciences, or with related historiographical and methodological issues. All submissions must be in triplicate and conform to the length limitations listed below (references, tables, etc. may be appended). To facilitate blind review, please include a cover sheet indicating: a) title; b) author's name and affiliation; c) author's address and phone number; d) audio/visual needs.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY January 25, 2000. PAPERS: Submit a completed paper (78 double-spaced pages plus short abstract), or a 500-700 word abstract plus bibliography. POSTERS: Submit an abstract. SYMPOSIA: Submit an abstract (250 words) describing the symposium as a whole and an abstract (500 words each) from each of the participants. WORKSHOPS: Contact the program chair.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS: Available to help defray travel expenses of students who present papers or posters. Please indicate if you are a student and wish to be considered for an award.

PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS: PROF. BETTY BAYER, Cheiron Program Chair, Department of Psychology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456-3397; email: bayer@hws.edu
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS: PROFESSOR DEBORAH JOHNSON, Department of Psychology, Science Building, 227, University of Southern Maine, P. O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300; e-mail: djohnson@maine.maine.edu
 CHEIRON website: <http://www.yorku.ca/depr/psych/orgs/cheiron/cheiron.htm>

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'Historians and Their Audiences: Mobilizing History for the Millennium,' 13 - 15 April 2000. York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (Sessions to be held in Founders College Assembly Hall, York University Main Campus: 4700 Keele Street, Toronto) The conference is co-organized by Professors Marlene Shore and Nicholas Rogers (Department of History, York University); included among the paper presenters are a few members of FHHS. For information on registration and the conference program, contact Marlene Shore, mshore@yorku.ca or check the York University website: www.yorku.ca

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Hopos 2000: Third International History of Philosophy of Science Conference The History of Philosophy of Science Group (HOPOS) will be held in Vienna, Austria, July 6-9, 2000, through the hospitality of the Institute Vienna Circle. Past Hopos meetings have

attracted several papers in the history of the philosophy of psychology. Information: <http://hobel.philosophical.univie.ac.at/wk/>.

* * *

The Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) will hold its 26th annual meeting, June 15-18, 2000, at Barnard College and Columbia University. Information: <http://www.htac.uh.edu/cogsci/spp/spphp.html>

* * *

Writing the Past, Claiming the Future: Women and Gender in Science, Medicine, and Technology, October 12-15, 2000, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO "Writing the past, claiming the future" is being designed to further conversations begun at previous conferences among historians of science, medicine, and technology. These discussions made explicit how much historians of science, medicine, and technology can learn from each other. It is intended to invite greater interchange among the disciplines, while recognizing the uniqueness of each. Conference themes will include, but not be limited to, personal and external factors that empower or inhibit women's participation in the scientific, medical, and technological disciplines; scientific, medical, and technological ideas that have influenced ideas about gender and gender roles in the disciplines and in the wider society; and the relationship between knowledge and the practice of science, medicine, and technology. If you would like to be put on the mailing list to receive the conference brochure, please contact Charlotte G. Borst, Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Department of History, Saint Louis University, 3800 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63156. Conference materials will be available after August 1, 2000.

* * *

The History of Science Society, November 2-5, 2000 will be co-locating with the **Philosophy of Science Association** in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. Paper Proposals for the PSA meeting are due 1 March 2000. Information is available on the PSA Web site. HSS Paper and Session Proposals are due 3 April 2000. The HSS 2000 program chairs, Thomas H. Broman, Lynn K. Nyhart, and John Harley Warner, welcome contributed paper and session proposals on a variety of topics. If you would like to locate other individuals working along similar themes to construct a session proposal, please consult our "Need a Session?" page. We highly recommend the E-Submission of all proposals. For those new to the E-Submission Process, please review our ESubmission Primer. All proposals are due 3 April 2000. **Prize nominations** for our various prizes are also due 3 April 2000. Attention Graduate Students: Schuman Essay Submissions are due 3 April 2000. All currently enrolled graduate students are eligible to submit an essay addressing the history of science for this prize. The HSS website: <http://depts.washington.edu/hssexec/>
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American Association for the History of Medicine, Seventy-Third Annual Meeting - 18-21 May 2000 - Bethesda, Maryland. For further information, contact Chair, Local Arrangements Committee: Elizabeth Fee, Ph.D., History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 860 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 38, Rm. 1E21, Bethesda, MD 20892; e-mail: FEEL@mail.nlm.nih.gov

HSS (1999) — Sessions of Interest to FHHS Members

Richard von Mayrhauser

The Forum sponsored a session devoted to *Lella Zenderland's Measuring Minds: Henry Herbert Goddard and the Origins of American Intelligence Testing*. John Carson, University of Michigan, discussed the historiography of intelligence testing and Hans Pols, University of New Hampshire, related Goddard's work to changing American notions of citizenship. After recounting the familiar story of mental testing as the triumph of Galton's and Spearman's unitary theories and statistical methods, Carson conveyed Zenderland's conclusion: the larger influence of Binet and Goddard, who constructed tests more for classificatory (pedagogical and diagnostic) purposes than for vindications of social or racial ideas. Pols explained that while classical Republicanism had assumed the priority of individual identity (at least for elites) prior to national affiliation, during the Progressive Era citizenship increasingly became so many extrinsic criteria — promulgated from elite sources. Goddard's participation in the movement to control immigration should be viewed as part of a larger effort to cast citizenship as a hurdle to be jumped, a goal to be attained. Responding to Carson, Zenderland averred that recapitulationist theory, not Spearman's *g* had triumphed in the early history of the field, in the work of G. Stanley Hall's students, Goddard and Terman. Answering Pols, Zenderland reiterated that Goddard was negligibly motivated by the racist program of Madison Grant, but, in his sheer indifference toward and ignorance of immigrant mental experience, Goddard indeed promoted an American cultural literacy standard, whose display he presumed from worthy newcomers.

Mary Brown Parlee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the session (she organized) *Refocusing the Spotlight: From Science Stars to the Backstage Crew* described the institutionalization of work in the MIT Department of Psychology and neurosciences laboratory during the 1960s. Gender assumptions facilitated the creation of "invisible" technical projects while sharpening the boundary between "scientist," "technician," and other employment categories.

Note from the new Newsletter Editor: I would like to encourage

more notes about conference presentations. FHHS members attending conferences (or on conference programs) are urged to send brief descriptions of papers or panels that might be of interest to readers of the Newsletter. Send your notes to kjwj@vt.edu

Obituary: John L. Simon, M.D.

Benjamin Harris

The small type death notices of today's *New York Times* (December 22, 1999) brings the sad news of the death of John L. Simon, M.D. (b. 1913), a psychiatrist who served as a medic in the Spanish Civil War (he was as the assistant to the [Abraham Lincoln] Brigade Doctor) and in the 1950s was head of the Committee to Defend Lincoln Veterans.

In the late 1940s Simon and his wife published a mimeographed journal/newsletter called PSYCHIATRIC NEWSLETTER which addressed theoretical issues in politics and psychiatry. The editorial line of that publication was to the left of the CP and vigorously anti-Freudian. For a while the masthead featured a stethoscope and a reflex hammer arranged in the shape of a hammer and sickle.

When I met Simon in 1997 he was a bit frail but still energetic and intellectually curious and friendly. My article, "Psychiatry and Psychology" in *Encyclopedia of the American Left* 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 1998), 644d-647, fills in background on the events surrounding Simon's life.

From the Newsletter Editor:

Excuse the glitches, typing errors, and unsophisticated layout! This is a first for me, but I will say that it has been an enjoyable experience — communicating with so many FHHS members. I am grateful for your quick responses to my urgent requests for copy. And thanks to those of you who suggested news items!

My goal is to put out the next newsletter — the first official 2000 issue — as a summer edition in early July, after the Cheiron meeting when there will be much to report. Anyone attending a conference is encouraged to send along accounts of individual papers or sessions that would be of interest to newsletter readers. And those of you organizing conferences — free publicity by making sure I get all the pertinent information!

I am also looking for ideas for columns to include in future volumes. Debates? Bibliographies? Teaching discussions? Or, just the news? How can this newsletter be of most use to FHHS members?

You can reach me at the Department of History (0117), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061 or by email: kjwj@vt.edu