

CONGRATULATIONS , CONCERNS, AND CHALLENGES

Meine Damen und Herren, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends-- from Sweden in the North to Spain to the very tip of Africa in the South , from Hungary in the East to Great Britain , Canada , and the United States in the West,

I wish to express my personal as well as our joint gratitude to the organizers of this important conference and to the institutions that provided the financial and the logistic support.

As one of the founders , a quarter of a century ago, of American Psychological Association's Division 26, I am particularly pleased to be able to congratulate the German Psychological Society on the establishment of a Group of the History of Psychology.

In principle , the Group's responsibilities are broad ,encompassing concern with research, teaching, publications as well as institutional and organizational matters. I shall limit myself to four points: Teaching, the encyclopedia of psychology , archival materials, and Passau University's Institute for the History of Modern Psychology.

1) TEACHING. Teaching is the "bread and butter" of academic historians of psychology. I realize that German universities are in the process of shrinking, and there are other problems. Yet, it is essential to make clear to all the relevant bodies-- the students, fellow teachers in and out of psychology, and the university administrators at all the levels-- that history of psychology is not a "side-show", not a luxury but a basic, essential component of the psychology curriculum .It puts contemporary psychology into historical perspective and facilitates the integration of psychology.

In teaching we must place more emphasis on the dynamics of the development of psychology as a science and as a technology. All too frequently too much time is devoted to traditional topics, including the "schools and systems" of psychology. Furthermore, I believe that the empirical facets of psychology's development should be stressed, in order to facilitate the writing of diploma theses in this field. Many of my papers on the history of psychology are quantitative in nature.

2) THE ENCYCLOPEDIA. The plan for the mammoth Hogrefe encyclopedia of psychology, now in progress, provides for three volumes to be devoted to the history of psychology.

This is a challenging task, in many ways. It is a task that will call for cooperative effort, within and--I believe-- beyond the German-speaking areas of Europe. I share Eckart Scheerer's view that the first volume could properly be devoted to the general history of psychology, the second one to the fields of psychology, and the third volume to the development of psychology in the

different geographical areas of the world and the interaction between them.

In a way, even more urgent is the preparation of a modern, one-volume account of the history of psychology that could be widely used as a university textbook.

3) ARCHIVAL MATERIALS. One way to foster historical consciousness on the part of our colleagues and university administrators is to make clear the scholarly value of the personal papers (Nachlässe) of the major figures in psychology.

While, clearly, the Nachlässe can be held in the archives of the individual universities and their content registered centrally, much could be said in favor of a central depository, with adequate facilities for not only storing the documents but properly indexing the documents. And this brings us to the last point.

4) INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU. With its four divisions-- the archives, the collection of printed materials, a museum of the classical instruments of experimental psychology, and computerized bibliographical facilities-- the Institute is a unique establishment.

Since it has a strong support of the University of Passau, it is all but sure to survive the administrative changes due to the retirement of Prof. W. Traxel, its founder. However, survival in this case is not enough. Ways and means must be found in order to expand the Institute and increase the value and its services to the University of Passau itself, to Bavaria, to the Federal Republic of Germany, to German-speaking areas beyond the Federal Republic, and to the world at large.

To the Group for the History of Psychology I wish a full measure of success in the years to come . May it remain intellectually vigorous, may it grow in numerical strength, may it flourish: VIVAT, CRESCAT, FLOREAT!

Josef Brožek