RCHS

Research Committee on the History of Sociology International Sociological Association (ISA)

NEWSLETTER

January 1995

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Plans for our 1996 meeting in Amsterdam are proceeding well in the capable hands of Dick Pels; see below for details. Please be sure to get in touch promptly with organisers so that the programme can be established in good time. We expect to charge non-members more than members for the Amsterdam conference. so it would be a good idea to encourage colleagues who would like to come but are not members to be sure to join before they need to register. Remember, too, that we shall need to elect a new committee and officers by then, so it would be good to start thinking now about candidates - yourself, or colleagues.

The central ISA has now introduced a new system for collecting dues, and this creates a new and simpler possibility for paying RCHS; see page 12 for details.

Lastly but not least - very best wishes to all members for an intellectually fruitful and personally happy New Year.

J.P.

1996 RCHS CONFERENCE

Our 1996 conference will be held in Amsterdam, on May 16-18. Further practical information will be given in a later newsletter.

The list of sessions now proposed is listed below; if you would like to give a paper in any of these, please get in touch with the person listed as the organiser. If there is not sufficient interest shown in any one of these topics, sessions will probably be combined; if interest in some areas is too great for a single session, more time may be allocated; if new focuses emerge from the 'general' session, appropriate topics will be added to the list. It may become necessary to run some sessions in parallel. To enable these decisions to be made, it is vital that all the information reaches the organisers in good time. **The deadline for informing organisers of your interest in giving a paper is, therefore, 31 July 1995**.

- Gender issues in the history of sociology (Lynn McDonald)
- Harvard University as a context for sociology in the 1940s (Uta Gerhardt)
- The Columbia circle of sociologists 1930-1950 (Elzbieta Halas)
- Neo-Kantian influences on German sociology (Christopher Adair-Toteff)
- Case studies of important empirical research projects (Martin Bulmer)
- Ethics in sociology: the history of concepts and research traditions (Maarten Mentzel)
- Author meets critics: Donald Levine's <u>Visions of the Sociological Tradition</u> (Kevin Anderson)
- What are our motives in writing the history of sociology? (Irmela Gorges)
- Teaching the history of sociology: how it is done, how it should be done. (Eva Karadi)
- Empirical data used in the sociology of knowledge (Ricca Edmondson)
- The knowledge society: the history of the claim of social and political domination by intellectuals (Dick Pels)
- International exchanges in the development of the social sciences (Johan Heilbron)
- Biographies of sociologists in the history of sociology (Hermann Korte)
- General session for any topics which do not fit into the other sessions listed. (Jennifer Platt)

Session organisers who would like to issue a 'call for papers' in this Newsletter are invited to send a suitable paragraph to the Secretary by March 31, 1995.

ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

~~~ ♥ % %The Ferdinand-Tönnies-Gesellschaft

The Ferdinand Tönnies Society is concerned with historical and theoretical discussion based on the complex and far-reaching work of the founder of German scientific sociology, and it is a centre for international Tönnies research. Its newsletter for members of the society, <u>Tönnies-Forum</u>, is published at least twice a year. At present the main activity is the production of the critical <u>Tönnies-Edition</u>, in 24 volumes, to be published by Walter de Gruyter, Berlin and New York. The society also organises symposia and special projects, as well as coordinating new research lines in related fields and diffusing information about them. The results of three international Tönnies-Symposia have already been published, and have led to further work on his sphere of influence and effect. For further information, please write to Ferdinand-Tönnies-Gesellschaft, Freiligrathstraße 11, D-2300 Kiel 1, Germany.

The Tönnies archive

The substantial literary estate of Tönnies is held in the Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesbibliothek in Kiel. It includes the following types of material:

- documents relevant to Tönnies' biography: school reports, family papers, pictures, and his professional activity.
- manuscripts of his intellectual work, published and unpublished.
- data and notes used in his intellectual work.
- thousands of letters to and from Tönnies
- papers of bodies of which Tönnies was a member: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ethische Kultur, Societas Hobbesiana, Societas Spinoza, Internationaler Rassenkongreß.
- materials about Tönnies, such as newspaper comments on his work and political activities, which he collected.
- all his published works, including some copies from his library which he used to make comments or annotations.

All these materials are individually catalogued, including such details as outline biographical data on his correspondents. In addition to the complete catalogue there is a short brochure about the archive which can be ordered from the Landesbibliothek (Schloß, 24103 Kiel).

We are indebted to Dr Jürgen Zander of the Landesbibliothek for this information.

Archives of US Sociology

The attitude of American sociologists toward the history of sociology has been ambivalent and often hostile - in marked contrast to that of psychologists**. Robert K. Merton's assault on historians of social thought in his 'History and Systematics' paper represented and reinforced the anti-historical attitude of the postwar generation of sociologists, who saw an interest in the history of sociology as not just antiquarian but anti-scientific. Ironically, as the generation which carried out the project of scientization retires and dies the problem of preserving their achievements has become acute.

In the early seventies a committee of the American Sociological Association to deal with these issues gave up in the face of indifference. ASA papers were originally housed at the Library of Congress, but are no longer accepted there, possibly as a result of the

relative lack of interest shown in them. Recently a new committee has been established to look into the question of locating and collecting archival material for the history of US sociology, and it is attempting to find a library that would both house the ASA papers and aggressively collect more general materials. Negotiations are in progress, but have difficulties. Archiving is labour-intensive, costs are not negligible, and library budgets are hard-pressed and can only support new initiatives if a Sociology department with some political muscle says that it needs the project for teaching or research purposes. Funders generally only support new projects proposed by existing archives, not the creation of new archives; sociology cannot compete for funds until a core archive is established. Many sociologists are now sympathetic to the cause, and some efforts outside the ASA to create resources have succeeded through the efforts of people such as Hal Orbach, but the lack of a base, preferably with some associated researchers who would apply for funding, remains a high hurdle.*

Stephen Turner

- * A separate problem, as Stephen Turner has mentioned elsewhere, is that a recent court case has increased the difficulty of getting permission to quote from or cite archival material, especially oral histories, due to the way in which the material had originally been granted to the collections. Some documents are also restricted by heirs.
- ** The Archives of the History of American Psychology are held at the University of Akron. They contain teaching and laboratory notes, correspondence, the editorial papers of journals and books, newsletters and meeting programmes, curricula, departmental minutes and histories, floor plans and inventories of laboratories, photos and laboratory apparatus, as well as the more conventional collections of professional papers of individual psychologists. The staff are trained in psychology as well as archival librarianship. The material is catalogued in card files, of which the one listing references to individual psychologists is the most extensive. Further information is available from Dr John Popplestone, Archives of the History of American Psychology, University of Akron, 225 South Main St., Room LL10, Akron, OH 44325-4302, USA.

Members with information about specific archives likely to be of interest to others, especially those not at the best-known locations such as the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago, are invited to send in brief details for future newsletters.



NEWS AND NOTES

It is with the deepest regret that we express our sympathy to our President, Lewis Coser, on the death of his wife and longstanding distinguished collaborator, Rose Laub Coser.

<u>Durkheim Studies/Études durkheimiennes</u> is the journal of the Durkheim Society. It is interested to publish news of work on Durkheim, and related topics of interest to Durkheim scholars, whether or not the authors are members of the Durkheim Society - though of course it hopes they will join. The Fall 1994 issue contains news of the Durkheim Studies Centre at Oxford, information on an electronic bibliographic archive and full-text data-base of Durkheim's works at the University of Illinois, announcements of conferences,

book reviews and translations. For further information on the journal or the society, contact Prof. R. A. Jones, Dept. of Sociology, University of Illinois, 702 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801, USA.

Also based at Illinois is an e mail mailing list for anyone interested in Durkheim studies. To join, (a) send an e mail message to: majordomo@listserv.cso.uiuc.edu (b) leave the subject line blank (c) for the message, put: subscribe durkheim .You can then send relevant messages to durkheim@listserv.cso.uiuc.edu for distribution, and will receive the messages sent to it by others.

Martin Bulmer has moved from Southampton New addresses to a research professorship at the University of Surrey. for all these

colleagues

Uta Gerhardt has moved from Giessen to are given become Professor at the University of Heidelberg. in the

list of

Dirk Käsler will move in March from Hamburg members' to a professorship at Marburg. addresses.



NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Johan Heilbron French social science (Prins Hendrikkade 165, 1011 TB Amsterdam,

The Netherlands.)

Abel

Maarten Mentzel
Sciences,
Antoine Savoye

Ethics in sociology (University of Leiden, Faculty of Social c/o 38 Johan de Wittstraat, 2334 AK Leiden, The Netherlands.)

History of empirical sociology, especially LePlay and his followers.

(Département des sciences de l'éducation, Université de Paris VIII, 2 rue de

la Liberté, 93526 Saint Denis Cedex 02, France.)

Young-Jin Yang Weber, Durkheim, sociology of religion. (Dept. of Sociology,

Dongguk University, Seoul, 100-715, S. Korea.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Christopher Adair-Toteff Simmel's discussion of Kant's system of morality; Max Weber's

'Philosophie als Beruf'.

Elzbieta Halas Editorial projects based on Theodore Abel's journal: Theodore

and Florian Znaniecki, the Columbia circle of sociologists.

Johan Heilbron French sociology: the making of a discipline

Maarten Mentzel Ethics in sociology: the history of concepts and research traditions

Young-Jin Yang History of sociology in Korea; sociology of Herbert Spencer.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Christopher Adair-Toteff "The Antinomy of God": Georg Simmel on Meister Eckhart and Nietzsche', Georg Simmel Newsletter 3: 10-16, 1993.

Lars Clausen <u>Krasser sozialer Wandel</u> (Opladen: Leske-Budrich 1994)

Paul Close <u>Citizenship, Europe and Change</u> (Macmillan, London 1994).

Uta Gerhardt Talcott Parsons on National Socialism (De Gruyter, New York 1993)

'Die Konzeption des Verstehens und der Begriff der Gesellschaft bei Georg

Simmel im Verhältnis zu Wilhelm Dilthey', Annali di Sociologia -

Soziologisches Jahrbuch 8: 245-305, 1992.

Elzbieta Halas 'Obywatelska socjologia szkoly chicagowskiej' ('Civilian sociology

of the Chicago School'), Redakcja Wydanictw KUL, Lublin 1994.

Maarten Mentzel,
G. A. Kohnstamm
& H. A. Becker (eds.)

Ethische fragen bij sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek (Ethical questions in social-science research), Van Gorcum 1994.

Jennifer Platt 'The US reception of Durkheim's The Rules of Sociological Method',

Sociological Perspectives, vol. 38, no.1, 1995.

Antoine Savoye 'Le Play, conseiller d'Émile Ollivier', Les Études Sociales 120: 5-12, 1992.

'La consécration manquée de la sociologie empirique: le congrès de

l'Institut International de Sociologie, Bucarest, 1939', Les Études Sociales 121: 13-

24, 1993.

Les débuts de la sociologie empirique (Meridiens Klincksieck, Paris, 1994.)

Jef Verhoeven 'Backstage with Erving Goffman' and 'An interview with Erving Goffman',

Research on Language and Social Interaction 26: 307-316, 317-348, 1993.

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MEMBERS' ADDRESSES

Is your subscription due this year? To find out, please check to see if there is a \$ by your name in the following list of addresses:

If there is, please pay as soon as possible; sums received before the anniversary of your last payment will be counted as if received then, so early payment will not be a disadvantage!

Names of members who have not renewed by then will be deleted from the list in August. Details of *how* to pay, and the form to complete, are given at the end of the Newsletter.

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