

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CHINA (1)

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In ancient China there were theories of the mind, but no psychology. Scientific psychology did not begin to flourish until the 1920s, when Chinese students specializing in psychology and trained in Europa and America returned to China. They taught in Beijin, Shanghai, and Nanjin. Not long after, theoretical psychology and history of psychology were offered in these and some other universities. Prof. Pan Shu taught theoretical psychology for many years in the Southeastern University which changed its name into the Central University during the 1938 at the Sun Yat Sen University in Canton. Later in the period of Anti-Japanese War he taught the same subject in the National Normal College at Lan-Tian, a small town in Hunan province. In 1950s, after the establishment of the People's Republic of China, Prof. Tan Yue and the late Prof. Kuo Yi-qin lectured on the history of psychology in the Beijin University and Beijin Normal University, respectively. They wrote down their lecture notes and made them available to their students in the form of mimeographed scripts. These scripts were read with appreciation by the students.

It is impossible to pass over the historical studies of the late Prof. Zhang Yao-ziang, who started the Chinese psychological journal *The Mind (Shim Li Za Zhi)* in 1922 and contributed to this magazine articles on the mental theories of some Chinese ancient philosophers.

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Western psychological books began to be translated into Chinese and published. Of special relevance in the present context are the following: W.B. Pillsbury, *History of Psychology*, translated by Chen De Yong and published by the Commercial Press, in 1931; R.S. Woodworth, *Contemporary Schools of Psychology*, translated by Shie Shun-chu and published by Zhong Hwa Book Co. in 1934; E.G. Boring, *A History of Experimental Psychology*, translated by Kao Jioh-fu and published by the Commercial Press in 1934.

After the downfall of the "Gang of Four", Chinese psychology began to thrive again. In 1978, the Chinese Association of Psychology called several meetings to discuss how to resume research in different fields of psychology. We shall again pay special attention to the historiography of psychology. Immediately after the Hangzhou conference, organized by the Chinese Association of Psychology, about ten members of the association who are interested in the history of psychology came to Nanjing and formed a working group, which set for itself three tasks:

1.- To translate the second edition of Boring's classical work on the history of experimental psychology, D. Schultz's *History of Modern Psychology*, and M.G. Yaroshevskii and L.I. Antsyferova's *The Development and the Contemporary Status of Psychology Abroad* (1974, in Russian).

2.- To write a history of modern western psychology.

3.- To translate into Chinese selected Western psychological materials, to be published in two or three volumes.

After several years of strenuous work in 1981, the translation of the second edition of Boring's *History of Experimental Psychology* (Commercial Press, Beijing), Schultz's *History of Modern Psychology* (People's Education Publishing House) and the Yaroshevskii-Antsyferova's volume (People's Education Publishing House) appeared in print. An anthology of translations will soon be sent to the printers.

History of psychology has attracted the attention of many other psychologists and their students. Prof. Wang Jing-ho and his colleague Lin Fang translated G. Murphy's *Historical Introduction to Modern Psychology* (3rd. edition) into Chinese and published it in 1980 (Commercial Press). Prof. Yang Qing of the North Eastern Normal University wrote a book entitled *The Main Contemporary Schools of Psychology*, published by the Liaoning People's Publishing House in 1980.

In 1982, under the editorship of Kao Jioh-fu, a collaborative volume on the History of Modern Western Psychology (*Shi Fang Jin Dai Shim Li Shue She*) appeared in print in Beijing at the People Education Publishing House. The Table of Contents, in translation, is indicated below:

The Introduction (Kao Jioh-fu).

Chap. I: The Philosophical Psychology of the 17-19th Century England and France (Che wen Bu).

Chap. II: The Philosophical Psychology of the 17-19th Century Germany (Che wen Bu).

Chap. III: The Physiological Psychology of the 19th Century (Sun Ming Zi).

Chap. IV: The Establishment of Experimental Psychology and the Contributions of W. Wundt (Shen De Chang).

- Chap. V: W. Wundt's German Contemporaries in Psychology (Liu En Jiu).
- Chap. VI: Act Psychology (Liu En Jiu).
- Chap. VII: The Evolution Theory and its Influence on Psychology (Ma Wen Ju).
- Chap. VIII: Structuralism and Functionalism (Chen Ze Chuan).
- Chap. IX: Functionalism at Columbia (Li Han Song).
- Chap. X: Hormic Psychology (Kao Jioh-fu).
- Chap. XI: Behaviorism (Chang Shu Zu).
- Chap. XII: Neobehaviorism (Li Bo Shu and Wu Fu Yuan).
- Chap. XIII: Gestalt Psychology (Chen Ru Mao).
- Chap. XIV: Topological Psychology (Chen Ru Mao).
- Chap. XV: Psychoanalysis (Peng Zu Zhi).
- Chap. XVI: Neopsychanalysis (Peng Zu Zhi).
- Chap. XVII: The Geneva School (Hu Shi Shian and Wu Fu Yuan).
- Conclusions (Kao Jioh-fu).

After the publication of our collaborative *History of Modern Western Psychology*, in 1982, we were invited by our government to organize a small group of psychologists, to do research on the work of ancient Chinese writers, so that we would be able to write a comprehensive history of Chinese psychological thought. We called a meeting in Cheefoo, a fishing port in the province of Shangton, to discuss how to proceed. Since our ancient philosophers and educational theorists did not write special books on the mind, we face a hard task. However, we shall do our best and hope that in three or four years we may be able to come up with a draft of the treatise.

Throuhout, our work in the history of psychology is guided by materialist principles.

NOTES

- (1) The author wishes to thank Dr. Josef BROŽEK for providing a stimulus for the writing of this note, before the idea for the publication of this festschrift was conceived.