

Josef Brožek in his room at Linderman Library, Lehigh University, 1979. Reprinted with permission from *Lehigh Horizons*, May 1979. Copyright Theo Anderson, Lehigh University Relations.

eye. He swam with amazing proficiency, tumbling and spiraling. Every so often, he joined the penguins sedately standing on the ice. His periods of rest never lasted long, though, and soon he'd return to the water to frolic again. Like this penguin, Josef had virtuosity, grace, and an audacious involvement in life.

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Josef Brožek: The Spanish Connection

Perhaps the largest part of Brožek's time was dedicated to others—other people, other countries, other times. Altruism and generosity were essential traits of his personality. Whether these were inborn or acquired is difficult to say.

Probably his life experience taught him very much about otherness, as he was born in Czechoslovakia, grew up in Siberia, studied in Prague, worked in the United States, and traveled endlessly.

The fact is that, having himself suffered from parochialism, enmity among countries, and war's devastation (his main nonhistorical research topic was hunger and starvation), Brožek firmly believed in rationality and the unity of human species. His whole life was therefore devoted to draw near and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between colleagues and working groups from all over the world.

The history of his Spanish connection is an example of his personal and intellectual generosity.

In the early 1970s, at the University of Valencia, I launched a small group of collaborators and students aiming at the recovery of our past tradition, a tradition that was largely lost as one of the disastrous consequences of the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939).

The war cut short the ongoing process of modernization and democracy. It restored instead a highly conservative spirit in the country's government and forced a large part of the Spanish intelligentsia into exile. These exiled men and women included many scientists and intellectuals as well as nearly all the pioneering group members who worked in scientific psychology in those days.

After the war, it took a long time to consolidate a very small group of psychologists (1940–1970) who gathered around Jose Germain and finally succeeded in replacing the official scholastic psychology that had been enforced by the authorities with the scientific psychotechnology and modern psychological techniques prevailing in the Western world. A degree in psychology was established at the end, and the new domain was able to grow rapidly and forcefully.

The changes imposed by the war had obscured all achievements in psychology during the prewar days. The newly emerging psychology was at risk of suffering from amnesia. Our goal was to recover our own identity from the past.

When approaching the study of our historical materials, we benefited from the suggestions of a Valencian colleague, a noted historian of medicine, who showed us the potentialities of citation analysis and other bibliometric techniques for building a rigorous history in an objective and quantitative way. Historical networks of authors and works determining the flow of ideas in a certain field could be fruitfully worked out by such techniques.

Together with my collaborators, I devised a wide research program that included the study of some psychological journals by means of a number of bibliometric methods. Our plan was ambitious, and it covered the full analysis of three American and two European journals. The need for contact and advice from experts in the field was soon felt, however. We thus planned a visit to the United States on the occasion of the American Psychological Association (APA) convention in New York, in 1979. I and my young colleague, Dr. J. M. Peiró, flew to New York to take part in that meeting. We hoped to make new contacts that could reinforce our project. Reality exceeded our expectations. Apart from the APA meeting itself, we also met R. K. Merton in New York; D. de S. Price in New

Haven, CT; and, thanks to the good services and friendliness of B. Ross, we had an unforgettable lunch with B. F. Skinner at Harvard. When the APA sessions ended, we also called on Dr. Brožek's house in Market Street in Bethlehem, PA. And an incredible call it was, too, for his was a house that, in our view, fitted well into Harry Potter's magic world.

We had met Josef and Eunice Brožek the day after our arrival, in a large conference room at the Waldorf. We had already gone through the experience of being lost in the middle of an APA convention, the English language, and New York. After meeting the Brožeks, we were able to enjoy just the opposite experience—that of being saved, supported, and introduced to everyone by our mentors as “the young historian friends just arrived from Spain.”

Brožek was thus lending his full support to a group of young historians who, to him, represented the promise of a new epoch in the field. The once-called “neglected area” of the history of psychology, as it had been characterized by R. I. Watson some years before, was rapidly becoming a promising one as a result of the efforts of some young scholars. Let me here recall some of their names—Bill Woodward, David Leary, Mitchell Ash, Michael Sokal, Luciano Mecacci, Nino Dazzi, and Horst Gundlach, among others.

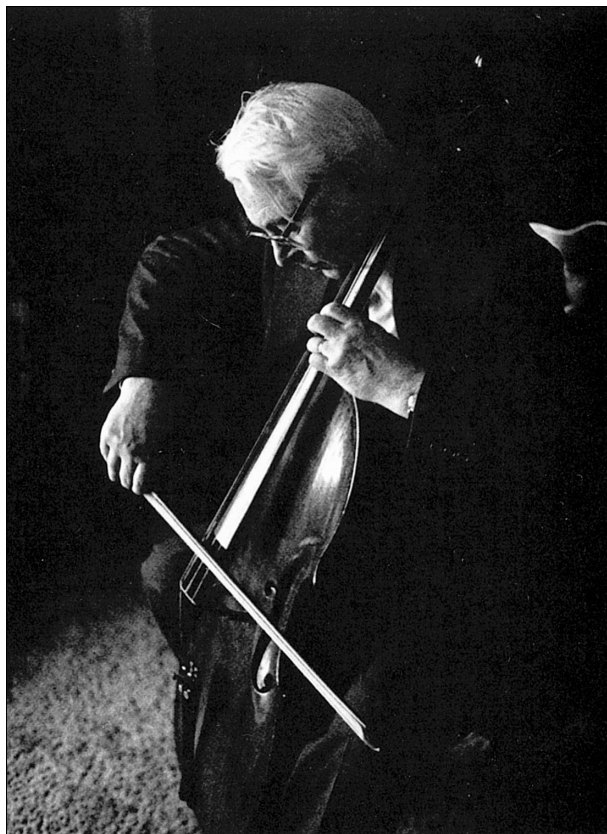
But there was another reason—or, rather, two other reasons—for Josef's backing.

To begin with the lesser one, Brožek's earliest approach to the Hispanic world was made through the contacts he had established with Latin American countries while working on nutrition. Then, he had added Spanish to his personal linguistic wealth. Through his relationship with us, therefore, he found himself renewing old pleasant feelings and memories.

Above all, however, there was the attraction he felt toward our quantitative and bibliometric approach. Brožek himself had already made a rapid incursion into the field. His article on “The Echoes of Wundt's Work in the United States” (Brožek, 1980) was a small masterpiece in its genre. It was a study on the differential impact exerted by Wundt's *Grundzüge der Physiologischen Psychologie and Völkerpsychologie* through their respective citations in the *American Journal of Psychology*. While the former got a high visibility in its pages, the latter was almost ignored. On these grounds, it was easy for him to infer that Wundt's influence was much deeper in the experimental field than in social and cultural areas.

When he was informed about our projects and goals, Brožek became one of our most enthusiastic supporters and advisors. He also encouraged us to go ahead with the project of the *Revista de Historia de la Psicología*, a journal on the history of psychology that we had created in 1980 at the University of Valencia. This journal, now entering its 25th year of existence, offers an average of 500 pages per year—in Spanish or English—devoted to its topic. It is the only living journal on the specialty published in Spanish, and it includes most of the world's specialists among its authors. From the very first issue, Brožek became a member of its advisory committee, and a *Festschrift* was published in his honor in 1984 (*Revista de Historia de la Psicología*, Vol. 5, No. 1–2). This volume turned out to be a true international monograph on the history of psychology, as was only natural considering the many connections held by Brožek at the time.

Brožek spent part of his time visiting Valencia; strengthened warm, friendly



Josef Brožek playing the cello, 1979. Reprinted with permission from *Lehigh Horizons*, May 1979. Copyright Marvin H. Simmons, Lehigh University Relations.

bonds with J. M. Peiró and myself; and created new ones with V. Del Barrio, F. Tortosa, and E. Lafuente, among others. He was also close to our Spanish Society for the History of Psychology, where his figure soon became familiar to all members.

He also invited some of us to take part in a number of symposia, such as the excellent conference on Fechner that both he and Gundlach organized in Passau, Germany. He avidly read our reports and reviewed some of our books and videotapes (the latter being an outcome of a project aiming at the elaboration of teaching materials for the history of Spanish psychology). Also, together with one member of our research team, he published an article on the languages of publication in four American journals that was based on our research data (Brožek & Tortosa, 1989); other topics were similarly approached (e.g., Del Barrio & Brožek, 1998). In addition, a personal review our work appeared in the pages of two successive editions of his *Historiography of Modern Psychology* (Brožek & Pongratz, 1980; Portuguese edition, Brožek & Massimi, 1998).

All in all, my preferences go to his article on our bibliometric contributions, “Quantifying History of Psychology : Bibliometry *Alla Valenciana*” (Brožek,

1991). “These studies provide not only a unique portrait of modern scientific psychology, viewed through its representative journals, but also a body of primary data for additional historiographic (and historiometric) analysis,” he wrote therein (Brožek, 1991, pp. 25–26). He then added some constructive and acute suggestions for the development of this line of research.

All the above-mentioned connections and interactions are only the surface of our deep friendship, a friendship that was reinforced with stays in Bethlehem; joint attendances at conferences and meetings; and, from time to time, short dialogues held in long-distance calls.

When I learned that the Brožeks had moved from Bethlehem to St. Paul, MN, I had mixed feelings of regret and fear. I had lost the possibility of imagining their figures walking along Market Street, the old familiar way home, or attending a chamber music concert in a church or concert hall at their much-loved Lehigh University.

I do greatly appreciate Brožek’s work, but I am certain he was well above his own work, because he was mainly a real *pontifex* in the history of psychology: a man devoted to create bonds and connections that would support a scientific research network, where science and humanity be the main inspiration and guide for all its members.

My personal debt to Josef and Eunice Brožek will not be paid with the present lines. It will endure as long as I live. I hope this special issue of a journal he prized and loved so much will help to keep his ideals well alive among all of us who were his students, collaborators, and admirers. At the moment, he is fast becoming a brand-new topic in the long list of subject matters of the history of contemporary psychology.

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Josef Brožek: Friendship and History

On January 18, 2004, Josef Brožek, a great man and scientist, died in St. Paul, MN. “My main wish is to be useful” was a claim he would often affirm. The story