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Josef Brožek: Mentor of Young Historians of Psychology

I first encountered Josef and Eunice Brožek at the Summer Institute for the History of Psychology in Durham, NH, in summer 1968. Fellow graduate students Elizabeth Goodman (now Scarborough), Barbara Ross, Jack Huber, Emmet Hinckelman, and Michael M. Sokal was there; we were the only students, and we were treated by Josef and others with great respect and genuine interest—a feature that has stayed with the professional organization that grew out of that 6-week learning opportunity for college teachers. Josef had applied for the funding and received it, naming Robert I. Watson as the host. That was a formative year for history of psychology, thanks to an institutional context that Josef singlehandedly created. From it came the famous speech by Julian Jaynes proposing a new society for the history of psychology. That society came into being in Princeton, NJ, in the following year (1969) and was christened Cheiron.

Josef sold me his son Peter's Borgward at the end of the institute for \$100, and I used that to commute to my first academic position at Trenton State College, 1968–1969. Eunice was concerned that their son Peter had not given permission, but Josef overruled her, and Peter was not consulted. Was this an Old World parenting notion? During the 1970s, they traveled to Italy, from which came a report on Italian historiography (Brožek, 1978; Brožek & Dazzi, 1977). Also in the 1970s, I gave a talk on Fechner, and Josef came up on the stage to escort me off when I went over the time allowed.

In 1979, he summoned me to an editorial meeting at their home in Bethlehem to go over a manuscript on William James (Woodward, 1984b). On September 11, 1979, Josef wrote: “This is ‘packing time’ and the time into which 101 last-minute chores must be squeezed, such as your note 107 which I had to write in hand since no typist (or typewriter) is currently available.” Josef's patience was greatly appreciated: That note 107 was important to me; it concerned Prof. Ernest Hilgard's clarification of the feedback mechanism for drives in James and

Thorndike. This illustrates his attention to detail in the mentoring of a young colleague.

Josef was perpetually in a rush, in part because he was such a conscientious correspondent. In the same letter quoted above, he mentioned a historiography essay he had requested: "The idea of a 'how to do it' chapter still makes good sense to me. My notes are enclosed. Cordially, Josef." (personal communication, September 11, 1979; Woodward, 1980). He was off to Würzburg as a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow.

Josef as a mentor was vitally concerned that the history of psychology take root institutionally. Its demise at Lehigh fueled his concern for New Hampshire. My two projects, one on William James and the other on the will and on historiography of psychology, contributed to publishing during my tenure clock from 1975 to 1981. Josef also inspired me to do research overseas: "We have just returned from an interesting but strenuous journey to Spain (Barcelona, Valencia) and Italy (Rome, Padua, Bologna, Trieste), with a brief journey to Yugoslavia (Franciscan library in Dubrovnik). I gave many lectures and colloquia and met many, esp. younger and young people" (personal communication, April 16, 1980). When I was awarded a Humboldt fellowship to live in Germany for a year in 1981–1982, he pointed me to my future coeditor, then a graduate student: "The man who 'knows everything' about East German archives is Mitchell G. Ash." He proceeded to give me addresses of the Günter Eckardt in Jena; the Staatsbibliothek in West Berlin; and the Staatliche Archivverwaltung in Potsdam, East Germany. To him, details and contacts mattered much, something I emulated in two more historiographic articles he inspired (Woodward, 1984a, 1985).

Günter Eckardt organized a conference in Jena in 1982 and published an edited volume on the history of developmental psychology (Sprung & Sprung, 1985). In their chapter on "Preyer as a Pragmatic Methodologist," Helga and Lothar Sprung (Sprung & Sprung, 1985) cited Brožek's *Historiography of Modern Psychology* (Brožek & Pongratz, 1980) in support of Preyer's importance for general psychology, beyond child psychology, and they made use of Brožek's anthology in launching their program of historical research after successful careers in differential and abnormal psychology. Lothar Sprung was the second winner of a Joseph and Eunice Brožek fellowship to come to use the archives at Akron and to meet international colleagues in 1985. (Jiří Hoskovec was the first winner.) The Sprungs had dinner at the Brožeks' on their archival trip to the United States in the early 1990s.

Brožek contributed to a *Festschrift* book dedicated to the personality psychologist Ludwig Pongratz, who had hosted his fellowship as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Würzburg (Brožek, 1983). In this chapter, Brožek chose to introduce the work of R. I. Watson, whose reference works and textbook had called attention to the new field of history of psychology. Brožek adopted Watson as his mentor in history of psychology (Brožek, 1977). Pongratz had published German histories of philosophy in autobiography, education in autobiography, and psychiatry in autobiography, as well as a book entitled *Problem History of Psychology* (Pongratz, 1967). Strangely, no one reviewed and assessed Pongratz's work on the historiography of psychology.

In another networking effort, Josef wrote me:

In the faraway Brazilian city of Ribeirao Preto, a program of graduate study of the history of psychology is a-foot. I am enclosing the address of the principal mover. . . I would appreciate if you would make available to Prof. [Marina] Massimi printed or mimeographed (or photocopied) material that could be useful to the Brazilians, including an account of the [University of New Hampshire] program and its history. Any word of wisdom, of course, would be welcome. If you would be so kind and send me a copy of your communication, it would be helpful. (personal communication, October 23, 1993)

I did write Prof. Massimi, and she invited me to a conference on applied psychology in Madrid. Thus did Josef knit together the young incumbents of positions in history of psychology in different lands. Many more than even realize it are in his debt for his institution building of “historiography of psychology around the world” (Brožek, 1999).

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