

# **Schriftenreihe der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Nervenheilkunde (2020) Vol. 26**

## **DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESCHICHTE DER NERVENHEILKUNDE e. V.**

### **Abstracts**

#### **I. Historical Aspects of Psychiatry in Austria**

Eberhard Gabriel

**Psychiatry at the university of Graz/ Austria and their connection with other Austrian and German "schools" 1870-1964**

The chair of psychiatry was founded in 1870 and expanded to neurology in 1885. The first important professor was the German Richard Freiherr von Krafft-Ebing (1840-1902, 1873-1889) who held the chair up to his call to Vienna in 1889; he wrote the majority of his scientific contributions during these years and was responsible as for the separation of the chair and university department of psychiatry from the mental hospital in 1880 as for the addition of neurology to the chair's tasks in 1885. From 1893 on the scientific position referred to Theodor Meynert (1833-1892) and his "school" represented by Gabriel Anton (1858-1933, 1893-1905/ call to Halle an der Saale/ Germany), his coworker Fritz Hartmann (1871-1937, 1905/ 07-1934, the first Styrian in the file of chairholders) and finally Hans Bertha (1901-1964, 1954/ 60 - 1964). In Hartmann's time the clinic became the medical and political „home“ of several psychiatrists who later on were important contributors to the deterioration of psychiatry in the national-socialist era (Maximinian De Crinis, 1889-1945, finally from 1938 on in Berlin in several influential positions, and 4 out of 6 Austrian psychiatrists who served as experts in T4, among them Rudolf Lonauer, 1907-1945, head of the murder center in Hartheim / Upper Austria and Hans Bertha). As compared with this tradition the short stays of the young Julius Wagner von Jauregg (1857-1940, 1889-1893, call to Vienna), his coworker in Vienna Otto Kauders (1893-1949, 1935-1938, dismissal for political reasons), Otto Reisch (1891-1977, 1940-1945, an apparent political call and dismissal at the end of the regime) and Wolfgang Holzer (1906-1980, 1946-1954, retirement for medical/ psychiatric reasons) could not establish traditions/ „schools“.

*Keywords:* Psychiatry in Graz/ Styria, Richard Freiherr von Krafft-Ebing, Meynert-School in Graz, Fritz Hartmann, „Aktion T4“ and psychiatrists from Graz.

---

**Hartmann Hinterhuber and Ullrich Meise**

**Josef Stolz (1811-1877) and the „Non-Restraint System in Tirol“**

It is the responsibility of psychiatry to both „ensure public welfare“ and „avert danger“. Consequently, it takes on a therapeutic task and has a national regulatory function. Protecting individuals and society can result in the use of coercion and force, both of which

are especially demanding for the patient but also for the caretakers. Psychiatrists have been interested in reducing coercive measures for 150 years. The roots of these endeavors lie in the philanthropy of the age of enlightenment. John Conolly's effort (1847) marked a turning point towards non-violent psychiatric care: this established the basis of the „non-restraint system“. Auguste Morel in France, Ludwig Meyer in Germany and Josef Stolz in Austria were committed to this movement. Improved training of caretakers, ongoing guidance and better wages resulted in a gradual reduction of coercive measures. Something Stolz greatly valued was that caretakers should treat patients in a polite, understanding and appreciative manner.

In combination with improved structural measures, Stolz was able to forego the use of mechanical restraints at the psychiatric clinic in Hall in Tirol entirely. Stolz published the results of his investigations in a comprehensive and very well documented paper for the psychiatric journal „Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie“ in 1868 with the title: „Mechanical force (physical restraint) in caring for the mentally ill and the gradual removal of such measures in the asylum in Hall in Tirol“. At the end of his report, Stolz outlined what the future of psychiatry without coercion and force would look like: „I achieve my goals without restraints, and everyone serious about theirs will do so as well“. One hundred fifty years after this statement was made, psychiatric wards in hospitals still suffer from a lack of funds, under-staffing and often inadequate structural conditions.

*Keywords:* Coercion and force in psychiatry, non-restraint-system, J. Conolly, Psychiatry in Austria, Josef Stolz.

---

Theodor Meißel

### **The Controversy of Julius Wagner-Jauregg with Paul Julius Möbius**

This paper discusses the controversy between Julius Wagner-Jauregg and Paul Möbius concerning psychopathological phenomena after resuscitating people who hanged themselves, which took place during Wagner-Jauregg's years in Graz between 1889 and 1893. This debate touched upon different assessments of somatic and psychic factors in the process of mental illnesses and Wagner-Jauregg formulated basic assumptions of his subsequent somatotherapeutic research. Furthermore, the controversy serves as a case study to highlight the importance of personal and ideological factors in scientific investigations and debates.

*Keywords:* Julius Wagner-Jauregg, Paul Möbius, strangulation, hysteria, epilepsy.

---

## **II. Concepts and therapies in the course of time**

Reinhard J. Boerner

### **Carl Gustav Carus (1789-1869) and the Mesmerism. Thoughts on the 150th anniversary of death**

The universal scholar C. G. Carus is one of the outstanding medical authorities of his era. With the background of the romantic search for human holism, he also dealt with psychological phenomena. The mesmerism in its time was popular as a method of researching

soul life as well as a healing method. After initially rejection, Carus came to a generally positive judgment based on his own experience. For him mesmerism cannot be explained with methods of exact (natural) science. In a largely sober analysis, he recognized potential healing successes, but did not see mesmerism as a panacea. He emphasized the need for medical clarification and well-founded application as well as the advantages of a combination with other medicines. Carus commented on the fundamental questions of an ultimately psychotherapeutic procedure, which were already hotly debated in his day. The historical continuity and topicality of the debate and thus the valence of historical contributions is made clear.

Keywords: C .G. Carus, romanticism, mesmerism, psychotherapy.

---

**Stefan Wulf**

### **Exhibitionism and Psychopathy - Structures of a Correlation**

The subject of the article is the psychiatric formation of discourse "exhibitionism and psychopathy". The time frame is the first third of the 20th century. It is the main intention of the paper to analyse the correlation between exhibitionism and psychopathy in the epistemic sense. This analysis will be carried out on different levels. First, selected patient files and psychiatric expert opinions of the former Hamburg State Hospital Friedrichsberg, which date from 1927, should be interpreted. Then, relevant psychiatric literature will be examined in terms of how psychiatrists ascribed psychopathy and exhibitionism one to the other and to what extent specific (causal) or undefined (broad-brush) such a correlation was. To this end, contemporary interpretations of exhibitionism casuistics, psychiatric manuals and textbooks as well as other technical papers were used. The focus of attention is on the particular processes of knowledge generation and knowledge transfer, the specific methods of psychiatric investigation and practices of classification, as well as the construction of alleged mode of action (explanatory models). It is the intention of the article to show a specific discursive formation of mental deviance in its internal structure. This formation is characterised by a high degree of indeterminateness and of variability between the different contexts of psychiatric practice.

Keywords: history of psychiatry, exhibitionism, psychopathy, State Hospital Friedrichsberg.

---

**Joachim Heinrich Demling**

### **The History of the Phenothiazine Neuroleptics. Part 1: From Synthetic Dyes to the First Modern Psychopharmaceutical**

The development of the tricyclic neuroleptics (antipsychotics) can be traced back to the English dye industry around the middle and the German dye industry towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tricyclic phenothiazine derivative methylene blue, a product of BASF, was used by Paul Ehrlich as a stain in bacteriology and also tested successfully as a drug, specifically against malaria. Further medical research into phenothiazines led to their use as antihistamines, also in anaesthesiology and finally in psychiatric therapy. The synthesis and successful clinical testing in France at the beginning of the 1950s of the phenothiazine

chlorpromazine, the first neuroleptic (antipsychotic) drug, laid the foundation for the pharmacological revolution in psychiatry.

*Keywords:* neuroleptics, phenothiazines, methylene blue, chlorpromazine, history.

---

### **III. Psychiatric history as patient history**

Bernd Reichelt and Thomas Müller

#### **„Now remain brave and have faith in God“: The Persecution and Murder of Jewish Patients of the Zwiefalten Asylum During the National Socialist Era**

Jewish psychiatric patients were doubly stigmatized. They were Jewish and declared "mentally ill". They suffered from Nazi racial hygiene policy as well as from the persecution of the Jewish population. In 1939 they were excluded from public welfare. Zwiefalten mental hospital was declared the central hospital for Jewish psychiatric patients in Württemberg. Most of these Jewish patients became victims of "Aktion T4", the central "euthanasia" program during National Socialism. Jewish patients transferred to Zwiefalten after 1940 became victims of the Holocaust or died in the Zwiefalten asylum. This paper provides an introduction to Jewish life in Southern Württemberg. In a second part, the situation at Zwiefalten asylum is described. Two biographies of Jewish psychiatric patients are outlined to exemplify the fate of these patients. The paper is based on sources from the medical and administrative archives of Zwiefalten as well as from archival material of the so-called Grafeneck trial from 1949.

*Keywords:* Jewry, psychiatry, National Socialism, euthanasia, Holocaust.

---

Kathleen Haack

#### **“The Unwanted“: Psychiatric Patients Subject to Mandatory Evacuation in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Following World War II**

This paper deals with the mandatory evacuation of mentally ill patients from Eastern European institutions following WWII, a topic that has hardly been considered in research until now. Against the backdrop of the "euthanasia" measures and the "Aktion Brandt" there had been transfers and redistributions of patients to Eastern European institutions between 1940 and 1945. According to the requirements of the Potsdam Agreement, the survivors of these measures were to be "resettled" in the German occupation zones.

With the help of the German Federal Archives in Berlin and regional archives of medical records, the path of these socially generally isolated people is traced using the psychiatric institutions of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and specifically the state asylum in Ueckermünde. Given the catastrophic conditions on site and the continuity of personnel in facilities that had previously been used as killing centers, the prompt death of these people was almost inevitable. The "euthanasia" caused by the prevailing circumstances was at least consciously accepted. To what extent it was one that was deliberately induced must be left for future comparative studies.

*Keywords:* expulsion, flight, psychiatry, Soviet occupation zone, state asylum Ueckermünde.

---

Tobias Wustmann

### **Depression and Creativity: The Life and Work of Heinrich von Kleist**

In this paper, the life and work of romantic, pre-Enlightenment German poet Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811) will be subject to a phenomenological analysis. Kleist's literary creativity was apparently triggered by depressive moods on the one hand, on the other he in part succeeded in trying to cope with depression. It is an attempt to interpret the various „crises“ in Kleist's life in light of today's psychiatric knowledge.

*Keywords:* Heinrich von Kleist, depression, creativity.

---

## **IV. "On the spot" - Regional studies in psychiatry and neurology**

Thomas Müller

### **German Psychiatry from a French Perspective: Jules Falret's Travel Report „Visite à l'établissement d'aliénés d'Illenau“, 1845**

Jules Falret (1824-1902) was a Paris-trained doctor engaged in the field of psychiatry, who is renown amongst French historians of psychiatry but less so abroad. His relevance even for the German history of psychiatry is derived from the fact that he published a travel report in 1845, describing in detail his visit to the newly established asylum "Illenau" near Achern in the Grand Duchy of Baden and his encounter with German psychiatrist C.F.W. Roller (1802-1878), who by then was the medical director of this institution. This travel report reveals not just the richness of Falret's impressions on what he came to see and get to know about this German 'model institution' of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but we also learn about his personal opinion and contrasting perspectives connected to his French origins and the performance of psychiatry in Paris and Vanves, where he is involved with a private asylum run by his family.

*Keywords:* Illenau, Psychiatry in Baden, travel report, Roller, Falret.

---

Ekkehardt Kumbier and Kathleen Haack

### **On the genesis, establishment, and differentiation of psychiatry at the University of Rostock**

The paper presents an overview of psychiatry in Rostock from its beginnings in the 19th to the middle of the 20th century. In addition to persons who have shaped the development in practice and psychiatric education at the university, the article focuses on social and politico-historical aspects. In addition to the difficult beginnings, crimes committed against the mentally ill during the National Socialist era will be discussed, but it will also be shown to what extent political decisions were able to shape the academic direction of psychiatry

in the GDR. The aim is to provide an initial orientation that should stimulate further in-depth research.

*Keywords:* Rostock-Gehlsheim, Katharinenstift (asylum), euthanasia, GDR, medical specialization.

---

**Christoph Georg Rohrbach**

### **„Mehr Freiheiten in die geschlossenen Anstalten!“ - Blankenburg (Harz) as a Psychiatric Resort between 1865 and 1937**

The title „Mehr Freiheiten in die geschlossenen Anstalten!“ (transl. “More liberties to closed institutions!”) is borrowed from the obituary of Otto Müller (1832-1900), who gave birth to an innovation with which the town of Blankenburg (Harz) took a leading role in psychiatry and in the hotel and spa business: the first open psychiatric hospital. The success of this tourism concept provoked a boom of this form of sanatoria in the Harz region of Germany and beyond. Notably, in Blankenburg a higher number of these open psychiatric hospitals were built. Only the older sanatoria of Müller and Oscar Eyselein (1847-1892) made it through increasingly competitive circumstances after 1900 and the challenges during and after WW I. In the 1920s, Blankenburg and more particularly its sanatoria became a centre of the alternative medicine movement, to which Adolf Just (1859-1936) made a substantial contribution by producing medicinal clay. Also Karl Strünckmann (1872-1953) contributed by introducing Émile Coué’s (1857-1926) autosuggestion in Germany. In the “Third Reich” the private psychiatric hospitals were closed. Under governmental guidance Blankenburg was restructured into a health spa dedicated to medical treatments with mineral mud.

*Keywords:* sanatorium, psychiatry, tourism, Harz, history.

---

**Jan Armbruster**

### **The History of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Greifswald**

Psychiatry and neurology at the University of Greifswald have undergone an eventful development in the 185 years since the opening of the mental asylum at Neu-Vorpommern zu Greifswald, which was the predecessor of the nerve clinic of the university. There were phases of changing dominance in the relationship between the two disciplines. In addition to processes within the framework of the differentiation of subjects, the position of psychiatry in the Greifswald faculty also played a decisive role. In addition to disciplinary aspects, political aspects such as social upheavals, political influences particularly during the dictatorships of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and also the two world wars had an impact, which were accompanied by a turning point in health care, research and teaching. Special care concepts that linked the university with municipal and federal interests and structures were of particular importance in the psychiatric field from the early decades until the 1930s and again from the 1990s.

*Keywords:* University of Greifswald, History of Psychiatry, History of Neurology.

## V. Historical Aspects of Neurology, Neuropathology, and Neurosurgery

Kai Sammet

### An entité morbide? Theodor Simon (1841-1874), the Neuropathological Paradigm and Understanding General Paralysis of the Insane in German-Speaking Psychiatry Around 1870

Whereas general paralysis of the insane played an important role in France since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, German speaking psychiatry only began to discuss that topic around 1850. One of the first critical monographs about general paralysis was written by the Hamburg physician Theodor Simon (1841-1874). After having studied medicine in Berlin and Giessen, Simon worked at the General Hospital St. Georg in Hamburg. In 1864 he became assistant at the asylum Hamburg-Friedrichsberg under Ludwig Meyer (1827-1900) and, in 1869, director of the fourth medical department at St. Georg. Simon was a *clinical scientist* whose research was based on the pathomorphological paradigm. He particularly worked about up-to-date issues, such as e.g., cerebral localization or hematoma auris. The paper sketches Simons biography as well as his research and his scientific approach. Afterwards I will describe the understanding of general paralysis in German-speaking psychiatry around 1870 and Simon's critical assessment of it.

*Keywords:* general paralysis of the insane, neuropathology, German-speaking psychiatry around 1870, psychiatry in Hamburg around 1870, Theodor Simon (1841-1874).

---

Bernd Holdorff

### At the Centenary of Tretiakoff's Thesis on the Morphology of Parkinson's Disease, Which Evolved on the Grounds of Encephalitis Lethargica Pathology

In his Thèse de Paris (1919), Konstantin Tretiakoff (1892-1956) described the two main morphological lesions in Parkinson's disease: the loss of pigmented nerve cells in the substantia nigra and the intracellular inclusion bodies in idiopathic paralysis agitans. He referred to them as "Corps de Lewy" which had already been described by FH Lewy in 1912. Tretiakoff's findings on idiopathic Parkinson's disease were confirmed years later by Rolf Hassler (1938/1939). German authors in the 1920s underestimated the significance of both findings, especially Lewy (1923) himself. He and other German neurologists and neuropathologists like Felix Stern (1922, 1928), Goldstein (1922) and Spatz (1923, 1927) acknowledged the typical Nigra-lesions only for post-encephalitic Parkinsonism. It is argued that Tretiakoff's selective attention for the substantia nigra was guided by the frequency of epidemic encephalitis lethargica and its preponderance of nigral pathology. This impression can be derived from Tretiakoff's early paper on that disease (Marie and Tretiakoff 1918) and from Paul Foley's opus magnum (2018). Two outstanding neurologists dedicated to this issue should be recalled: Gabrielle Lévy, the successor of Tretiakoff in the Salpêtrière laboratory and Felix Stern, who died in 1942 as a victim of Nazi terror. The eponym Lewy body is rightly dedicated to Lewy (1912), but the nomination of the eponym goes back to Lafora (1913) and not primarily to Tretiakoff (1919).

*Keywords:* Konstantin Tretiakoff, substantia nigra, Lewy-bodies, Lafora-bodies, Parkinson's disease, encephalitis lethargica, post-encephalitic Parkinsonism.

---

**Michael Synowitz, Detlef Ernst Rosenow and Hans Joachim Synowitz**

### **Review of Time-Related Therapies for Causalgia, Subsumed Under the Treatment of Nerve-Wound Injury**

The traumatization of a peripheral nerve can have a variety of causes. One special form is lesioning of a nerve by bullet injury. The resulting clinical signs of failure include, to varying degrees, disorders of motor function, sensation, vasomotor function, trophism, and reflexes, and are regularly accompanied by painful symptoms. Patients with a special form of pain, causalgia, appear among them at a low incidence. Silas Weir Mitchell coined this term for a pain sensation with a burning pain character, very strong intensity and provocation by the slightest stimuli. The aim of the treatment was to correct the neurological deficit and eliminate pain. At an early stage, preventive measures for atrophy and contracture prophylaxis were also included. Morphine appeared as the only analgesic drug to relieve causalgic pain effectively. All other therapeutic methods, such as dry and moist heat, massage, electrical stimulation, electrical ionization, radium, X-ray, diathermia, paraffin bath – were more likely to worsen and cause pain. Novocaine administered via stellate blockades had been used as a therapeutic or as a probationary agent for subsequent surgical procedures at the ganglion. Sicard's recommended method of endoneurial alcohol injection has to be classified as a transition to surgical intervention because it required the exposure of the nerve. These include the intraoperative dilation of the nerve or the ligation of them. In 1915, the French surgeon René Leriche was the first to perform periarterial sympathectomy for the treatment of causalgia. Other operative techniques included perineural and endoneurolytic dissection, partial resection of injured nerve fascicles followed by reunion via end-to-end anastomosis.

*Keywords:* nerve pain, causalgia, neurolysis, sympathectomy, autonomic nervous system.

---

## **VI. Pioneers and protagonists**

**Norbert Andersch**

**„Whatever happened to Karl Bühler ...“: Rise and Sudden Decline of Bühler's Scientific Career as a Physician, Psychologist and Linguist.**

Within two decades Karl Bühler (1879–1963) published a full range of internationally renowned studies on 'Gestalt' psychology, child psychology and linguistics with a strong focus on the transmission from cell-bound biological systems to the immaterial human symbolic character of language and consciousness. Early on, Bühler succeeded with parallel studies in medicine, psychology and philosophy, followed by habilitations and a fast-accelerating career as a researcher and brilliant lecturer in Bonn, Munich and Dresden. He was offered a professorship in Vienna, and together with his wife Charlotte he founded and developed the world-famous Psychological Research Institute attracting a huge num-



ber of students and disciples. His main publications brought him international attention and famous disputes with fellow psychologists.

As a republican, democrat and being married to a Jewish wife he was arrested immediately after the "Anschluss" of Austria to the German "Reich". He was released from the concentration camp six weeks later only due to the frantic efforts of his wife and with help from Norwegian diplomats. In 1939 he fled to the US where his previously successful career comes to a sudden halt. This paper looks at Bühler's merits as a researcher and thinker trying to find a narrative which may help connect his very different performances in Europe and in exile in the US.

*Keywords:* Karl Bühler, Language Theory, Organon-Model, Representational Function of Language, Symbolisation.

---

**Detlef Ernst Rosenow, Michael Synowitz and Hans Joachim Synowitz**

**Clovis Vincent (1879-1947): Student of Babinski and Founder of the First French Neurosurgical School**

Vincent was born in the village of Ingré in 1879. After finishing his medical studies in Paris and completing his military service, he started his „externat“ in 1902. During this time, he already got in touch with Babinski, whom he adored from his writings and teaching. After his five-year internship, which he finished with highest distinction, he became „hospital physician of Paris“ in 1913, which allowed him to work in Paris hospitals. During his military service during WW I he already worked in neurology in military hospitals. After the war he started to work in Babinski's laboratory, and then in hospitals outside Paris. In 1926 he returned to the Pitié. Thereafter he was encouraged by Babinski to put an emphasis on „neurosurgery“ as a specialty and encouraged Vincent to join de Martel on his trip to Cushing in Baltimore. During that five-week sojourn, Vincent realized to what immense degree neurosurgery in the US differed from what was performed in France and adopted these techniques, until then unknown to him from his work with de Martel. In the following years, Vincent improved his skills in neurosurgery and after 1929 he definitely became a competitor of de Martel. Other than de Martel he created a neurosurgical school in France and became head of the first neurosurgical chair of neurosurgery at the Pitié in 1938. Many of his disciples became independent neurosurgeons in France and elsewhere. His clinic also attracted foreign surgeons to his clinic as „assistant étranger“. Henk Verbiest from the Netherlands and Heinz Köbcke from Germany belonged to this group.

*Keywords:* Babinski, Pitié, Verbiest, Köbcke, Cushing, de Martel.

---

**Hans Michael Straßburg**

**Theobald Kerner (1817-1907): A Pioneer of Neuro- and Social Pediatrics?**

Justinus Kerner (1786-1862) was an important poet and writer of the Romantic period. As a medical student he treated the poet Friedrich Hölderlin (1770-1843) and later discovered the so-called „fat poison“ in rotten sausages, which is known today as botulism toxin. He impressively described the symptoms of mentally ill patients and was a pioneer

of music therapy. After his medical studies, his son Theobald (1817–1907) spent time in one of the oldest children's hospitals of Dr. Mauthner in Vienna and later wrote a detailed report about it for the King of Württemberg. After 1848 he participated in the revolutionary uprisings, had to flee abroad and was sentenced to several months in prison upon his return. He wrote many, often socially critical poems and a self-illustrated children's book. Later, as a representative of the galvano-magnetic method, he succeeded in functional neurological disorders and was able to end his life as a respected representative of philanthropic humanism.

*Keywords:* Theobald Kerner, first children's hospitals, revolution of 1848, Galvano-magnetic method.

---

## **VII. Book review**

Helmut Remschmidt's „Continuity and innovation. The history of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Philipps University Marburg („Kontinuität und Innovation. Die Geschichte der Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie an der Philipps-Universität Marburg“), 2nd ed. 2019, reviewed by Christina Vanja