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Abstracts

I. On the history of Cologne

Dennis Henkel

Silent Suicide – Suicide in Silent Cinema and the Weimar Suicide Film

Summary: Whether suicide is necessarily the result of medical conditions is still a subject of debate. However, there is little disagreement that suicide is invariably a consequence of personal drama and tragedy. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that early filmmakers also followed this long tradition – already cultivated by greats such as Goethe and Shakespeare – and chose this motif for their art. Despite its significance in art, suicide has not been systematically studied in past and current research. This paper attempts to close this gap. Through detailed research and screening, 79 films from a span of 34 years (1899-1933) were identified, which feature the theme of suicide in a dramatically relevant manner. This substantial number of identified films makes it possible – probably for the first time – to provide a representative overview of the suicide-themed films in early cinema. The works are analyzed in terms of their artistic, medical and cultural-historical context, with a special focus on the representation of suicidal individuals, physicians and the act of suicide itself. As a result, various tendencies, clichés and trends were identified and a new movement defined: the “German suicide film” of the Weimar period.

Keywords: Suicide, history of medicine, film history, medical humanities, suicide.

Thomas Müller

The topic of ‘Nazi psychiatry’ and the challenge of contemporary relevance in student and clinical education and training. An example from Baden-Württemberg

Summary: This article uses the example of a monument to the culture of remembrance and commemoration of psychiatry during the years of National Socialism – first erected in a psychiatric hospital in Baden-Württemberg – to show how the content of this subject area, which is represented by the aforementioned monument, can also be communicated to young trainees in the healthcare professions on the one hand, and to medical laypersons on the other, beyond the culture of remembrance. On the occasion of the conference preceding this volume, Cologne is chosen as the location for this ‘travelling’ memorial, which until today has travelled to more than 20 destinations in the FRG and abroad.

Keywords: National Socialism, Psychiatry, „Euthanasia“, Memorial culture, Cologne.

II. On the methodology of the history of neurology

Kai Sammet

Viktor Kafka, Psychiatric Serology in the Hamburg-Friedrichsberg Asylum, and the Abderhalden Reaction, 1913 to 1928

Summary: To date, the history of psychiatric serology remains largely unexplored. This paper aims to sketch the history of serology in psychiatry, beginning with the establishment of a serologic laboratory in the Hamburg-Friedrichsberg Asylum. It will then present a brief biography of Viktor Kafka (1881–1955), who was the head of the laboratory. The paper then proceeds to describe the so-called Abderhalden reaction, along with the theory of autointoxication and discusses the introduction of the Abderhalden reaction in psychiatry by August Fauser (1856–1938). This is followed by a description of Kafkas scientific publications about the Abderhalden reaction. The paper concludes with some reflections on the historical controversies associated with the Abderhalden reaction.

Keywords: history of psychiatric serology, Viktor Kafka (1881–1955), Abderhalden Reaction, August Fauser (1856–1938), autointoxication, psychoses.

III. History of Psychology and Psychotherapy

Stefanie Coché

Between Freedom of Research and Religious Confession

Summary: Today it is possible to study psychology from a decidedly evangelical perspective at 21 evangelical colleges and universities in the US, while also being able to obtain an educational degree recognized by the American Psychological Association (APA). In my paper, I examine the origins of this phenomenon in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. In my paper I take a two-step approach: First, I explore how evangelical colleges became interested in investing significant resources in a discipline they perceived primarily as illegitimate competition to their own offerings. Second, I argue that accreditation by the APA was a result of a negotiation process that reflected a shift in the relationship between academic and educational criteria.

Keywords: History of higher education, Psychology, Evangelicals.

Werner Felber

Ludwig Hopf (1884–1939): The Identification of an Outsider at the Third Psychoanalytic Congress in Weimar in 1911

Summary: At the third Psychoanalytic Congress held in Weimar, a highly meaningful group photo was taken with many of the most important early psychoanalysts – a picture like no other. The congress was attended by 57 participants known by name, 48 of whom appear on the photograph. Until this day, four individuals have yet to be identified. We recently have been able to identify another participant: Ludwig Hopf. He had a wide range of interests, primarily in music and philosophy. However, he studied mathematics and physics and became an assistant to Albert Einstein in 1909, with whom he co-authored publications and made music. In Zurich, out of personal interest, he sought contact with Carl Gustav Jung and joined the local psychoanalytic group there in 1910. A year later, he attended the above-mentioned third Psychoanalytic Congress in Weimar. In 1914, Hopf completed his habilitation and, in 1923, was appointed full professor of mathematics and mechanics at the Technical University Aachen. His interest in psychoanalysis lasted three decades. In 1933, as a Jewish scholar, his teaching license was revoked and, despite repeated protests, he received his official dismissal notice in 1934. In 1939, he was offered a professorship at Cambridge University and emigrated to England under dramatic circumstances. He soon moved to Dublin, where he died of acute thyroid failure that same year.

Keywords: Ludwig Hopf, Psychoanalytic Congress 1911, group picture, Weimar.

Tobias Wustmann

Franz Kafka From a Psychiatric-Psychotherapeutic Perspective

Summary: In 2024, the 100th anniversary of Franz Kafka's (1883–1924) death was commemorated. Against this background, this paper provides an overview of the literature on the poet's psychological complaints and postulated illnesses. In conclusion, a hypothesis is put forward as to how we would assess Franz Kafka today from a psychiatric-psychotherapeutic perspective.

Keywords: Franz Kafka, novelist, literature, mental health, illness, metamorphosis.

IV. On the history and diversification of psychiatric institutions

Henrik Döbold

Altscherbitz in the United States: On the Reception of the Provinzial-Irren-Anstalt Altscherbitz Abroad Around 1900

Summary: This paper examines the international “impact” of the “Provinzial-Irren-Anstalt Altscherbitz”, in particular its role in the professional debate on the conception and modernization of psychiatric institutions in the United States around 1900. Opened in 1876 and built in the “pavillon style”, the institution was considered exemplary for operating a colony, the high level of employment among its patients and a high degree of personal freedom. In the first decades of its existence, it attracted numerous visitors and delegations, both from Germany and abroad. Previous studies have thoroughly documented its influence on the design of asylums in Great Britain – particularly in Scotland –, and in Trieste in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the United States, Altscherbitz served as a model for the planning and redesign of asylums in line with the “cottage” or the “villa system” style. However, it was not replicated on a larger scale. It nonetheless had a direct influence on the design of a colony for the mentally ill on Long Island in New York – the “Central Islip Farm Colony” – that opened in 1889. The driving force behind the planning of this new type of institution was the entrepreneur and philanthropist William Pryor Letchworth (1823–1910), who had visited Altscherbitz during a trip to Europe in 1880–1881. He introduced the institution to the general public through his widely read publication “The insane in foreign countries” in 1889. Letchworth played a decisive role in the redesign and modernization of psychiatric institutions in New York around 1900. Based on the available literature and sources examined, it remains impossible to determine the extent to which the individual institutions adopted not only the structural and conceptual elements of the Altscherbitz model, but also the therapeutic principles. The institution in Islip, inspired by Altscherbitz, seems to have been characterized by a comparatively high degree of patient occupation and personal freedom, as well as a broad range of therapeutic activities reminiscent of its model.

Keywords: Psychiatric hospitals, village asylums, 19th century, United States of America (USA), Altscherbitz.

Bernd Reichelt

From Ambulatory Care to Social Services. Notes on the Social Psychiatric Awakening at the Bad Schussenried State Psychiatric Hospital in the Late 1960s

Summary: This paper focuses on the emergence and establishment of social services using the example of the Bad Schussenried Psychiatric State Hospital (Baden-Württemberg). Psychiatric social services had its origins in ambulatory care, the roots of which go back to the 1920s. After an interruption during National Socialism, ambulatory care was reactivated in the 1950s, before increasingly transforming into patient-orientated, multi-professional social work in the 1960s. This paper also shows the role that social services played in the social psychiatric awakening that took place in Bad Schussenried in the early 1970s. Not only were social workers already involved in the therapeutic work when patients were admitted and in group therapy programmes, the emerging psychiatric social service played a central role in the establishment of so-called patient-clubs and in mobilising so-called lay helpers for support.

Keywords: institutional psychiatry, ambulatory care, social service, lay helpers.

V. Historical criticism of psychiatry

Rebecca Schwoch

Insane Asylum Scandals and Reports on Psychiatric Violence in the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, 1892 and 1900

Summary: Around 1900, a social movement voiced public accusations concerning institutional practices with respect to hospitalisation, discharge, legal incapacitation and even violence in psychiatric institutions. The representatives of this movement not only wanted to publicise their own experiences, but also succeeded in creating a sustained public resonance through the variety of activities in different areas of public life. This paper demonstrates the impact of these efforts by using the example of a daily newspaper, the „*Hamburger Fremdenblatt*“, which influenced the information and opinion-forming of its readers to a certain extent with its continuous reporting on abuses in psychiatry and sensitised the public, at least temporarily, to the urgent need of reform in psychiatric institutions.

Keywords: Insane asylum scandals, psychiatric violence, *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, press, public.

VI. From “soul medicine” to psychiatry in the late 19th century

Reinhard J. Boerner

Franz Anton Mesmer’s (1734–1815) “Animal Magnetism” and its Empirical Verification by the Royal Paris Commissions in 1784 as an Early Example of Evidence-Based Medicine

Summary: Mesmer’s Animal Magnetism (AM) was highly controversial from its inception. During his time in Paris, the debate surrounding AM escalated and took on a political dimension. In 1784, Louis XVI. appointed two commissions composed of top-class doctors and scientists. This paper provides a detailed analysis of the composition, methodology (experiments) and results of both reports. The existence of a fluid was convincingly refuted; instead, the effects of the treatment were attributed to imagination, imitation and habit. Methodologically, the investigation can be considered the first single-blind study in the history of medicine and psychotherapy. In contrast, the usefulness and tolerability of AM was disputed using inadequate methodology. Moreover, the commission emphasized the potential dangers of AM to the health of patients and the moral order. In this paper, the political-cultural context of the commission reports and their consequences are clarified for the first time. The paper also discusses Mesmer’s problematic understanding of science (particularly ideology formation) as well as some of the problems of AM raised in the reports, including the role of unspecific impact factors and the placebo problem. It is argued that the commission reports, as well as their reception, pose fundamental questions for medical and psychotherapeutic research and therapeutic practice – questions that have lost none of their relevance.

Keywords: Franz Anton Mesmer, Animal Magnetism, Royal Commissions 1784, placebo problem, psychotherapy research.

Thomas Reuster

Recent Insights into Karl Ludwig Kahlbaum (1828–1899)

Summary: In addition to his well-known classification of the disease entities ‘catatonia’ and ‘hebephrenia’, this paper examines Karl Kahlbaum’s clinical methodology, which was originally based on Carl Wunderlich’s (1815–1877) work. This methodology laid the foundation of Kahlbaum’s longitudinal conception of disease entities.

Moreover, his very progressive, socio-psychiatric and ethically reflected approach towards the treatment of the mentally ill is highlighted here, which found expression e.g. in the establishment of an innovative “Pädagogium” for mentally ill adolescents. This aspect of his work has so far received little attention in light of his life’s achievements. Finally, a number of Kahlbaum’s neologisms are scrutinized here, which continue to enrich psychiatric terminology to this day. These shed light on Kahlbaum’s insightful research attitude, 125 years after his death.

Keywords: Kahlbaum, classification, clinical method, neologisms, social psychiatry.

Michael Seidel

James Henry Pullen, the “Victorian Genius of Earlswood Asylum”: Did Wilhelm Griesinger Report on a Man with Autism Spectrum Disorder as Early as 1861?

Summary: The talented young man mentioned by Wilhelm Griesinger in the 2nd edition of his textbook can be identified as James Henry Pullen. Known as the “Victorian Genius of Earlswood Asylum”, Pullen gained recognition for his special artistic and manual skills. At the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots – a pioneer and model institution in Victorian England, which opened in 1855 under the direction of Langdon Down –, Pullen enjoyed considerable freedoms and attention that benefited his development and productivity.

His distinctive behaviours, combined with his special talents, make it seem likely that Pullen, who was considered an “idiot” or “idiot savant” at the time, met the criteria what can now be considered an autism spectrum disorder.

Keywords: James Henry Pullen, Earlswood Asylum of Idiots, John Langdon Haydon Down, autism spectrum disorder.

Hannes Stubbe

The Psychiatrist and Anthropologist Karl von den Steinen on the Xingú River and on the Marquesas

Summary: After a brief overview of the biography of the psychiatrist and ethnologist Karl von den Steinen (1855–1929), who remains relatively unknown in Germany, this paper examines his two fields of study on the Xingú (Brazil) and the Marquesas (Pacific). Particular emphasis is placed on the psychological and transcultural aspects of his research, as well as on the artistic qualities of Marquesan tattoos.

Keywords: Karl von den Steinen, Xingú, Marquesas, Tattoo, anthropology.

VII. Psychopharmacology

Joachim H. Demling

History of Modern Anti-Dementia Drugs of the Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitor Type

Summary: For the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, four anti-dementia drugs of the acetylcholinesterase inhibitor type are or were (tacrine) officially approved in Germany: 1) donepezil (Aricept®), synthesized at the Japanese company Eisai and launched in Germany in 1997; 2) rivastigmine (Exelon®), the product of a working group at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which was later sold to the Swiss company Novartis (launched in Germany in 1998); 3) galantamine (Reminyl®), a plant-derived alkaloid originally found in snowdrops and researched pharmaceutically by Soviet and Bulgarian scientists. It was launched in Germany and elsewhere in the early 2000s by the Belgium-based company Janssen Cilag (waiver of marketing authorisation in 2020, since then as a generic). The first substance to be officially approved worldwide, including in Germany, for dementia therapy due to Alzheimer’s disease was the 4) acridine derivative tacrine (Cognex®, Romotal®, launched in Germany in 1995), which was first synthesized by Parke-Davis in the USA. It was withdrawn from the market (in the US in 2013).

due to the better efficacy and tolerability of competing drugs, but is still of historical significance as the first drug with scientifically proven efficacy against Alzheimer's disease.

The present paper outlines the history of the above-mentioned acetylcholinesterase inhibitors as well as their development and market introduction, while also referring to memantine and providing a brief outlook on future research on Alzheimer's disease.

Keywords: acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, Alzheimer, tacrine, donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine.

VIII. History of neuropathology, neuropaediatrics, neurophysiology

Jürgen Schlegel

The History of Borna Disease

Summary: Borna disease is one of the oldest known infectious diseases in domestic animals, particularly affecting horses and sheep. It manifests as a severe, usually fatal encephalitis. The eponymous town of Borna was at the center of a severe epidemic outbreak in the Kingdom of Saxony at the end of the 19th century. It was not until much later that a virus was identified as the causative agent, now referred to as *Borna Disease Virus 1* (BoDV-1). The natural reservoir hosts seem to be bicolored white-toothed shrews (*Crocidura leucodon*). Veterinary cases of Borna disease occur in an endemic area that essentially includes the federal states of Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony, Thuringia, and Bavaria. In the 1980s, some researchers proposed that humans could also be infected with BoDV-1 and that the infection could be causally responsible for mental disorders, including affective disorders and schizophrenia. However, these studies were questioned methodologically, and other scientists were unable to replicate and confirm the results. Human pathogenicity was only recently confirmed after a series of encephalitis cases in humans were traced back to infections with BoDV-1. The human infections occurred in the same endemic areas where horses are affected. The transmission routes of this zoonosis remain unclear.

Keywords: Borna Disease, Encephalitis, Affective Disorders, Schizophrenia.

Hans Michael Straßburg

From Reflex-Driven Organism to Competent Newborn: A History of Developmental Neurology

Summary: Until the end of the 19th century, neurological abnormalities in young infants received little attention. Infants were considered to be a blank slate and, due to the presumed inactivity of the cerebrum, human development was believed to progress from caudal to cranial. At the beginning of the 20th century, researchers began investigating regular behavior in animal experiments where higher brain functions had been deactivated. Authors, such as Ernst Moro, Albrecht Peiper, Georg Schaltenbrand and others, described new reflex phenomena in infants. From the 1970s onwards, reflex-based developmental diagnostics of young infants played a major role in pediatric practice and formed the basis for prescribing physiotherapy. However, a paradigm shift was initiated by Heinz F. Prechtl and others through their sonographic observations of young fetuses and the analysis of the spontaneous motor skills of young infants. These studies demonstrated that even movements from the 10th week of pregnancy onwards cannot be explained by spinal reflexes alone, but also by activities controlled by the cerebrum. Today's therapy concepts for infants with developmental problems are increasingly informed by these findings.

Keywords: Infant, reflex-driven organism, Albrecht Peiper, Georg Schaltenbrand, Heinz Prechtl.

Hans Dieter Mennel

Cerebral Localization and Neurophysiology in the Work of Philipp Melanchthon

Summary: German scholar Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) is best known for his leading role in the Protestant reformation. However, his contribution as a reformer to university education, as a consequence of the Renaissance

movement that had started in Italy around 1450 AC, is less well known. In Germany, this led to the founding of new universities and academic disciplines. Within this context, Melanchthon was appointed professor of Greek at the University of Wittenberg in 1518. More significantly, he played a main role in reforming university life in general, including reforms in medical education, particularly in anatomy and physiology.

Philipp Melanchthon evaluated the classical philosophical work, psychology and the historical works of medicine, especially focusing on Greek anatomy and physiology of the nervous system. Of particular interest to him was the cell doctrine, which was at that time repeatedly published both in textual and visual form.

This doctrine posited that different psychological faculties were localized within the cavities of the cerebral ventricles. While Melanchthon in general followed different contemporary interpretations, his descriptions of the function of the second ventricle include formulations that allow different interpretations. This paper critically examines the significance of this distinctive feature and its possible relevance for further understanding human cognitive function.

Keywords: Renaissance, Philipp Melanchthon, medieval cell doctrine, cognitive function, reformation.

IX. History of neurosurgery

Detlev Ernst Rosenow, Michael Synowitz und Hans Joachim Synowitz

From Paget's 1853 Case Report to Babinski's 'Névrites' and the Emergence of the "Nerve Entrapment Syndrome" – A Century of Medical History

Summary: From the mid-1850s to the mid-1950s, the term *neuritis* was used broadly to describe any lesion of nerves in the human body, disregarding the exact cause of the underlying disease – except for tumorigenicity. As early as 1885, Buzzard discussed that term and criticized it from a scientific point of view. Babinski, however, continued to use the term *neuritis* for many years. In 1908, Hunt coined the term "occupational neuritis". Bing in 1913 condemned the term, criticizing it as "unscientific". He realized that nerves are compressed at distinct regions of the extremities. Despite this, the French neurologists Pitres and Vaillard (1924) maintained the terminology and suggested subclassifications of the term "névrite". Even Wartenberg continued to use the term "neuritis" in 1932, although he would later criticize it himself in 1958. In 1958 Seddon already used the term "compression lesions of nerves", whereas at the beginning of the 1960s German-speaking countries still used the term „neuritis“ (e.g., Mumenthaler [1961] and Mumenthaler and Schliack [1965]). The American orthopedic surgeons Kopell and Thompson had started publishing on this topic in various medical journals, summarizing the contents in a monography entitled "Peripheral Entrapment Neuropathy" in 1963. They not only introduced the term "entrapment neuropathy" but also explained the underlying pathoanatomic mechanisms of these entrapments – frameworks that are still valid today. It took nearly a century to establish a scientifically accurate term for clinical signs that had already been correctly interpreted in the mid-1850s by Paget.

Keywords: neuritis, névrite, entrapment neuropathy, Nervenkompressionssyndrom.

Michael Synowitz, Detlev Ernst Rosenow und Hans Joachim Synowitz

Heinrich Pette, An Advocate of Operative Neurology

Summary: Heinrich Pette (1887–1964), a supporter of the perspective that neurology should also include operative activity, succeeded in establishing an operative department within his clinic in 1936/37. This unit was staffed by the surgeon Otto Voss (1902–1968). At the 1935 Surgeons' Congress, the unity of the surgical discipline was repeatedly invoked and arguments were made against the separation of neurosurgery. In the same year, at the first annual meeting of the "Society of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists" (GDNP) in September of 1935, a resolution was adopted, addressing the relationship between neurology and neurosurgery. It discouraged the establishment of standalone neurosurgical clinics. The debates over the type of cooperation continued in the following years. On March 15, 1939, at a meeting in the Reich Ministry, neurosurgery was formally classified as a subdivision of general surgery. This prevented the institutional integration into neurological clinics. This decision was publicly announced as a ministerial decision at the opening speech of the Surgeons' Conference in April of 1939. Prior to the surgeons' meeting, Pette and Ernst Rüdin (1874–1952) submitted a statement on behalf of the

DGNP. In a clarifying discussion between Pette and representatives of the Ministry, it was agreed that the two neurological surgical departments in Breslau and Hamburg remain in place, while the department, located in the Psychiatric Clinic of Karl Kleist (1879–1969) in Frankfurt am Main, had to be transferred to the surgical clinic. His opponent, Wilhelm Tönnis (1898–1978), thanks to a strategic network, ultimately achieved the independence of neurosurgery up to the level of *extraordinariate* and the establishment of an independent clinic.

Keywords: Pette, neurology, DGNP, neurosurgery.

X. On the history of psychiatry in the GDR

Anne Gevatter, Kathleen Haack und Ekkehardt Kumbier

The Role of Foreign Doctors in the German Democratic Republic (GDR)

Summary: The contributions of foreign doctors to the health care system in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) have been investigated for the first time in this study. The research presented in this paper seeks to determine when, why, to what extent, and under what conditions medical doctors from abroad were hired. Furthermore, the living conditions of foreign doctors were also investigated. In pursuit of comprehensive answers to these questions, an extensive review of archival material was conducted. Files from the Federal Archives in Berlin were particularly relevant. It was demonstrated that, in light of the severe shortage of skilled workers, the support provided by doctors from other socialist countries in the late 1950s and early 1960s was crucial in ensuring the medical care provision for the GDR population. Also, their living and working conditions as well as the challenges that arose from these assignments could be portrayed. Overall, doctors, who were delegated on assignments to provide support were treated with appreciation and respect, which included optimal accommodation, care, and education.

Keywords: East Germany, Health Care System, Foreigners, Immigration, History of Medicine.

XI. Overview Studies

Oleksandr Shevchenko

“Brain and brain functions through the ages. From antiquity to the Renaissance. Influence on modern neurological science “.

Summary: The aim of this article is to provide a chronological overview of theories about the brain and its functions throughout time, from ancient times to the Renaissance, and their influence on modern neurological science. The article presents important historical, medical and scientific aspects, milestones and significant contributions of outstanding physicians, anatomists, scientists, artists and naturalists from ancient times to the Renaissance to the development of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. They were among the first to try to describe and localize brain functions. These were also the first descriptions and images of the cranial nerves, the most important structures of the central and peripheral nervous system, the first descriptions of the spinal cord, the dura and pia mater, the first descriptions of the white matter of the brain, the first attempts to draw the convolutions of the brain, and the earliest images of the convolutions of the brain in the history of neuroscience, reflected in various anatomical textbooks and manuscripts. For the first time, terms such as „physiology“ and „pathology“ were introduced. The ventricular theory and the ventricular localization of higher functions was an important concept among scientists in the Western world and in Arab countries from ancient times to the Renaissance: “Sensus communis” (as the convergence point of the five external senses), „Cogitativa“, „Estimativa” (creative imagination and assessment) and „Memorativa” (memory). Although many versions of the Cell Doctrine (ventricle theory) were formulated, its basic concept remained the dominant theory of brain function until the Renaissance. As science and anatomy advanced during the Renaissance and images of the brain and nerves became increasingly available, the ventricular theory began to lose importance. However, the contributions of these scientists provided the impetus for further discoveries and developments in the field of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology.

Keywords: Brain, brain functions, ventricular theory, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology.

XII. Discussion Contributions

Stephan Jaster

Louis Soutter (1871–1942): His Life and Work and His Illness?

Summary: Louis Soutter was a Swiss painter and a solitary figure. His parents placed him under legal guardianship in 1915, and in 1923 they placed him in a retirement home, where he lived and painted until he died in 1942. The paper provides an overview of his life and work and his ambiguous illness. The probability is high that he was on the autism spectrum, and not primarily suffering from a psychiatric disorder. He was the first artist, who used his fingers for painting. Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985) was a French painter, who developed a completely different perspective on art in his time. He coined the term *L'Art brut* to describe painters, who are not influenced by well-known concepts of painting. Dubuffet collected many of Louis Soutter's paintings, and since 1976, his Collection of *L'Art brut* is housed in Lausanne. The paper also examines the question to what extent *L'Art brut* should be considered a product of artists suffering from mental illness.

Keywords: Soutter, Autism, Dubuffet, *L'Art brut*.

Erich Gütinger

A Star in the Well: The Life and Work of the Brain Researcher Gü NGOWYANG (1898–1954)

Summary: This paper attempts to outline the life and career of Dr. Gü NGWOYANG, also known as OU-YANG Zhu. He was once the pioneering figure of brain research in China, or at least one of the pioneers. NGOWYANG laid important foundations for his work as a researcher through study visits abroad. Beginning in the summer of 1929, he initially spent time in Paris and from 1930 to 1932 he conducted research at the University of Berlin and at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Brain Research in Berlin, where he worked with Cecilie and Oskar Vogt until he returned to China in the summer of 1934. During the 1930s and 1940s, NGOWYANG gained recognition both nationally and internationally due to his comparative studies of Chinese and European brains. During the Second World War, he helped his country to fight the Japanese invaders by evacuating the National Central University (NCU) from Nanking to Sichuan. Following the Second World War, NGOWYANG was engaged in the relocation of the NCU to Nanking. Amidst the Civil War in China (1945–1949), the NGOWYANG was committed to sustaining the NCU, and especially the Department of Biology. Despite being aware of the dangers of opposing the victorious Chinese Communist Party, NGOWYANG took up a stance against it. In summer 1953, he openly opposed Lyssenko and his theory and later ended up in a well.

Keywords: China, brain research, opposing the ruling party, Lyssenko theory, drowning.

XII. Book Reviews

Reviewed by Thomas Müller

Henrik Karl Döbold: Georg Ludwig als Gestalter und Praktiker in der Anstaltspsychiatrie im Großherzogtum Hessen. Berlin u. a. 2024.

Reviewed by Thomas Müller

Stefanie Coché: Psychiatric Institutions and Society. The Practice of Psychiatric Committal in the „Third Reich“, the Democratic Republic of Germany, and the Federal Republic of Germany, 1941–1963. Routledge, Oxon (UK) and New York (USA) 2024.

Reviewed by Junko Nagai

Waltraud Ernst und Thomas Müller: Alcohol, psychiatry and society: Comparative and transnational perspectives, c. 1700–1990s. Manchester 2022.

Reviewed by Katharina Witner

Klaus Schepker, Michael Kölch und Jörg M. Fegert: Unerziehbar: Netzwerke und Kontinuitäten. Aufarbeitung der Verbandsehrungen in der deutschen Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie 1950– 1990. Köln 2024.