

These two folders (incl., folders 7 + 8)

① unnamed

1st page headed "Philosophy & History"

* ② Values & Beliefs

given me by BL

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To be added to

Louergan Papers, Batch IX

* For Values and Beliefs see Folder 8

Philosophy of History

1. History as a Subject (History = History of ...)

A specialized field of inquiry, investigation, research marked by methodical procedures (Bernstein, Langlois) and cumulative results (composition, publication, criticism, use) sustained by libraries, classes, degrees

a) occassional history

Herodotus: why the Persians fought the Greeks
Thucydides: what was the Peloponnesian war
Livy: what is the virtue and glory of Rome
Gibbons: the decline and fall of the Roman Empire

b) technical history

a' history as belief: take the word of others on what happened at other places and times

conflicting testimonies (inner conflict; conflict with convictions of historian), critique of witnesses (what they could know, how accurate their knowledge might be, how truthful)

limit: all the witnesses lying and all the clues planted
(Collingwood's fable)

b' assimilation of history to empirical science

not testimonies but traces: whatever exists in the present but had its origin in the past (Renier)

indifferent whether it is trace of a lie or a fake,
a mistake or illusion, ~~xxx~~ of this time or that

everything is to be accounted for and everything supplies data for the accounting

historian seeks an immediate understanding that arises from the data, that can be corrected by pointing to data overlooked, that advances as do the empirical sciences

yet differs from empirical sciences: understanding is of the particular (not of the general); understanding does not admit correction by appealing to other cases (purports only to be understanding of this case; yet not without general check in so far as many instances and understandings of each have to fit into some coherent picture of concrete whole.

c' strength of technical history: there does exist an interlocking of traces, data -- illustrate Gratia operans.

weakness of technical history; the interlocking of data is spotty; there are lacunae; there remains a permanent temptation to fill in the blanks

d' attitudes towards the weakness

a" history is a limited undertaking; one does what one can; one indicates degrees of confidence; one does not hesitate to say one does not know (Butterfield, perhaps in History and Christianity)

b" relativism: history is a people interpreting to itself

its past (Huizinga, Philosophy and History, OUP 193
c" Verstandnis and Vorverstandnis, Bultmann

Native, somewhat of which, of these three methods, get to be the false copying of ^{unfolding assumption} ~~unfolding assumption~~ ^{which may determine}

c) explanatory history

a' technical history is incomplete in its assimilation to the structure of empirical science; it imitates the lower blade of observation, measurement, curve-fitting (Galileo's law of free fall); it has nothing to correspond to Galileo's upper blade (geometry), Newton's (mechanics), Einstein's (relativity), quantum theory (discontinuity and indeterminism)

the weakness of technical history can be removed by introducing an upper blade

b' the introduction of an upper blade is possible in particular fields and removes weakness; bridges over lacunae

history of mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, ~~and~~ biology, technology, medicine, economics

if one is proficient in the subject, and only if one is proficient in the subject, can one write its history

c' the introduction of an upper blade does not escape relativism in other fields

history of philosophy: there is one mathematics but there are many philosophies; hence many upper blades

Cassirer, Erkenntnisproblem

Gilson, Spirit of Middle Ages, Being and Some Philosophers question, universal viewpoint, Insight 17, philosophy of

philosophies

no question that issue seems to be much more philosophic than historical

d' history of art, cultures, religions, literatures raise both difficulties of philosophy and further difficulties because of their resistance to systematic conceptualization [Wittgenstein's ^{philosophy} ^{Handwritten}]

e' can there be an upper blade for general history, ie not history of math physics astronomy but history of Greece, Rome, middle ages, Great Britain, US, etc.

a" sociology

P. Sorokin, Socio-cultural Dynamics, 4 vols. Ultimately employs philosophic categories: sensate, idealistic, ideational; cf. Kierkegaard, aesthetic, ethical, religious spheres; Lonergan, experience, understanding, judgement.

Analysis applied to Hellenistic and Western Culture, extends over 2500 years

R. K. Merton, Social Theory and Social Structure, seems to be introducing explanatory categories (like mass for weight, temperature for feeling hot, etc); would make possible explanatory history with upper blade ~~for~~ scientific sociology.

b" A. Toynbee

what is history about? civilizations (fields of interdependence) there are many civilizations; each has its origins, development, break-downs and recoveries, decline, decay; the many are interrelated in space and in time (apparentation and affiliation); the basic carrier wave is religion (last 4 vols)

sets up a basic conceptualization (Begriffsbildung) that is drawn from historical field itself

this basic conceptualization is supplemented by a set of humanistic concepts or symbols drawn from SScr, Gk tragedy, Shakspeare, Goethe

c" E. Voegelin, Order and History (Louisiana State), New Science of Politics (Chicago UP 1952, 1960)

upper blade from a "philosophy of man" (depth psychology, existentialism, history of religions, philosophy of symbolic forms; Jung, Heidegger, Eliade, Cassirer; Hegel, Schelling, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard)

d) technical history and explanatory history reveal a tension within history (professors want technical, readers want explanatory)

there is a problem of relativism that becomes conspicuous in dated history, national history, history that is acceptable to a given philosophic or religious persuasion

the problem of relativism is formulated with some exactitude in terms of the distinction between methodological upper and lower blades.

2. History as a Dimension of all Subjects

Eternal truth is truth in an eternal mind; truths in temporal minds are temporal; they come to light at a given place and time, within a determinate context necessary for their exact interpretation.

Concepts as the content of a definition are ~~outside~~ beyond the conditions of space and time; the concept of space is not a spatial entity, of time is not a temporal entity.

But the definer is spatial, and he defines at a time

All the sciences develop: proved by complete enumeration; Euclid in a sense is out of date

Bohm's Quantum Theory, set out the pieces so that you can know what can be modified to meet what new data come to light

Theology: development

Philosophy: invariants; not a dam across the river of thought but the bed in which the river flows.

The contemporary presentation of any subject is inextricably bound up in the history of the subject.

2. Philosophy of ...

a) Philosophy: absolutely, logic epistemology ontology cos...
of: nature, science, spirit, man, law,
education, art, religion, history
What is "philosophy of ..."?

b) Love of wisdom
orders all things, judges all, because judgement
demands mastery of total relevant context
wisdom admits application to different particular fields
lover of wisdom also loves applications to part

c) ~~technical structure~~
~~not sufficient to know intellect the way one knows God,~~
~~from sensible effects, analogy, affirmation, negation, eminence,~~
~~necessary to know one's own mind immediately, by one's~~
~~own intellectual experience~~
~~only so is it possible to reach the history not merely as~~
~~a natura naturata, a pensee pensee, but as a natura naturans,~~
~~a pensee pensante, in its origination of its basic structures and~~
~~categories~~

c) technical structure
philosophy, love of wisdom, must not be conceived
as a dam across the river of life and thought, but as the bed in
which the river flows
conceive one's own intellect as one conceives God and
the damage is done
common names, universal concepts, seeing nexus, universal
and necessary principles that hold in all possible worlds, absolutely
certain per se about what per se might be, ivory tower out of
relation to everything, notion of system as deduction from
principles

d) notion of system
read St Thomas, not like Euclid, one proof from initial
assumptions and previously demonstrated conclusions
on an ordered series of topics, a long series of arguments
on each; but the arguments on the several topics all belong to the
same family
system as a basic set of related operations; because
operations are related, the operata are related; the operata a
field in which all contents terms are grasped perfectly because the
operations from which they result and their relations are fully
known.
what is basic group of operations? experience, understanding,
judgement
what is basic group of terms? what is known by experiencing
understanding judgement; entia compounded of potency form act
differentiation of types of understanding by methods:
classical statistical genetic explanatory
in brief: understand thoroughly what it is to understand
and you will be in possession of an invariant structure opening
upon all that there is to be understood.

3. Philosophy of History

- a) Philosophic reflection on history. A mutual illumination of philosophy by history and of history by philosophy.

History: a) the history that is written, history as subject
b) the history that is written about, historical process; the totality of human action; historicity as a dimension of human reality

~~History: a) the history that is written, history as subject~~

- b) Philosophy of history: as a subject
General to particular methodology: sample of it in preceding account of "History as a subject"
distinction of occasional, technical, explanatory history
indications of their strength and weakness
possibility of underpinning penetrating interrelating going beyond all particular fields
at the same time, no intrusion either in the methods proper to history as a speciality or in the methods proper to explanatory history
yet ability to remove problems from particular fields that do not belong there (eg relativism, positivism)

- c) Philosophy of the history that is written about

- a' Historicity, Geschichtlichkeit
Just as subject not only knows himself by consciousness but also is constituted qua subject by consciousness
so also man not only knows himself by historicity but also is constituted by historicity

Handwritten: *insurmountable*
Wille May →
The history of a people is an account, an interpretation, of the people: of their character intentions acts achievements
But there already is an interpretation, a self-interpretation, in the very existence of the people qua intending acting achieving acquiring a character

A person suffering from amnesia cannot be himself: forget I was Jesuit priest professor of theology

Similarly, there is an existential memory constitutive of a people qua people

Written history is the objectification, explicitation, examination, criticism of that existential memory

realization

All human living is objectification symbolization of the intention intentions of the subject

Drama is history at a pre-historical level

History is a cooler, more ample, more reflective drama

- b' Dialectic

Joseph Moreau quoted M Blondel "un idealisme pleinement consequent fait evanouir toutes les distinctions qui le separent du realisme"

Handwritten: *criticism*
positions →
Insight: tension between the structure of one's cognitional or cognitional-and-volitional activities and one's interpretation of these activities: an inner contradiction that works itself out

Dialectic as dialogue: Plato (opposed eristic); as review

Liberals → Progress
 Marxists → Materialist Decent
 Nazis → Myth of the 20th Century Rosenberg
 Veigelin → Xmas is awaiting the Advent of X
 Dawson → The Heritage of Xmas Culture
 of opinions (Aristotle); as the inner principles of development in history

Not Hegelian nor Marxist view: Hegel, Master-slave "Historical
 dialectic - then to the developed - No 'ETHICS'"

- c' Stages, periodization.
 Greek-Hebrew: more or less differentiated
 anterior to both: emergence of individualism; primitive
 thinking judging deciding is not individual but group operation
 K Jaspers, Vom Ziel und Ursprung der Geschichte
 Babylonian Indian Chinese Egyptian Cretan Mayan Incan Toltec
 From compactness of primitive undifferentiation, through
 successive developments (withdrawal and return, like growth), to
 the differentiation of contemporary consciousness thought
 "Primitives" a meaning in our midst

Hence another aspect of Geschichtlichkeit: not only
 is man constituted by historicity, but also developed man is
 constituted by history, by past accumulated developments

- d' The Good: particular, order, value
Soteriology (Insight 6, 7, 18, 20) problem

- e' Theology of history
Heidegger a modification of the basic operations: ratio per fidem
 illustrata

mutual illumination of theology - fundamental -
 history - role of Xmas - development -
 in history is revealed
 to transformation - fundamental & X
 Tradition