

English summaries

Time and History; how to write the History of France

F. HARTOG

How to write the history of France today? This is the question Pierre Nora poses in Les Lieux de mémoire. This major undertaking (1984-1994) accompanies, records and reflects upon the cult of memory which, since the middle of the 70s, has arisen, among other places, in France. A sharp diagnosis of the present, an expression of an historiographic moment in the discipline, Les Lieux de mémoire are also the symptom of a deep crisis in our relation with time, in which 1989 represents a symbolic date. By proposing the notion of a regime of historicity, we would like to test this hypothesis and reintroduce, in an active way, an interrogation on time in history.

Memory Repressed. Russia and its Stalinian Past

M. FERRETTI

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the reasons for the psychological repression of Stalinism in post-communist Russia. Condemned to be forgotten by the regime, the memory of the Stalinian tragedy was only able to be reconstructed under perestroika. Starting in 1990 however, the doubt cast upon the October Revolution led to a new psychological repression of Stalinism. The new representation of the past which then affirmed itself in the Liberal-democratic public opinion was constructed around a mythicization of pre-revolutionary Russia. Consolatory and gratifying, this image imposed itself upon the society quite rapidly because it facilitated an affranchisement from the collective guilt-feelings engendered by the weight of a past too heavy to be carried.

The West will be tomorrow

D. KHAPAEVA

The fall of the Soviet system has been accompanied by the idealization of the West in the occidentalophile intelligentsia. The question of the Soviet past disappears very rapidly and the temporal continuity is assured between pre- and post-Communist Russia. This time-lapse forces one to consider the Russian present as the historical past of the West and the future as the idealized image of the present-day West.

Atlixco: Water, Men and Land in a Mexican Valley (15 th- 17th c.)

J. C. GARAVAGLIA

Using an ecosystemic approach and by studying the different traditions of utilization of water and agrarian systems, the author analyzes the relationship between the indigenous societies and the Spanish invaders in the Atlixco valley, in Mexico from the

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

15th to 17th centuries. The analysis of the abiotic and biotic conformation of the valley at the time is prolonged by a study of conflicts for the control of resources which find their origine in the culture shock produced by the meeting of Indians and Spaniards.

All the maps were realized by Christophe Batardy in the LISH laboratory of the MSH with the collaboration of Madame Françoise Pirot.

Gauchos and Peons in Rio de la Plata. Reflexions on Rural History in Colonial Argentina

J. L. MORENO

In the perspective of the recent evolution of historiography concerning the rural history of colonial Argentina, J. L. Moreno analyzes the identity of the agricultural producers and of the rural workers, and generally of the role played by the peasants in the rural economy. He shows that questions relating to demography and to the occupation of space have a central part to play. This leads him also to define more precisely the models of agricultural production.

The Question of Algebra. Mathematics and Rhetoric of Jurists in Sixteenth-Century France G. CIFOLETTI

We have inherited from seventeenth-century philosophy of the new sciences a negative view of sixteenth-century rhetoric and dialectic. However, a close study of the French algebraic tradition shows not only that sixteenth-century rhetoric and dialectic should be considered as the conceptual framework for scientific discourse later replaced by algebra but that, in turn, algebra itself was significantly modified within this framework. Combining cultural and social history with the history of the discipline, we can see that this transformation occurred when algebra moved from the Italian and German schools, closer to abacist mathematics and the commercial context, to the French court and humanist milieu of the Collège Royal and related publishers. French dialectic, in particular, was the source of borrowings for algebraic notions. Not only was the presentation of the new discipline forged in the dialectical style, but the very idea of a scientific question was explicitly associated to that of an algebraic problem. This transition allowed better known scientists such as Viète and Descartes to generalize the form of algebraic problems and eventually to conceive of applying it to sciences beyond mathematics. A. Koyré's view of rhetoric as opposed to science stems from the cartesian legacy.

The Prince and the Virtuosi: Scientific Etiquette in Seventeenth-Century Europe

M. BIAGIOLI

Moving from Norbert Elias' analysis of the role of etiquette in the development of court society and political absolutism, I argue that scientific subjectivities and authority were also constructed through etiquette-based processes — processes that allowed for the development of social figurations of increasingly interdependent scientific practitioners. Using examples drawn from the history of the Accademia del Cimento, the Royal Society, and the Académie Royale des Sciences, this essay discusses how different degrees of princely involvement in these academies may account for the relative similarities and differences between courtly etiquette and the protocols of professional sociability of the early scientific institutions.