
THE HARRIET MARTINEAU SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Michael R. Hill, Editor

2701 Sewell, Lincoln, NE 68502

MARTINEAU AT THE ISA WORLD CONGRESS MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC JULY 29, 1998

The 1998 XIV World Congress of Sociology in Montréal will include a two-hour session on *Harriet Martineau and the Theoretical Foundations of Modern Sociology*. The following speakers and papers are scheduled: Susan HOECKER-DRYSDALE, "*Harriet Martineau and the Positivism of Auguste Comte*"; Mary Jo DEEGAN, "*Harriet Martineau, Patriarchal Gatekeeping, and Sociological Theory: Multiple Assaults on the Historical Canon*"; Lynn McDONALD, "*Florence Nightingale and Harriet Martineau: Their Collaboration and its Results*"; Lois A. MONTEIRO, "*Florence Nightingale and Harriet Martineau: Partners in the British Army Reform Movement, 1858-1863*"; Pat Duffy HUTCHEON, "*Harriet Martineau and the Unitarian Connection*"; and Michael R. HILL, "*Harriet Martineau, Abolition, and the Sociology of Race in the United States.*" The session begins at 2:00 p.m., July 29th, and is sponsored by ISA Research Committee RC-08 (History of Sociology).

The ISA meets in Montréal, Canada, from 26 July—1 August 1998. For information, contact: World Congress of Sociology, Université de Montréal, P.O. Box 6128, Station Downtown, Montréal (Québec), Canada H3C 3J7. Phone: (514) 343-6492.

Susan Hoecker-Drysdale plans a reception for HMSS at her home at 6:00 p.m., on the 29th. Details and transportation instructions will be available at the ISA Martineau session.

LOOKING TOWARD CHICAGO 1999

The 1999 meeting of the American Sociological Association is August 6-10 in Chicago. Michael Hill is planning an HMSS Dinner and wants to arrange a collective book signing session at a Chicago-area bookstore where we would all gather to autograph copies of our books related to Martineau and other early women sociologists (possibilities include the CTS Book Co-op, Women and Children First, etc.). Chicago is a city rich with scholarly possibilities and major intellectual venues, including Hull-House (University of Illinois at Chicago), the University of Chicago, Loyola University, the Chicago Historical Society, the Chicago Public Library, etc. Communicate proposals for possible activities as soon as possible. Michael will be in Chicago this summer and can soon begin making contacts and arrangements.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Hutcheon on Harriet Martineau and the Quiet Revolution
- Martineau in Current Introductory Textbooks
- Reports on the 1997 HMSS Working Seminar on Mackinac Island and the 1997 Summer Dinner Party in Toronto
- Announcing a New Journal: **SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS**

HARRIET MARTINEAU AND THE QUIET REVOLUTION:

Summary of Chapter Five from *Leaving the Cave: Evolutionary Naturalism in Social Scientific Thought*.

Pat Duffy HUTCHEON

My intention in this chapter was to present Harriet Martineau in the context of the current of social-scientific thought which she helped to pioneer: a philosophical perspective referred to as “evolutionary naturalism”. The book’s major thesis is that—in evolutionary naturalism—we finally have the outlines of a conceptual framework capable of providing an integrating paradigm for the entire field of social-psychological-cultural relations. I was concerned, throughout the book, with identifying the historical sources and philosophical underpinnings of what seems to be emerging as the kind of social-scientific paradigm that is characteristic of all *authentic* science—a unifying model of a relevant problem area from which fruitful, refutable hypotheses and theories can be derived. The defining components of this current of thought are cited as (1) the idea of evolution as the key to understanding change at all levels of existence; (2) a recognition of the operation of cause and effect in human behavior; (3) an acceptance that knowledge is invariably devised and verified by human beings; and (4) the belief that morality, creativity and will are not autonomous but are, instead, both grounded in and restricted to human experience.

The introductory section of the chapter identifies the various streams of naturalistic philosophy feeding into the intellectual culture of Harriet Martineau’s time. These were the sensationalism of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, as well as the associationism of David Hume; Adam Smith’s theories on the political economy and on the role of sympathy in human relations—along with the ideas of Thomas Malthus on natural limits to population growth; the necessarianism of Joseph Priestley (which owed much to the work of the Scottish Moral philosophers); and the utilitarianism of Jeremy Bentham and James Mill. The premise here is that it is impossible to understand Martineau’s contributions to evolutionary naturalism without some awareness of the seeds of her subsequent ideas that were floating around in family discussions, classrooms and readily available books of the period.

The highlights of Martineau’s many-faceted life and remarkable work are organized into nine subsections, beginning with her life “. . . as a girl-child”. Her story is then discussed under the following subtitles: “as an early feminist”, “as a philosopher”, “as an educator”, “as a novelist and writer of children’s stories”, “as a social reformer”, “as a pioneering social scientist”, “as a journalist” and, finally, “as a victim of institutionalized sexism”. Each section is necessarily concise and packed to the brim with the arresting views and substantial accomplishments of this remarkable woman—as much as possible expressed in her own words. My intention throughout was to point the reader to those who have dealt more thoroughly with Harriet Martineau’s work, and not to attempt an in-depth analysis of any particular aspect other than in the matter of her contribution to the naturalistic and evolutionary current in modern social-scientific thought.

Martineau’s philosophical stance—and the problems she encountered in being taken seriously in a male-dominated world—reflect so much of my own experience in academia during the decades following World War II, that I had trouble maintaining objectivity in writing this chapter. Furthermore, the very title of my book echoes the words with which she described her breakthrough into evolutionary naturalism: “I felt the fresh air of nature,” she wrote in her autobiography, “after imprisonment in the ghost-peopled cavern of superstition.” In so many ways, this is the defining chapter of *Leaving the Cave*.

For Western culture in general, and for social science in particular, Martineau consolidated what had gone before. But that was only the beginning of her contribution to the current of thought being traced in my book. In almost every subsequent chapter, as the work of those who followed after her is discussed, one can recognize the concepts that she had sharpened or expanded. Indeed, the process is still ongoing. If sociology is ever to achieve the goal envisioned in *Leaving the Cave* I believe that it will be due, in large part, to the success of the "quiet revolution" instigated by Harriet Martineau.

Leaving the Cave: Evolutionary Naturalism in Social Scientific Thought, 1996, 504 pp., is available from Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY AND THE ASA IN SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 21-25, 1998

HMSS scholars will present papers in the History of Sociology session at the ASA this summer, including: Linda J. RYNBRANDT, *"Building the Progressive Dream: Caroline Bartlett Crane and Architecture,"* and Michael R. HILL, *"Loren Eiseley and Sociology at the University of Nebraska, 1926-1936: The Sociological Training of a Noted Anthropologist."* Tom CARON, a student from Lyndon State University, will present his views on *"Harriet Martineau's Feminist Paradox: A Critical Perspective on Society in America."* The History of Sociology session is organized by HMSS scholars Patricia Madoo LENGERMANN and Jill NIEBRUGGE-BRANTLEY. Pat and Jill remind all ASA members who have not paid the \$5.00 membership fee for the ASA History of Sociology section-in-formation to do so immediately! Send your check to the ASA or directly to Pat and Jill at 613 Utica Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. The History of Sociology section faces a more difficult time if 200 **paid** members do not officially enroll by September. HMSS scholar Mary Jo DEEGAN will present a 3-hour Didactic Seminar at the ASA on Methods in Historical Sociology. Space is limited and advance reservation via prompt submission of the ASA registration form is recommended to secure a seat.

HARRIET MARTINEAU IN POPULAR MEDIA

Mary Jo Deegan submits this item in which Harriet Martineau is marshalled as an example of the literary esoterica presumptively bandied about by well-schooled Englishmen. In the "Murder Most British" mystery series, John Greenwood, author of *The Mind of Mr. Mosley* (Bantam Books, 1988: 56), embroiders his plot with a reference to Harriet Martineau:

Wickham-Skeith, the man they sent over hot-foot from London to treat with Millicent Millicheap was young, tall, lean and dressed as for commuting to a City bank. In his own world he was famed for the number of pseudonyms under which he regularly won, to the point of apparent monopoly, the literary competitions set by intellectual periodicals.

He was sent straight up to the Chief on arrival, and during the preliminary knock-up conversation of gentlemen to whom business must appear to take second place, managed to broach the novels of **Harriet Martineau** and the abiding influence of Gerard Manley Hopkins, two names that the Chief checked with Central Criminal Records as soon as he was left alone again.

Can we hope that Martineau received a clean bill of health when her records were checked!

MARTINEAU IN CURRENT INTRODUCTORY TEXTBOOKS: AN EMPIRICAL SURVEY

Michael R. HILL

Harriet Martineau is now making significant appearances in introductory textbooks used in the U.S. and Canada. There was a time, not so long ago, when only the Hess, Markson, and Stein "intro text" made note of Harriet Martineau. Although ample room for progress remains, the situation is improving.

I made a comprehensive effort, during the 1997 meetings of the American Sociological Association in Toronto, Canada, to survey all introductory sociology textbooks that were prominently displayed by publishers in their booths in the Sheraton Exhibition Hall. Some ninety publishers displayed textbooks, journals, and sociological monographs. Of forty-three works clearly identifiable and promoted as "intro texts" designed for first-year college students in introductory sociology survey courses, twelve listed Harriet Martineau in the index and made reference to her in the text.

Thus, approximately 28% of the current batch of actively promoted "intro texts" make explicit mention of Harriet Martineau. "Mention" ranges, on the one hand, from simple, declarative sentences describing Martineau only as "Comte's translator" to, on the other hand, balanced, page-length discussions of her ideas and sociological accomplishments. Some entries also include a portrait.

No attempt is made here, however, to judge the overall competence of these textbooks. Further, each treatment of Martineau is left to each reader's own evaluative lens. I hope the authors of any textbooks I may have missed in my survey will accept my sincere apologies and, more important, will communicate their welcome inclusion of Harriet Martineau to be reported in a future issue of the HMSS Newsletter.

As professors and educational administrators, we are in positions to influence the selection and adoption of "intro texts." The titles below provide a pool of texts in which Martineau receives at least minor mention, and from which we can consider and suggest text adoptions. Given the increased number of books that reference Martineau, we are now in a much stronger position to refuse consideration to books that omit Martineau and/or other women founders of our discipline. We must take every opportunity to make editors and publishers' sales representatives aware that it is not acceptable to overlook or misrepresent women's contributions to sociology. Further, the work of relevant women and feminist male sociologists should appear throughout each "intro text," not just in the history or gender chapters.

I am pleased to identify the "winners" in my survey of introductory sociology textbooks. The following "intro texts," displayed at the 1997 ASA meetings in Toronto, Canada, deserve our consideration for possible textbook adoption. The list in Table 1 is arranged alphabetically, by author. The page(s) where Martineau is cited are noted in parentheses after each entry.

Table 1: Introductory Textbooks with a Martineau Mention

- Appelbaum, Richard P., and William J. Chambliss. 1997. *Sociology*. Longman, (pp. 26-27).
- Henslin, James M. 1997. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Allyn and Bacon, (pp. 17, 18, 31).
- Hess, Beth B., Elizabeth W. Markson, and Peter J. Stein. 1996. *Sociology*. 5th edition. Allyn and Bacon, (pp. 10, 11, 202).
- Kendall, Dianna. 1996. *Sociology in Our Times*. Wadsworth, (pp. 15, 16-17, 66).
- Macionis, John J. 1997. *Sociology*. 6th edition. Prentice-Hall, (p. 15).
- Schaefer, Richard T., and Robert P. Lamm. 1998. *Sociology*. 6th edition. McGraw-Hill, (p. 12).
- Shepard, Jon M. 1996. *Sociology*. 6th edition. Wadsworth, (pp. 22-23).
- Sullivan, Thomas J. 1998. *Sociology*. 4th edition. Allyn and Bacon, (p. 29).
- Theo, Alex. 1996. *Sociology*. 4th edition. Longman, (p. 7).
- Thompson, William E., and Joseph V. Hickey. 1996. *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology*. 2nd edition. HarperCollins College Publishers, (pp. 16-17).
- Tischler, Henry L. 1996. *Introduction to Sociology*. 5th edition. Harcourt Press, (pp. 12, 13, 19).
- Vander Zanden, James W. 1996. *Sociology: The Core*. 4th edition. McGraw-Hill, (pp. 10 & 15).

BRITISH STUDENT REQUESTS YOUR INPUT

Mrs. Melanie YORKE, a student at Loughborough University, writes: "As I have been reading some of Harriet Martineau's works the decision to try to relate her theories to contemporary society became apparent to me. I want to evaluate the relevance of her work and try to assess the increasing interest in that work. This means that the more traditional English texts which have completely ignored her work are now becoming outdated. The question I am beginning to ask is why this is happening, and what has created this interest."

Mrs. Yorke would greatly appreciate having your individual reply to the following questions: (1a) Do you feel there is increasing interest in Harriet Martineau's work within North America, and, why? (1b) What is the origin of your own interest in Martineau's work? (2) How do specifically feminist sociologists in North America view Harriet Martineau's work? (3) To what degree, and in what ways, if any, is sociological interest in Martineau related to renewed interest in 19th century North American society? (4) How, and in what ways, if any, do North American sociologists relate Martineau's 19th century observations to present-day society?

Please reply to: Mrs. Melanie Yorke, 17 Briargate Drive, Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3JB, England, United Kingdom.

REPORT: HMSS WORKING SEMINAR

Mission Point Resort
Mackinac Island, Michigan
May 20-22, 1997

Soon after arriving on the automobile-free Island by water ferry, participants in the HMSS Working Seminar convened for three days of bright, sunny weather and collegial exchange in the comfortably-appointed Board Room at Mission Point Resort, overlooking the Straits between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. The following presentations were given during four working sessions:

May 20, Evening Session: (1) Mary Jo DEEGAN, "*The Distinguished Cottagers from Mackinac Island—The Hamilton Sisters.*" (2) David A. ARMOUR (Deputy Director, Mackinac Island State Park Commission), "*Mackinac Island at the time of Martineau's Visit.*"

May 21, Morning Session: (3) Lynn McDONALD, "*The Collaboration Between Harriet Martineau and Florence Nightingale.*" (4) Susan HOECKER-DRYSDALE, "*Martineau's Pioneering Studies of Work and Occupations in the 19th Century.*"

May 21, Evening Session: (5) Patricia LENGERMANN and Jill NIEBRUGGE-BRANTLEY "*The Meaning of 'Things': Harriet Martineau, Emile Durkheim and the Beginnings of a Feminist Sociology.*" (6) Michael R. HILL, "*The Moral of Many Fables: Martineau's Systematic Exposition of Social Theory in the Illustrations of Political Economy.*"

May 22, Morning session: (7) Jan E. THOMAS, "*Victoria Woodhull—Another Woman Social Theorist.*" (8) Mary Jo DEEGAN, "*Making Lemonade: Harriet Martineau and Being Deaf.*"

The high quality of the presentations was gratifying to all participants, including our two discussants, Helena Z. LOPATA and John DRYSDALE. Michael R. Hill and Susan Hoecker-Drysdale are currently editing a book based on the papers prepared for the Workshop.

The Working Seminar also featured a special exhibition of "Aunt Harriet's Scrapbook," a dutch-treat dinner at the Village Inn, a hike to Arch Rock (a scenic spot Martineau described in *Society in America*), and a business caucus (during which plans unfolded for the upcoming paper session at the ISA in Montréal). To recognize his organization of the Workshop, the participants signed and presented Hill with a copy of David Armour's handsome book, *100 Years at Mackinac: A Centennial History of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission 1895-1995*. Pat Duffy HUTCHEON presented a paper in absentia.

REPORT: HMSS 1997 SUMMER DINNER PARTY

Dr. Lynn McDONALD, Former Member of Parliament, Project Director of the Collected Works of Florence Nightingale, and Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph, extended a special invitation to the friends of Harriet Martineau to join together in McDonald's home for the first HMSS Dinner Party. A tasty buffet of oriental dishes was served in Lynn's delightful home following a convivial afternoon session of wine and conversation in her cozy garden patio.

A copy of the first Canadian edition (1869) of Harriet Martineau's *Biographical Sketches* was signed by all attending sociologists and presented to Lynn with the following inscription:

PRESENTED TO
DR. LYNN McDONALD
IN APPRECIATION
FOR HOSTING
THE FIRST
HARRIET MARTINEAU
SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SUMMER DINNER PARTY
TORONTO
AUGUST 10, 1997

In addition to friends, partners, and spouses, the attending sociologists included: Bert Adams, Andrea Malkin Brenner, Kay Broschart, Mary Jo Deegan, John Drysdale, Michael R. Hill, Susan Hoecker-Drysdale, Ken Kusterer, Pat Lengermann, Helena Z. Lopata, Lynn McDonald, Lois Monteiro, Jill Niebrugge-Brantley, Heather Person, Linda Rynbrandt, Sarah Sobieray, and Jan Thomas.

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- Benacquista, Michelle Long. 1990. "Didacticism in Harriet Martineau's Antislavery Narratives." Ph.D. dissertation. Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 208 pp.
- Hassett, Constance W. 1996. "Siblings and Antislavery: The Literary and Political Relations of Harriet Martineau, James Martineau, and Maria Weston Chapman." *Signs* 21 (Winter): 374-409.
- Hoecker-Drysdale, Susan. 1998. "Harriet Martineau (1802-1876): Kritische Sozialforschung: Theorie und Praxis. Pp. 28-59 in *Frauen in der Soziologie: Neun Porträts*, edited by Claudia Honegger and Theresa Wobbe. München: Beck).
- Hunter, Shelagh. 1995. *Harriet Martineau: The Poetics of Moralism*. Brookfield, VT: Ashgate.
- Hutcheon, Pat Duffy. 1996. "Harriet Martineau: The Woman Who Thought Like a Man." *Humanist in Canada* (Summer): 16-19.
- Lengermann, Patricia, and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley. 1998. *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory, 1830-1930*. New York: McGraw-Hill. This new text/reader features a chapter on Harriet Martineau.
- Lynn McDonald's *The Early Origins of the Social Sciences* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993) is now available in paperback.

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOURNAL

The first issue of **SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS**, a new journal in historical sociology featuring original research, archival documents, and critical debate is nearing publication. The featured articles scheduled to appear in the inaugural issue include:

- Mary E.B.R.S. Coolidge's *Why Women Are So*
MARY JO DEEGAN
- *Compensations of Writers and How I Came to Write*
Why Women Are So
MARY ELIZABETH BURROUGHS ROBERTS SMITH COOLIDGE
- A CHICAGO SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM ON EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS
With contributions by
GEORGE HERBERT MEAD
EYLER N. SIMPSON
HERBERT BLUMER
ETHEL SHANAS
and
EDWARD A. ROSS
- *Caroline Bartlett Crane (1858-1935)*
LINDA RYNBRANDT
- *Feminism and the "Four Ages of Woman"*
CAROLINE BARTLETT CRANE

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Martineau scholars are encouraged to submit proposals for contributions (including Original research articles, Re-reviews of classic and/or unheralded books published before 1940, Archival documents from the founding era of sociology, and Bio-bibliographical entries on early sociologists) for consideration by the editor. **SOCIOLOGICAL ORIGINS** is indexed in *SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS*.