

Soutra is no doubt an interesting site, and careful archaeological examination of the remains of its pits may produce, as suggested by SHARP, knowledge of the foods and medicines used by its staff and inmates. For the moment, however, the *First report* on Soutra indicates that the necessary balance between academic skills, ambitious objectives, imagination, and interpretative ability has yet to be struck.

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HELMUT HEINTEL and BRIGITTE HEINTEL, *Franz Joseph Gall Bibliographie*, Stuttgart, [The authors], 1985, 8vo, pp. 41, illus., [no price stated]; HELMUT HEINTEL, *Leben und Werk von Franz Joseph Gall, eine Chronik*, Würzburg, [The author], 1986, 8vo, pp. 39, illus., [no price stated], (paperback); *idem*, *Spuren Franz Joseph Galls (1758–1828) in Europa*, Alzey, [The author], 1987, [no price stated], (unpaginated pamphlet). Inquiries to Professor Helmut Heintel, MD, Head, Department of Clinical Neurophysiology, Bürgerhospital, Tunzhofer Str. 14–16, 7000 Stuttgart 1, FRG.

There are few historians of medical neurology and psychology who have difficulty these days in taking Franz Joseph Gall seriously. Tendencies prominent among an earlier breed of medical historians to denounce or ridicule the Austrian anatomist as pseudo-scientist, circus charlatan or both, have long since given way to a wide range of serious attempts both to assess Gall's intellectual role in the history of modern neurological thinking, and to analyse the significance of his theory of brain functioning as social ideology. All the more surprising, then, that the man Gall himself remains relatively obscure: a definitive biography of his life, times, and work has yet to be written.

Helmut Heintel has not produced that biography, but the importance of what he has done should not for that reason be underestimated. Working in partial collaboration with Brigitte Heintel, he has compiled a painstakingly comprehensive bibliography of Gall's writings, reconstructed Gall's professional life year by year through hints from both published and unpublished source material, and generally identified all key archival centres and buildings in some way relevant to Gall's biography. The historian who finally settles down to writing the life story of the nineteenth-century founder of organology (or "phrenology") will find ample reason to be grateful to the Heintels for the preparatory spadework available in these slim works.

I was pleased by Heintel's decision to enliven the chronicle, and otherwise somewhat dry list of comings and goings, with judicious citations from letters and other texts. Best of all are the moments when one is permitted—however briefly—to hear Gall speaking in his own voice, or to catch a glimpse of his human face through the preserved commentaries of contemporaries.

At the same time, many readers may find the Heintels' bibliographical efforts ultimately more helpful than the chronicle. The editors' aim was to construct a list of everything that Gall, either alone or with his co-worker Spurzheim, ever wrote and/or published. They include not only painfully precise citations to all existing editions and translations of major works, but also references to a wide range of isolated letters and collected correspondences.

One problem with the Heintel works is their extremely limited availability (100 copies of the bibliography, 60 of the chronicle)—understandable on financial grounds, but somewhat frustrating on practical ones. Still, it is hard to believe that any serious researcher on the historical search for the real Franz Joseph Gall would be seriously discouraged by the slight inconvenience and extra effort necessary for tracking down copies of these useful works.

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