

los cuerpos maltratados de los santos y de los fieles de los *goigs* catalanes de los siglos XV-XVIII, en la victoria del alma contra la muerte (D. de Courcelles); los distintos matices que adquiere la imagen del cuerpo entre la cultura popular y la letrada, en medio de una mentalidad corporal negativa defendida por predicadores y copleros (M. C. García de Enterría); y la transgresión de las convenciones sociales acerca de la representación social del cuerpo, que aparece en *El Quijote* (F. Copello e I. Rada).

Así pues, como podemos ver, el balance es positivo, ya que debemos añadir aquellos trabajos no citados, porque sus centros de atención quedan muy lejos de los intereses de los especialistas en historia de la medicina. Como conclusión, queda patente el interés de organizar encuentros como éste, pero con un abanico disciplinar más amplio, que incluyera especialistas en historia de la medicina. Ello habría dado lugar a interpretaciones más penetrantes, por las mutuas aportaciones a un tema tan crucial en la historia de la humanidad y por la posibilidad de subsanar errores debidos, principalmente, a la dificultad de dominar la historiografía tan variada, que exige el ataque a este tipo de cuestiones.

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Gunter MANN; Franz DUMONT (eds.) (1990). *Die Natur des Menschen. Probleme der Physischen Anthropologie und Rassenkunde (1750-1850)*. Stuttgart-New York, Gustav Fischer Verlag (Soemmering-Forschungen, vol. 6).

This volume contains nineteen papers which were delivered at an international and interdisciplinary symposium held at the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz. From the broad spectrum of contemporary anthropological discussion those themes and matters of debate were selected for analysis which deal with Man as a member and most perfect representative of the animal kingdom. The authors focus, in other words, on what today might be called the biological nature of Man as a bodily creature, although there is no clear-cut dividing-line, of course: Man's intellectual capacity was often understood to be an integral part of precisely that physical nature as well. The problem of Man's classification within the hierarchy of living creatures was also closely linked to that of the relation between different human races. This subject was of central importance in contemporary scholars' search for their own identity as white Europeans as well as for the discussions surrounding the politically and morally sensitive issues of colonialism and slavery.

The research which is presented here, is part of a comprehensive and on-going research project on the Samuel Thomas Soemmerring, a leading naturalist of that highly productive period between 1770 and 1830, which, in the German-speaking world, is usually known as «Goethezeit». It is part of the extensive preliminary work which had to be done in preparation of an edition of Soemmering's collected wri-

tings, the first volumes of which have already appeared. This volume, therefore primarily serves to place Soemmering's work in the broader intellectual context of his time. Only two contributions focus on Soemmering himself. One of them describes his attempts to provide anatomical prove for the superiority of Man over all other animals, and of white Man over all other human races. Soemmering believed that not the brain volume in absolute terms but its relative size when compared to the thickness of the cranial nerves had a direct correlation to the development of intellectual capabilities. In Man, the cranial nerves were particularly thin, indicating that his brain was used for inferior, animal functions to a minor degree only. On this basis, Soemmering's understanding of the nature of the «Moors» remained rather ambivalent. He categorized them as being more closely related to the apes than to the European race, but he still felt that they clearly belonged to the human race. A second contribution presents the interesting hypothesis that Soemmering with his neuroanatomical research created a new «scientific» basis for physionomically-oriented anthropology. This claim does not appear to be sufficiently substantiated by historical evidence, however.

The remaining contributions treat an impressively broad range of topics. They are too many to be discussed individually here. They offer a multi-faceted panorama of main interests and matters of debate in the realm of anthropology between 1750 and 1850, that is from Buffon to Gobineau, sometimes including references to earlier developments. The volume opens, just to give an idea of its broad scope, with an investigation of the gradual changes in the European view of the Indians and their culture, which is regarded as a mirror of the ways in which European scholars defined themselves and their cultural and historical identity. Problem-oriented approaches, such as an analysis of the debates surrounding the cause and classificatory significance of the black skin color of negroes or the phenomenon of albinism are supplemented by in-depth analyses of particularly influential individual scholars and their theories, like Cuvier, Gall and Camper, to name a few.

Inevitably, the area of physical anthropology in its stricter modern sense is repeatedly transcended and in some contributions the nature of Man as a rational and culturally embedded being, that is philosophical anthropology in our modern understanding, is placed completely in the foreground. Examples are an analysis of the «race» concept in Kant's writings and a paper on the anthropology of Herder. Two detailed case studies, one on Buffon and his influence on German science and the other on Edwards and his attempt to use the race concept in order to substitute the history of ruling houses and states with a history of peoples, provide intriguing hints at the complex interrelationship between the transformation of contemporary historiographical concepts and the debates and results of physical anthropology. In these instances then, those societal and intellectual processes of change are particularly evident, which Lepenies and Koselleck have identified as the end of classificatory natural history and the breakthrough of temporalization.

It is a certain disadvantage of a collection of conference papers like this that drawing generalizing conclusions about long-term processes of change, and shared conceptual patterns, as they can be repeatedly perceived in the discussions on widely varying objects of research and corresponding theories, is to a large degree left to the reader. Considering the complexity of the topics in an area probably only marginally familiar to many readers, a detailed and comprehensive introduction, tracing common interests and the most important lines of argumentation, would have been helpful. Despite that, the volume with its often copiously annotated contributions offers stimulating reading which will surely be of interests to scholars from a broad range of fields and interests.

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Federico José PONTE CHAMORRO (1991). *Demografía y Sociedad en el Madrid Decimonónico (1787-1857)*. Madrid, Turner Libros, Ayuntamiento de Madrid, 230 pp. ISBN: 84-7506-331-4.

El análisis de la población en su sentido más estricto y los diferentes aspectos socio-económicos que incidieron en la población madrileña entre los años 1787 y 1857 son los objetivos principales de la obra que reseñamos. Esta monografía publicada por el Ayuntamiento de Madrid en 1991, fue galardonada con el Premio Ortega y Gasset (Ensayo y Humanidades) otorgado por dicha corporación en 1988.

El texto está estructurado en base a tres apartados claramente definidos: parte I: La recogida de datos. Parte II: El análisis de los datos, y Parte III: La ciudad y sus habitantes; precedidos de un estudio introductorio donde de forma expresa se recogen los principales problemas que plantea el estudio de la demografía de una ciudad como Madrid, en una época con incuestionables problemas para la reconstrucción de los datos, así como los objetivos y metodología utilizados en el análisis.

El período seleccionado en la investigación está acotado por dos fechas claves en los estudios poblacionales, como son 1787, año de realización del censo de Florida-Blanca, y 1857 fecha en la que se llevó a cabo el recuento de la población considerado como el primer censo moderno español. La ciudad elegida, Madrid, por su configuración geo-política de villa y corte y presentar unas características poblacionales muy peculiares, unas inherentes al complejo núcleo urbano y otras derivadas de su posición administrativa, como capital de España.

En la primera parte, bajo un epígrafe un tanto confuso con lo que realmente es el contenido, el autor recuerda, muy acertadamente, el interés de los distintos gobiernos para realizar un recuento de la población que respondiese a la realidad, puesto de manifiesto por la promulgación de las sucesivas órdenes o decretos destinados a ello y a las enormes dificultades halladas para su consolidación fundamen-