

A conference was held in Prague, Czech Republic, in November 2002 that was entitled "Issues Confronting the Post-European World" and that was dedicated to Jan Patočka (1907-1977). The Organization of Phenomenological Organizations was founded on that occasion. The following essay is published in celebration of that event.

Essay 35

Short History of the Husserl-Archives and Status Report on the Edition of Husserl's Work

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Abstract

The Husserl-Archives were founded in 1938 by the Franciscan monk father Herman-Leo Van Breda. In 1950 publication of the critical edition of Husserl's work started in the *Husserliana* series. Recently a number of important new volumes have been published. The following text contains a short history of the Archives and the edition of Husserl's works and informs the reader about forthcoming editions.

In July 1938 the Franciscan monk and priest father Herman-Leo Van Breda, who was born in 1911, finished his licenciate examinations in philosophy at the *Institut Supérieur de Philosophie* at the Catholic University in Leuven with a thesis on Husserl's work before 1911. He was interested in the potential of phenomenology for a renewal of the philosophy of nature and he intended to pursue this interest in a doctoral thesis on Husserl's later work for which he wanted to make use of unpublished manuscripts of Husserl which could perhaps be published with his dissertation.

On the 18th of August he arrived at Freiburg and on the 19th he visited Mrs. Malvine Husserl who was accompanied by Eugen Fink when father Van Breda called. Van Breda was surprised by the number and importance of Husserl's unpublished manuscripts. He realized that the study and edition of Husserl's unpublished work would require that a research institution be

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established. Since this was impossible in Nazi-Germany, why not at Leuven, provided that qualified collaborators could be found?

Father Van Breda then informed his thesis supervisor in Leuven who contacted the president of the Institute. The main problem was to find the money to pay the collaborators.

In the beginning of September the Husserl's two assistants, Eugen Fink and Ludwig Landgrebe, agreed to cooperate and to come to Leuven to prepare editions of Husserl's work. Later that month Mrs. Husserl signed a false document that made Van Breda owner of the manuscripts because the Belgian embassy could transport only Belgian possessions in their diplomatic baggage.

On the 27th of October 1938 the Francqui-foundation accepted to pay the salary for two years for two assistants. This day is remembered since then as the birthday of the Husserl-Archives. The official agreement, however, between Husserl's son Gerhart Husserl and the Institute regarding Husserl's scientific estate was signed on December 25, 1938. The original manuscripts remained property of Husserl's family but they were placed in the library of the university of Leuven for permanent storage.

In January and March 1939 the first manuscripts were published by Eugen Fink: "Die Frage nach dem Ursprung der Geometrie als intentional-historisches Problem" in the second issue of the *Revue internationale de Philosophie*, which was dedicated to the philosophy of Husserl, and "Entwurf einer Vorrede zu den *Logischen Untersuchungen*" in the first issue of the *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*. The original manuscript of the "Entwurf" has recently been published in *Husserliana XX/1*.

In March and April 1939 Eugen Fink and Landgrebe arrived in Leuven and started their transcription work. At the beginning of April 1939 Merleau-Ponty visited the Archives to study transcriptions relating to *Ideen II* and *Erfahrung und Urteil*, the manuscript "Die Ur-Arche Erde bewegt sich nicht," and §§ 28-72 of the *Krisis*.

In June Mrs. Husserl and her housekeeper arrived in Leuven for three months to wait for their departure to the U.S. They were unable, however, to obtain visas and had to stay in Leuven until two years after the war when Mrs. Husserl was finally to be reunited with her children in the U.S.

On the 10th of May 1940, the German invasion of Belgium took place. Van Breda had removed the manuscripts from the university library and had hidden them at unknown locations a month before the library burnt down.

In October 1940 Fink and Landgrebe had to return to Germany. The transcription work was halted till the end of 1942. Archival work on catalogues

continued however. In December 1940 the Husserl-Archives were installed in the president's lodge of the Institute where they were to return in the eighties and can still be found today.

In June 1942 Stephan Strasser and his wife Getrude Strasser were hired. They were of Jewish descent and had emigrated together with their son and Gertrude's mother from Austria after its annexation by Nazi Germany. Stephan Strasser was not a philosopher but had written a dissertation on the romantic poet Josef Eichendorff. His mother-in-law, however, could read the shorthand system Husserl used in his manuscripts, the Gabelsberger shorthand.

In September 1942 Lucy Gelber, another Austrian Jew and a musical pedagogue, started working for the Archives. She did very important archival and documentary work.

In January 1944 the Vietnamese philosopher Tran-Duc-Thao came to Leuven on the advice of Merleau-Ponty. He returned to Paris with a proposal for a depot for the transcriptions of Husserl's manuscripts at the Sorbonne. It took more than 14 years for the "Centre Husserl" to open at the Sorbonne in May 1958.

Between March 1944 and August 1948 the Archives had to survive on whatever Father Van Breda could obtain from asking friends and acquaintances for support. There was no institutional financial support whatsoever. In spite of the financial worries Walter and Marly Biemel were hired at the beginning of 1946.

In March 1948 a contract was signed with the publisher Martinus Nijhoff and in July 1948 Van Breda, Landgrebe, and Fink decided to found a branch of the Archives at Freiburg. In 1950 the Archives began to receive grants from UNESCO.

On the 10th of March 1950 the first volume in the Husserliana series, *Cartesianische Meditationen* edited by Stephan Strasser, was published. Only a month later the second volume, *Die Idee der Phänomenologie*, and in June 1950 the third volume, Book One of the *Ideen*, both edited by Walter Biemel, came out. In November of the same year, on the 4th, Malvine Husserl died in Freiburg.

In 1951 a branch of the Archives was founded at Cologne University under the directorship of Karl-Heinz Volkman-Schluck. The same year, in May 1951, Rudolf Boehm started his long and outstanding career as an editor and Husserl scholar at the Archives.

In 1952 Marly Biemel's editorial work came to fruition with the publication of the second and third book of the *Ideen* as volumes four and five in

the Husserliana series. Volume six, die *Krisis*-Schrift, edited again by Walter Biemel, was published in 1954.

In November 1956 an important conference about “Husserl et la Pensée moderne” took place in Krefeld. It was at this conference that the decision was taken to start with the series *Phaenomenologica*. Jacques Taminiaux became its secretary. The first volume, Eugen Fink’s *Sein, Wahrheit, Welt*, came out in 1958. This first publication in the series was followed by 169 volumes until today.

Rudolf Boehm’s first edition *Erste Philosophie, Erster Teil* was published in 1956. *Part Two* came out three years later.

On September 8 – 11 in 1969 the three Archives from Leuven, Cologne and Freiburg organized an international phenomenological conference in Schwäbisch Hall. On this conference father Van Breda was commissioned to prepare the foundation of a “Fédération Mondiale des Sociétés Régionales de Phénoménologie.” This “federation” was Van Breda’s own idea and in April 1970 he wrote a draft for the statutes for the federation. Van Breda’s idea came too early, however; at the time nobody was much interested in it.

Father Van Breda died at the age of 63 on march 3, 1974. His successor became Samuel IJsseling who retired five years ago to be succeeded by Rudolf Bernet, the present director of the Husserl Archives in Leuven.

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As to the Husserliana, it consists today of three series. First there is the original and main one of the “Gesammelte Werke,” comprising the critical editions of Husserl’s published works and unpublished manuscripts. Attached to this are two subsidiary series: the “Dokumente” and the newly added “Materialien.” In the *Husserliana Dokumente* documentary and biographical material is to be published. The renowned *Husserl-Chronik* by Karl Schuhmann, Eugen Fink’s draft of a sixth “Cartesian Meditation” with Husserl’s comments edited by Guy Van Kerkhoven, Husserl’s correspondence edited by Karl Schuhmann, and the bibliography, compiled by Steven Spileers, have been published in this series. For the time being, there are no further volumes planned for this series.

In the new series of the “Materialien” reliable transcriptions of interesting and important manuscripts which are not (at least for now) eligible for a full critical edition in the “Gesammelte Werke” are to be published. The

first obvious candidates for publication in this series are the manuscripts of Husserl's lecture courses which have not been selected for publication in the "Gesammelte Werke." The preparation of the edition of these manuscripts for the new series was entrusted to Elisabeth Schuhmann with the exception of the course on "Natur und Geist" from 1919 which was edited by Michael Weiler. So far six volumes have been published: the courses on logic from 1896 and 1902/03, the course "Allgemeine Erkenntnislehre" from 1902/03, and the course on "Natur und Geist" from 1919, the course on the theory of judgment from 1905 and the course "Alte und neue Logik" from 1908/09. Work on the next volume, the course "Einführung in die Phänomenologie der Erkenntnis" from 1909 is in progress. Two further courses, then, remain to be prepared for publication: the course "Einleitung in die Phänomenologie" from 1912 and the course "Einleitung in die Philosophie" from 1919/20 which includes material from two previous courses of the same title from 1916 and 1918.

At the Archives in Cologne Dieter Lohmar is preparing Husserl's late manuscripts on the phenomenology of time, the famous C-manuscripts, for publication in the series "Materialien." Not everybody was happy with the decision to abstain from a critical edition of these important manuscripts in the "Gesammelte Werke," but the complexity and difficulties of such a critical edition have prevented the publication of these manuscripts already for so long that the Archives decided to publish their transcriptions in the new series leaving open the option for a full critical edition in the future.

There are no concrete plans for further editions in the series "Materialien" beyond the ones mentioned, but possible candidates are Landgrebe's transcriptions and compilations of Husserl's manuscripts under the title "Noema und Sinn" and "Die Struktur des Bewusstseins"; the transcription of the original manuscript of the last part of the lecture course "Hauptstücke aus der Phänomenologie und Theorie der Erkenntnis" from 1904/05 devoted to the phenomenology of inner time consciousness and the transcription of the original manuscript of *Ideas II*.

As to the "Gesammelte Werke" just recently volume XXXIV with texts about the phenomenological reduction edited by Sebastian Luft has been published. As with so many volumes this project has a history stretching back for many years. The enormous quantity and heterogeneity of Husserl's manuscripts on the reduction posed great problems for the edition. A number of false starts and preparatory work by different collaborators preceded the work on the present edition. A weekly research seminar by the whole staff of the Archives discussed the selection of texts. The volume was subdivided into parts

that related to Husserl's work projects between 1926 and 1935 in parallel with Iso Kern's edition of Husserl's late texts on intersubjectivity.

Two other projects of long duration have come to completion: in 2001 the edition of the so called Bernau manuscripts on time, edited by Rudolf Bernet and Dieter Lohmar as volume XXXIII and in 2002 the first part of the edition of Husserl's revision of the Sixth Logical Investigation with his work from the Summer of 1913 for such a revision edited by Ullrich Melle as volume XX/1. The second part of the edition with his manuscripts for a complete rewriting of the VI. Investigation from the Winter and Spring of 1914 has still to be completed. It will be a substantial volume of close to 500 pages with detailed investigations on semiotics and language, a revision of his theories of fulfillment, on proper names and the expression of modalized acts.

In 2001 yet another important text which was already widely known through Iso Kern's book on Husserl and Kant was published: Husserl's lecture course on "Natur und Geist" from 1927, which contains his critique of the theory of science of the Neo-Kantian philosophers Wilhelm Windelband and Heinrich Rickert. The editor is Michael Weiler.

The latest publication is volume XXXV, the edition of Husserl's lecture course "Einleitung in die Philosophie" from 1922/23 which grew out of the famous lectures Husserl gave in London in June 1922. The editor is Berndt Goossens. This is one of the most radical and challenging texts by Husserl, the only one in which he actually tries to carry out an apodictic critique of transcendental experience, something which he only announces in his lecture course on "Erste Philosophie" a year later and in the *Cartesian Meditations*. This text will certainly revitalize the discussion on Husserl's philosophical program, his Cartesianism, and the overall direction of his later philosophy. It is one of the few texts in which foundational questions are not only dealt with programmatically but through detailed phenomenological-descriptive work.

Work is in progress on several new editions. Two editions are in press now. One is edition with texts on perception and attention, edited by Thomas Vongehr and Regula Giuliani. This edition will contain the first two parts of the lecture course "Hauptstücke aus der Phänomenologie und Theorie der Erkenntnis" from 1904/05, of which the third part on "Phantasie und Bildbewusstsein" that has been published in *Husserliana* volume XXIII, and the fourth part on "Phänomenologie des inneren Zeitbewusstseins" in volume X. Also in print is an edition devoted to manuscripts in which Husserl tries to develop and elaborate a proof for transcendental idealism regarding real being. The thesis to be proven is that real being requires not only a possible, but an

actual, a really existing consciousness. The ontological formulation of the proof for transcendental idealism which Husserl develops in the major text of the edition in terms of ideal and real possibilities is of considerable interest. The main editor of this edition is Robin Rollinger.

Almost completed and close to print is the edition of Husserl's lecture course on ethics from 1920/1924. The editor is Henning Peucker. The edition will complement volume XXVIII, which contains Husserl's early lecture courses on axiology and ethics from 1902, 1908/09, 1911, and 1914, and will complement volume XXVII, which contains the Kaizo-articles in presenting Husserl's work on the phenomenological foundation of an axiological ethics. The lecture course from 1920/24 contains extensive interpretations and critique of major figures in the history of ethics, i.e. Kant and Hume. In an important and long digression Husserl deals with the problem of nature and spirit.

For the last three years already Rochus Sowa has been working on a large edition project regarding Husserl's late manuscripts on the constitution of the world. Like the edition on the reduction, the major challenge is to make a selection out of an enormous quantity of manuscripts that cover a great variety of topics. To name just a few of the topics Husserl deals with under the general theme of world constitution: the relation between science and the prescientific lifeworld, the horizontal structure of world experience, the apodicticity of the world, the orientation structure of the lifeworld (homeworld and foreign world, sky and earth, temporal and spatial orientation), the pregiveness of the world, body and world, periodicity of life and the lifeworld, situation as the fundamental category of the lifeworld, nature as abstract nucleus of the lifeworld, the constitutive function of normality and anomaly, the lifeworld as world of praxis and of finite interests, the lifeworld as personal/interpersonal world, the function of language in world constitution, etc.

Two new projects have just been started at the Archives in Leuven. The first is the edition of the manuscripts part of which Landgrebe used in 1925 for his compilation entitled "Die Struktur des Bewusstseins". Between 1908 and 1914 Husserl appears to have worked on a comprehensive description of intentional consciousness, covering not only the intellect but also the emotional as well as volitional and practical acts. This descriptive effort generated a great number of very detailed analyses of types of acts, their act structures and foundational relations. These descriptive analyses are non-committal regarding the distinction between transcendental phenomenology and phenomenological psychology. Of particular interest for Husserl scholarship will be the manuscripts devoted to the description of the emotional and practical acts. In

fact, it is these descriptions that had to serve as the foundation for a phenomenological axiology and ethics. The editors of this volume are Ullrich Melle and Thomas Vongehr.

The second newly started project is the edition of manuscripts from the Göttingen years on the theory of judgment. Edith Stein had collected many of these manuscripts into a compilation to which she gave the title “U-Blätter”. These “U-Blätter” will form the core of this volume which is now being edited by Robin Rollinger. In Husserl scholarship it is still not sufficiently appreciated how important the theory of judgement was for Husserl during his years in Göttingen. It may even have been the most urgent project he had at the time. This edition together with the publication of Husserl’s lecture courses on logic and the theory of judgement in the series *Materialien* will throw new light on Husserl’s critical as well as constructive effort to oppose his own phenomenological theory of judgement to the then prevailing theories.

At the Archives in Cologne two new projects have been launched: an edition prepared by Dieter Lohmar of Husserl’s late manuscripts on the constitution of space and an edition prepared by Dirk Fanfara, devoted to manuscripts on the eidetic reduction and on eidetics. Finally, there is the rather difficult project of an edition of Husserl’s late texts on metaphysics, teleology, and phenomenological theology, an edition that has got the preliminary title “phenomenologische Grenzprobleme”. The late Karl Schuhmann was in charge of this project but since his tragic demise it is halted.

Right now, this is the final horizon of planning for the edition of the *Gesammelte Werke*. This does not mean that the work on Husserl’s manuscripts and their edition will stop completely. An index has to be produced for the completed edition. Further publications of transcriptions are possible in the series *Materialien*, and also in journals or as supplements to books. There is still a small number of manuscripts which have not been transcribed and the transcriptions of many more manuscripts have still to be collated and corrected. Nonetheless, the work on the critical edition of Husserl’s manuscripts in the *Gesammelte Werke* which has been started more than sixty years ago will come to a close in the near future. Several generations of scholars have made and are still making their contribution to this monumental enterprise.