

A third issue of relevance when discussing experiments is the problem of external validity: Does the experimental result also hold outside the experimental set-up? The classic case is the Galilean fall experiment, nicely—but of course historically incorrect—pictured by Emily Cartwright: Galileo dropping balls from the tower of Pisa. These experiments in the open air led to the law of falling bodies that only yields in a vacuum. Galileo arrived at this result by eliminating all other disturbing causes: he conducted the experiment with heavy balls and not with feathers, for example. When this strategy is related to modeling, it is called Galilean idealization. Cartwright worries about whether the kind of modeling you'll find among economists, in particular Lucas, are actually Galilean idealizations.

Dimand declares that his essay is an offshoot of his research on the history of game theory. My impression is that this also applies to the other chapters: offshoots of other histories and philosophies. On the one hand, it is a pity. On the other hand, this book shows that experiments should have their own niche in the history of economics. Such a history would teach us much about the characteristics of economics as a science: what kind of science, present and past, and its possibilities and ambitions. This volume is a good starting point and invitation for future contributions to such a history of experiments in economics. Note the deliberate change of order.

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Potier, Jean-Pierre and Donald A. Walker (Eds) *La correspondance entre Aline Walras et William Jaffé et autres documents* (Paris: Economica, 2004) pp. 128. ISBN 2-7178-4736-7, 10€.

With the publication of the correspondence between Aline Walras and William Jaffé, the *Economica* publishing company continues the promotion of the works of Léon Walras. To the publication of the fourteen volumes of the *Complete Economic Works* of Auguste and Léon Walras, which was completed in 2005, one must add

the publication (a century later!) of Léon Walras's and Charles Secrétan's translation of the Gossen's *Entwicklung*, a biography of Léon Walras and Pierre Dockès's now-standard essay on Léon Walras's social economy. As for all these publications, the edition of this correspondence can count on two particularly well qualified researchers, both well known in the small Walrasian world.

The correspondence begins with a small note written on August 4, 1930, by William Jaffé to Aline Walras. Having decided to translate Léon Walras's *Éléments* after a conversation with Henry Schultz, William Jaffé was in search of documents likely to help him in the understanding of the (numerous) obscure passages with which he had met. So, after his fruitless visit to the domicile of Aline Walras in Clarens (Switzerland), William Jaffé wrote to her in Paris, where she was taking care of her ill brother Georges, in order to obtain an appointment. Their correspondence ends on November 30, 1939, with the beginning of World War II. The volume is thus composed of the sixty-seven letters that have been found to this point, (twenty-eight letters of William Jaffé to Aline Walras and thirty-nine letters of Aline Walras to William Jaffé) and of twenty-three letters (almost either written by William Jaffé or sent to him) that the editors decided to add in order to allow a better comprehension of the correspondence context.

To be honest, I must admit that the reason I have read this book is much more connected to my determination to examine everything related to Léon Walras than to a genuine interest in the correspondence between his daughter and William Jaffé, and I didn't expect much from it. I was wrong. Of course, as could have been expected, the book contains a lot of information about Léon Walras's posthumous works and translations, but it also tells much about the vicissitudes of his personal and scientific papers kept at Lausanne University. For instance, the ambiguous attitude of Pasquale Boninsegni, Pareto's successor at the chair of political economy, is evoked by William Jaffé and sarcastically commented on by Aline Walras. More surprisingly, this correspondence also gives some useful insights for further research. The William Jaffé letters introduce us to the American academic world, and those of Aline shed light for scholars still interested in her father works. Finally, they frequently made comments on the difficult pre-war political situation.

The edition of Aline Walras's and William Jaffé's correspondence is excellent in almost every respect, and it is completed with a scholarly introduction, erudite notes, and a useful index of names (with short biographies). All in all, the lack of typographical accuracy, which could be prejudicial in this kind of work, and which is quite astonishing, is the only imperfection. Indeed, the reader's only regret will be that no more letters exist (or have been found).

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