

## **Introduction**

This paper deals with the historical context of Platons dialogues Phaedo and Sophistes and with the interpetations of the philosopher Bruno Liebrucks. The book of Bruno Liebrucks was published 1949, it is not easy to access it.

In an article from 1982 in the "Kant Studies" Bruno Liebrucks remarked that Germany stood in the centre of philosophical discussions up to the first world war or even up to the second world war. He lived through these times and observed the subsequent shifts of attention.

This paper follows the parallel version in German language which is the basic one. Yet it supplies some additional information for the English speaking readers.

The paper should be seen as a work in progress.

Joachim Riehn, February 2011

**Bruno Liebrucks:**

Platon: His Road to Dialectics. Frankfurt 1949

Original in German: Platons Entwicklung zur Dialektik. (255 pages)

The publishing house Vittorio Klostermann has the copyright, 1949.

%% From now on verbatim quotations! %  
%% Translations are my own, JR %

### **Preface**

The inquiries of this book turn chiefly to a special type of readers. These readers should be pleased to trace a systematical inquiry even when this inquiry comes in connection with historical examinations ...

The current work was written in the first two months of 1943. I was able to finish it under the difficult circumstances of the year 1946. I owe this accomplishment above all to Nicolai Hartmann. He read the Parmenides of Plato together with me in summer 1946 and he encouraged me to proceed further.

Goettingen, May 1947

Bruno Liebrucks

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## Introduction

[p.9]

One more time philosophy is obliged to take positions on the problems of dialectics. And there are signs that the specialized sciences have already penetrated the labyrinth of dialectics.

[...]

[p.10]

For Platon was no systematist taking up the problems where he had delayed them previously. Each of his dialogues starts anew from scratch.

[...]

[p.24]

When Platon asks for the reality of ideas, we can only grasp his quest out of the crying needs of his contemporary political situation. Even when he talks of such apparent unpolitical ideas like *The Same* in his Phaedro we should never forget this.

Now we start with the interpretations.

%%%% End of verbatim quotations %%%  
%%

Further documents

**Brigitte Scheer:** The Heritage of Bruno Liebrucks

Brigitte Scheer comes out of the school of Bruno Liebrucks

German original in the magazine: Zeitschrift fuer philosophische Forschung 1987

[p.299]

Bruno Liebrucks died at an age of 74 years. Philosophy in Germany has lost one of its characteristic and most productive persons.

...[p300]

Bruno Liebrucks decidedly turned his attention to the human languages and to their relations to philosophical thoughts. He did so before the 'linguistic turn' was finally to be felt in German universities. This is remarkable.

...[p301]

Bruno Liebrucks became professor of philosophy at Frankfurt/Main since winter 1959/1960. Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno taught at the same time and at the same place.

...[p302]

Bruno Liebrucks preserved a distance towards the "reforms" of the universities in the late sixties [of the 20th century]. For him the idea of a university was no longer present in the new realities.

...

He retreated from his teaching obligations. Yet his voice still was to be heard in the department of philosophy in the Frankfurt university.

**Bruno Liebrucks:** An exchange of letters

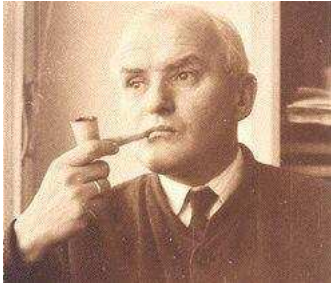
The letters are from N.Hartmann and H.Heimsoeth (1907-1911)

German original in the magazine: Kant-Studien 1982

...[p.83]

This exchange of letters gives an impression and shows how much Germany stood in the mainstream of philosophical events in these years and as might well be until the second world war.

Bruno Liebrucks 1911 - 1986



son of an elementary school teacher  
studied philosophy, theology, history  
taught philosophy in German Universities since 1950

Principal works:

On Platon 1949

On Human Languages and Consciousness

(‘Sprache und Bewusstsein’ Vol.1-7 1964-1979)

On Kant (Sprache und Bewusstsein Vol.4)

On Hegel (Sprache und Bewusstsein Vol.5,6)

Nicolai Hartmann, whom B.Liebrucks mentions, is an outgrowth of the Neo-Kantian movement. Members of this school include Lange, Cohen, Natorp, Cassirer, Rickert, Heimsoeth.

Short notices on further persons mentioned in this paper:

Friedrich Albert Lange 1828-1875



son of a parson, studied theology, philosophy, classical philology  
various assignments as journalist in Germany and Switzerland  
member of the First International, contacted F.Engels in march 1865  
wrote a book entitled 'The History of Materialism'  
Karl Marx criticized him sharply in January 1873  
taught philosophy in Marburg(Germany) since 1872

Hermann Cohen 1842-1918



jewish background  
successor of Lange in Marburg since 1876

Paul Natorp 1854-1924



son of a parson, studied philosophy, classical philology, music  
taught philosophy in Marburg since 1885  
wrote a book on Platons Theory of Ideas

Nicolai Hartmann 1882-1950



son of an engineer, studied classical philology, philosophy  
successor of Natorp in Marburg since 1922  
taught philosophy in various cities in Germany

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