

The Herrmann Collection, named for its donor Douglas Herrmann, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and former Chairman of the Psychology Department at Indiana State University, focuses on the history of knowledge in the field of psychology on human memory. Herrmann began his collection while in graduate school at the University of Delaware from 1968-72. He was inspired by Dr. Halsey MacPhee, who had a collection on the history of psychology.

Herrmann's first acquisition was an antiquarian book published in 1897 and written by the famous psychologist Titchener. He was immediately hooked on collecting with this purchase.

While containing many scarce works that might be described as rare, the collection is first concerned with its subject of human memory. In fact, Herrmann's first published book in the field of psychology, *Memory in Historical Perspectives: The Literature on Memory before Ebbinghaus*, is devoted to the history of scholarship or speculation on memory. The source material for much of the book was supplied by Professor Herrmann's own collection.

In addition to books, Dr. Herrmann has donated media in the form of compact disc programs, tapes, and similar items, several of which Herrmann is himself the author. As well, he has provided artifacts in the form of found art, handcrafted and fabricated elephant statuary from around the world, bottles of so-called memory-enhancing elixirs, to name only some of the items. The collection also includes what Herrmann believes to be the largest grouping of cartoons about memory. Finally, the collection boasts two phrenology models as examples of the early "science" of

memory. While, for the most part, the non-book and non-media items in the collection do not purport to be comprehensive in their scope, they are maintained as whimsical reminders of man's obsession with remembering. More additions to the variegated holdings of the collection are planned.

While it is believed that the Herrmann Collection is the most extensive collection of published books on memory, the donor wants to acknowledge several important collections which address memory in some form. According to Lee Ash's 1993 edition of *Subject Collections*, the Morris B. Young and Chesley Young Mnemonic Library is housed at the University of San Marino in Europe. There are two United States-based special collections libraries that indicate strength in memory and mnemonics, according to Ash: the George Peabody Special Collections at the Eisenhower Library of Johns Hopkins University and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

From his own research, Herrmann knows of at least three universities having strong holdings in memory: Cambridge University, Columbia University, and Princeton University. Certainly, there must be other collections excluded unintentionally from this listing, but the particular focus found in the Herrmann Collection on the nature of memory itself, including its philosophical underpinnings, appears to be less prominent in other library collections.

Dr. Herrmann co-edited the *Journal of Applied Cognitive Psychology* from 1987 until 1991 and co-edited the journal *Cognitive Technology* from 1996 until 2005. He has written or edited seventeen textbooks concerned with various aspects of human memory, including the history of

memory scholarship, memory functioning in everyday life, memory improvement, and cognitive rehabilitation. Although retired, Dr. Herrmann continues to do research on human memory and to write in the field.

How to Use the Collection

The Herrmann Collection on Human Memory is housed in the Special Collections Department of the Cunningham Memorial Library. The hours which the department is open to the public are posted on its website at <http://library.indstate.edu/level1.dir/cml/rbsc/index.html>. The holdings in the Herrmann Collection may be visited via the Herrmann Collection description and database listing page, which is accessible from the address above. The titles are listed in a catalog arranged by main entry.

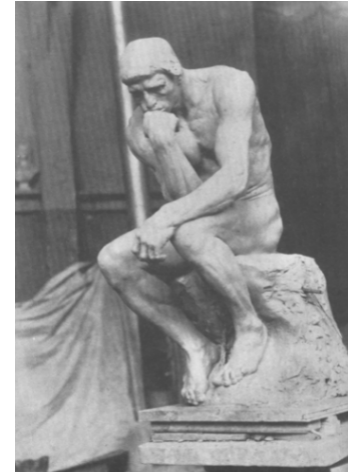
As time permits, Dr. Herrmann intends to list a few key points about some of the rarer or more important works. Inquiries about the collection are always welcome by phone at (812) 237-1610 or via e-mail messaging at librbsc@isugw.indstate.edu. As Doug Herrmann takes an active interest in the collection, he may very well answer inquiries himself at Douglas.Herrmann@Verizon.net.

In addition to the book catalog, it is undoubtedly worth mentioning that a permanent online display of some of the artifacts in the collection are available for viewing at the at the following URL:

<http://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbsc/herrmann/artifacts.html>.

A brief biographical statement is available as well:

<http://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbsc/herrmann/bio.html>.



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