

## *Editorial Preface*

This is the third volume of *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenological Psychology*. It is very fitting that it should appear at this time. Nineteen hundred seventy-nine marks the centennial year of the history of scientific psychology; commemorating the event one hundred years ago when Wilhelm Wundt established the first experimental laboratory in psychology at Leipzig. At that time the foundation was laid, at least it was so believed, for the construction of a truly scientific psychology. In 1912 John B. Watson would refer to the work done by Wundt and his colleagues as “30 odd barren years.” To create a truly scientific psychology, Watson proposed a simple solution . . . just eliminate the study of consciousness from psychology. The choice confronting Watson, as he saw it, was either to give up psychology or to make it a natural science. He opted for the latter and proposed to psychologists this rule or measuring rod: Can I describe this bit of behavior I see in terms of “stimulus and response”? This “bit” psychology has been the bane of the psychological enterprise down to the present day.

From its inception twenty years ago, the graduate faculty of Duquesne University’s Department of Psychology has sought to provide an alternative view, to develop and communicate a psychology that would be a human science. Like Watson, it would try to describe behavior but not just “bits” of it and not in terms of a priori categories such as “stimulus and response.” The series, *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenological Psychology*, has been our visible effort to share with our colleagues, students and other professionals the results of our labor.

Volume I made its appearance in 1971. The editors of this first volume took pains to clarify certain misconceptions that had arisen about the nature of the work in psychology being pursued at Duquesne University. While acknowledging their debt to existential-phenomenological philosophy, they stressed the uniqueness of the psychological project. In a certain sense, volume one served as an apologia, attempting to present the case for a psychology that would be a human science. Volume II was published in 1975 to deepen and expand what was begun in Volume I. Volume III continues where Volume II left off, but it also enlarges the project by explicitly including a section on hermeneutical-phenomenological psychology.

It has been the policy from the beginning to include in *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenological Psychology* only articles written by faculty members at Duquesne, present or past, or articles written by individuals who have been in some way closely associated with the work of the Psychology Department. Volume III continues this family tradition. In addition to articles written by the regular Duquesne faculty, this volume contains contributions from a number of individuals who have received their doctoral degrees from Duquesne University. One article is the contribution of a Visiting European professor who has taught at Duquesne and one from a Dutch graduate student who spent some time studying with us. With the exception of Linschoten's article, a translation from the Dutch, all the articles in Volume III are original ones and appear in English for the first time. It is the editors' hope that these articles will give the reader some sense of the exciting adventure that has been taking place in Duquesne University's Department of Psychology for the past twenty years.

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