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Max Möller and the foundation of the IAAP. An epistolary history

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ABSTRACT

Although IAAP foundation (International Association of Applied Psychology) is referred to a first conference in psychotechnics which E. Claparède organized in Geneva in 1920, its formal condition as a scientific association had its beginning in a subsequent congress held in Paris in 1927. There, the group gathered around Claparède joined another group promoted by a Latvian psychologist, M. Moeller, and mainly formed by German trained professionals. This latter group became finally integrated into the former. The three letters presented here reveal so far unknown aspects of the contacts between Moeller, Claparède and some other colleagues which in the end led to the fusion of both movements under the common title of "International Association of Psychotechnics", which a few years later was to turn into the current IAAP.

Max Möller y la Fundación de la IAAP. Una historia epistolar

RESUMEN

Aunque la fundación de la IAAP (Asociación Internacional de Psicología Aplicada) suele vincularse a una primera conferencia de psicotecnia que E. Claparède organizó en Ginebra en 1920, su formalización como asociación científica tuvo su origen en un congreso posterior celebrado en París en 1927. En él, el grupo reunido en torno a Claparède se unió a otro grupo integrado principalmente por profesionales de formación alemana y promovido por el psicólogo letón M. Möller. Las tres cartas que se presentan aquí revelan aspectos hasta ahora desconocidos de los contactos entre Möller, Claparède y algunos otros colegas, que condujeron finalmente a la fusión entre esos dos grupos bajo el nombre común de "Asociación Internacional de Psicotecnia", que pocos años más tarde se convertiría en la actual IAAP.

It is a generally admitted fact that the IAAP (International Association of Applied Psychology) is a psychological association of a scientific and technical character which was founded in 1920, one hundred years ago now, thanks to the sustained effort of the Swiss

psychologist Edouard Claparède (1873-1940) (Trombetta, 1998). Claparède was eager to promote the gathering of applied psychologists in order to discuss the problems faced in their daily work, as well as to overcome the enmities and conflicts resulting from World War I.

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Since the last years of the 19th century, a rapid increase of tests and assessment instruments was revolutionizing the extant procedures of individual and group assessment and evaluation. In 1890, James McKeen Cattell published a paper on “Mental tests and measurements” which was soon to become famous (Cattell, 1947, 1). In 1905, moreover, the earliest version of Alfred Binet’s and Théodore Simon’s metric scale of intelligence was also published. Tests allowed psychological intervention with instruments promptly acknowledged as technical media, thus justifying the name “psychotechnics” -and the now less frequent “psychotechnology”- for such activity, -and legitimizing, in the eyes of society, the work of those professionals using them.

Tests were objective procedures by means of which a quantification of psychological aspects or features was attempted. Test construction required an adequate handling of quantitative techniques, a detailed knowledge of the measured processes, and a great deal of ingenuity for solving any difficulty that might come up when trying to quantify behavioral aspects whose knowledge was to be only gradually unraveled. It was only natural, then, among those professionals working with these new procedures, that they would wish to meet their colleagues in order to discuss the difficulties found and share the results achieved. A space for discussion and collaboration was therefore needed.

Claparède was born in Geneva. Before his eyes lay a living example of the coexistence and collaboration he was aiming to promote among specialists and professionals from different countries. In Geneva, the newly founded Society of Nations, or *Ligue des Nations*, was established in 1920. This international organization was to ensure the peace achieved after the war through the dialogue and discussion of political representatives from the different countries of the world. In addition, a number of conferences and congresses had been already held by psychologists, who met regularly from 1889, with remarkable results in exchange of knowledge and social solidarity (Rosenzweig et al., 2000). The main thing, then, was to get some meetings started and succeed in making them both interesting and effective.

The first conference

The first step was taken by Claparède, together with his colleague Pierre Bovet (1878-1944). Both were founders of the *Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau* for education, which was created in Geneva in 1912. Taking the opportunity of a meeting of educators to be soon held in their center, Claparède and Bovet decided to organize there a conference on educational psychotechnics, to which a number of distinguished European colleagues concerned with school guidance and selection problems were invited (Bovet, 1934). The conference took place in September 1920, and the attendance list -very carefully reconstructed by H. Gundlach (Gundlach, 1998b, p. 32)- included thirty-nine people. It hardly matters that they may have a few more or a few less: either way, the order of magnitude of attendance to the event is clear enough.

We will not stop at this, however. Further information and details can be found in Gundlach’s (1998b) and Carpintero’s accounts (Carpintero et al., 2020). The point to be emphasized here is rather

that the conference was a success, and a new meeting was agreed to be held the following year in Barcelona (Carpintero, 2000; Lafuente & Ferrándiz, 1997; Sáiz et al., 1994). This was to be the beginning of what came to be known as “International conferences of psychotechnics as applied to professional orientation” (Gundlach, 1998b, 1, pp. 18 ff), a series of meetings focusing on the technical problems of assessment, diagnosis, test elaboration and, in general, the various aspects of psychology as applied to everyday life.

In the early days, these encounters enjoyed a certain degree of informal flexibility. Up to his death, Claparède was their undisputed President. And, from the very beginning, Jean Maurice Lahy, the person in charge of the minimum bureaucracy this congressional activity required, acted as general secretary. Lahy was linked to the *Ligue d’Hygiène Mental*, which backed up these conferences by putting at their disposal the necessary managing resources. At one point, however, the need was felt to establish an associative structure meeting the usually existing regulations in this respect in contemporary states. And, to a great extent, the stimulus for making such change came from outside.

The International Association

While the Anglo-French psychotechnical world gathered around the Swiss psychologist Claparède, an analogous association movement was also taking place among psychotechnicians within the German orbit. The figure assuming here the task of promoting and managing such an organization was the Latvian psychologist Maximilian -in many places referred to simply as Max- Möller, who was director of the Municipal Institute for Youth Research and Vocational Studies established by the municipality of Riga. This was the most important center among those devoted to psychotechnics and organizational psychology in independent Latvia, previous to the Russian occupation of the country in 1940 (Reņģe & Dragūns, 2012; Reņģe & Dzenis, 2009). A few more precisions are provided by Gundlach: Maximilian Karl Möller was born in 1890, was trained in several German universities and published a number studies on psychotechnical topics written in German, Latvian and Russian (Gundlach, 1998b, 1, p. 20).

Möller’s purpose was to create an International Association of Psychology and Psychotechnics which would bring together national representatives from all those countries having members interested in the activities the association was to carry out. In his study on the beginnings of the IAAP, Gundlach suggests that the movement promoted by Möller, actually parallel to that launched by Claparède and Lahy, served as a stimulus to these latter for pushing forward the creation of an effective associative organization. Thus, the two groups, Claparède’s and Möller’s, succeeded in converging into one single association, its first manifestation being the Paris International Congress held in 1927, where the two societies completed their formal merging.

The finding of some letters between Möller and Claparède among the latter’s documents kept in the De Morsier family archives in Geneva (Carpintero & Lafuente, 2008; Trombetta, 1989) cast further light on this moment of formal emergence of the IAAP original organization. The letters, written in 1927, will be presented here. Let us take a look at the information they provide.

An unpublished correspondence

The three letters found in the above-mentioned archives were written in the months immediately preceding the celebration of the Paris Congress, which, as is clear from these writings, was convened together by the two already existing organizations.

First letter: Möller to Claparède, August 3, 1927

In a first letter dated in Riga on the 3rd of August, 1927, Möller informs Claparède of the difficulties he is finding in organizing an International Association –or, as he also puts it, “an international psychotechnics” (Möller, 1927a; see Appendix I, a and b, p. 2). This was already, in his opinion, an almost fully accomplished project: “For one and a half years I have strived to establish a direct and permanent cooperation among psychotechnicians on a universal basis. To date, I can consider this attempt to be successful” (Möller, 1927a, p. 1). According to Gundlach, the International Association had been founded in November 15, 1925, and its activities had been launched in March of the following year (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 19). From the very beginning, Möller had got in touch with colleagues from 27 different countries, but difficulties soon arose (notably in Germany, Poland and Russia) in relation with the way he managed things. The Riga Institute he came to direct seems to have been also founded in 1925 (Reņģe & Dzenis, 2009).

Möller tells his correspondent that he had succeeded in getting the collaboration of Drs. K. Marbe (1869-1953), “*president of the Society for Experimental Psychology*”, and W. Moede (1888-1958), himself president of the Association of Practical Psychologists, both of them highly respected figures in Germany. Profs. Drs. Deuchler, Hische and Heydt had also offered their help. In addition, Gundlach reports that information on the fledging association appeared in a journal on industrial orientation and psychotechnics created by Moede, *Industrielle Psychotechnik* (1924-1933), a sequel to the previous *Praktische Psychologie* (1919-1923), another journal also created by him (Osier & Wozniak, 1984, p. 256). On the other hand, both Isaak Spielrein (1889-1937) and Grigori Rossolimo (1860-1928) had joined as representatives of the Soviet Union. More difficulties seemed to present the case of Poland, whose representatives, J. Wojciechovsky and B. Biegeleisen, finally came to join the Association, too (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, pp. 2 and 15). The echoes of the Association also succeeded in reaching the United States, mainly thanks to the collaboration of such well-known personalities as James McKeen Cattell (1860-1944) and Walter Bingham (1880-1952).

On account of the difficulties encountered, Möller says, “*the final organization of the Association was postponed*” until a “*common elaboration of scientific questions*” became possible. Also, the holding of a conference or congress had to be granted, and this is what the forthcoming Paris conference was to going to mean. Möller confirms Claparède that he had sent materials for the congress to Lahy, and makes a declaration on the importance of the intended purpose:

In comparison with the high goal of creating a lasting understanding of psychotechnics and joining all forces available for the implementation of such program of social application

as humanity is at present so much in need of, all personal questions are of little importance and will be resolved in Paris in October” (Möller, 1927a, p. 3).

On the other hand, Möller thinks it is important that the Conferences and the Association be brought together. It is interesting to note that Claparède’s organization is referred to in his letter as “*International Conferences of Psychotechnics*”, whereas that being managed by Möller himself is called “*International Association of Psychology and Psychotechnics*” instead. A common name suggested by Möller to be shared by the two organizations would be “*International Association of Psychotechnics*”. “*It also seems to me that the fairest way to proceed would be to fuse the Conferences and the Association*”, he declares. And adds: “*My suggestion is that they do so under the name “International Association of Psychotechnics (not “Psychology and Psychotechnics”), and that this first international association may carry out a sustained activity in the form of a permanent office*” (Möller, 1927a, p. 3).

Möller seems to have been, in those days, a very influential personality. Indeed, he not only advocated for the fusion of the two societies, but also demanded the creation of a new structure, or “*permanent office*”, and advanced the name by which the new organization was to be known, “*International Association of Psychotechnics*”. He had even envisioned the celebration of a general assembly in Paris. All these proposals were to be successfully accomplished.

Möller’s letter also includes some considerations on the way to make the invitations to the congress, as well as a question to Claparède on his “*intentions on the matter*”. In addition, the letter expresses Möller’s view that, apart from minor discrepancies, the congress should be held in a unified manner.

Second letter: Möller to Claparède, August 13, 1927

A second letter from Möller to Claparède was sent from Riga on the 13th of August, 1927 (Möller, 1927b; see Appendix II, a and b). The letter provides further information on the forthcoming event. Möller lets Claparède know about the intention of many American psychologists to come to the Paris international congress. Two very well-known figures, James McKeen Cattell and Walter Bingham, had been promoting the congress among their colleagues, passing them information and encouraging them to attend the meeting.

On the other hand, Möller also expresses his regret for having learned that, apparently, Lahy wanted the organization of the congress be taken over by the International Conference, when all the necessary arrangements for its celebration had been already carried out by him (Möller). He finally accepts all the measures taken, and agrees “*that the congress [...] be held through the combination of our forces*”, that is, those of the International Conference and the International Association (Möller, 1927b).

Third letter: Claparède to Moede, October 1, 1927

In this brief epistolary collection, there is still a third letter to be considered, this one from Claparède to Walther Moede (1888-1958), who lived in Berlin at the time. The letter is dated on October 1, 1927, that is, only a few days before the congress opening (Claparède,

1927; see Appendix III, a and b). It is probably a copy of the originally sent document, which was kept unsigned by the author. Claparède thanks Moede for the information he sent him and avows that the congress about to meet “seems to me to present itself under rather gloomy colors”. He fears that much time risked to be spent in “administrative issues” which, he specifies, “have for me no interest at all”. “You ask me about my *Stellungnahme* [personal position]” –he adds, and continues: “I have no other than that corresponding to pacification”, that is, “maintaining our relations fraternal, and warding off all ferment of division”. He thanks Moede for his “collaboration in reestablishing the harmony” and ends up by making an appreciative comment on a lecture of his correspondent on *Leistungspsychologie* (performance psychology). He finally expresses his hope that everything would go well with the congress, while recognizing that it was not he, but Lahy, who had been in charge and done all the work.

Claparède's declaration is a good reflection of his characteristic appeasement attitude concerning congress phenomena, especially as it was addressed to a representative of those German psychologists willing to join the Association. It is clear that the Swiss psychologist's intention was to facilitate the overcoming of whatever conflicts the war might have caused among professionals belonging to the psychotechnical world.

In his autobiography, Claparède admits to be “extremely attached to Protestantism”, and adds: “thanks to which [Protestantism] this method of free inquiry was introduced into the world and the principle of toleration into religious matters” (Claparède, 1930/1961, p. 83). This spirit of appreciation of free thinking and tolerance was undoubtedly behind the organization of the conferences, where psychotechnical colleagues were intended to coexist beyond nationalistic prejudices while, at the same time, raising objective scientific knowledge above any partisan view.

More about the Congress

In the volume dedicated to the Paris Conference or Congress (Gundlach, 1998a, 4), a few complementary data may be found that throw some light on the precedent texts. They are the following.

In the initial words of Claparède's allocution there is a clear acknowledgement of the double impulse leading to the realization of this Congress. He says there:

To conclude, it is thanks to, on the one hand, M. Lahy's initiative and, on the other, that of M. Möller, from Riga, who wished to establish an International Psychotechnical Association, that we are here, meeting for the fourth time and more numerous than ever (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 29).

On the other hand, further clarifications may be found in the initial report of the secretary, J.M. Lahy:

In these past years we have attempted to achieve a form of cooperation which, under the name of International Association of Psychology, should facilitate our relations through the action of national representatives. This experience led to some protests we were obliged to take into account; and, today, the

International Association of Psychology and Psychotechnics has just decided to merge with our Conferences. Being committed to this venture, M. Möller made an effort which will not go in vain, and the Association we founded together with him accepted not to organize any congress, so as not to obstruct the holding of the one that is gathering us today (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 33).

In these words, Lahy makes it clear that, in addition to actively intervening in Claparède's Conferences, he had also taken part in the foundation of Möller's Association, mentioned here in all exactness by its proper name, “International Association of Psychology and Psychotechnics”, the organization which was now about to merge with that of the Conferences.

Furthermore, in the “Closing Report” made at the end of the Congress, Lahy pronounced these categorical words:

An important decision was taken about the realization on which all our efforts ought to be focused. Our Association aims at becoming regular from a legal point of view within the international organization framework of the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation. In order to achieve this goal, we are going to prepare statutes which will be submitted at the next Congress; these statutes will be inspired on the advices given by the Legal Counsellor of the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation (Lahy, in Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 664).

There was to be a permanent activity which would be managed by an “information office”. The office, “of which M. Möller is kindly willing to take charge”, would be placed at the mentioned Institute and be in constant touch with the general secretary (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 665). Thus, the idea of the office we saw expressed in one of the preceding letters finally did crystallize in this decision.

And here is where the Association's steady march towards its regular institutionalization can be said to have begun.

The Institute

The realization of the Congress received the decided support of the Institute, which lent its installations for the event and came to host the above mentioned “office”.

The “International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation” (IICI) was created in 1926 within the framework of the Society of Nations in order to promote international scientific and cultural relations. A Committee with the same name, under Henri Bergson's chairmanship, had been established the year before, in 1924. The organism ceased to exist as a result of World War II, somehow reappearing afterwards in the form of the UNESCO, the United Nations current agency for culture.

The Institute's first director was the French professor Julien Luchaire (1876-1962), in office between 1926 and 1930. Successful efforts were made by J.M. Lahy and Henri Piéron to ensure the Institute's support to the celebration of the Paris Congress, and the Association resulting from it finally became integrated into the framework of the mentioned Institute. Incidentally, Lahy, in his initial “Report” of the meeting, thanked the Institute for its support,

giving it, probably by mistake, a wrong name, “International Institute of Scientific Organization” (Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 33). He then went on to use the Institute’s proper name (“International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation of the Society of Nations”) to specify, as already said, that the statutes of the new Association of Psychotechnics would be made in mutual agreement by both the Association Steering Committee and the mentioned Institute; also, the Secretary’s office was to be located at the center the Institute had at the Royal Palace, in Paris (Lahy, in Gundlach, 1998a, 4, p. 666).

Further observations on the Paris Congress

The Paris Congress took place between the 10th and the 14th of October, 1927, at the premises of the Institute for Intellectual Cooperation. The Congress ended up by establishing a Steering Committee which, among other things, was to assume the task of elaborating the statutes of the Association resulting from the merging of the two previously existing organizations.

The Committee became integrated by (in alphabetical order): F. Baumgarten-Tramer (Switzerland), W. Bingham (USA), A.G. Christiaens (Belgium), E. Claparède (Switzerland), G. Corberi (Italy), O. Decroly (Belgium), G.C. Ferrari (Italy), A.A. Grunbaum (Holland), J. Joteyko (Poland), J.M. Lahy (France), O Lipmann (Germany), G.H. Miles (UK), E. Mira y López (Spain), W. Moede (Germany), Ch. Myers (UK), H. Piéron (France), E. Roels (Holland), G. Rossolimo (Soviet Union), I. Spielrein (Soviet Union), and J. Wojciechowski (Poland). J.M. Lahy was secretary, while E. Toulouse (France) was appointed president until the celebration of the next congress. As it can be readily seen, many of these names were already mentioned in the preceding letters as members of Möller’s “Association” –Möller himself, let it be noted in passing, being nowhere to be found among the authors of the works and papers presented at the meeting. It was also agreed to create six commissions –on accidents, work effort, influence of the environment on work, educability, tests, language unification-, and to hold the next congress in Utrecht in the following year (1928).

A few unanswered questions

The letters gathered here are very revealing of the singular role played by the Latvian psychologist M. Möller in relation with the effective constitution of the Conferences associative group emerging in 1920, as well as with the success and impact achieved by the ensuing Paris Congress. This makes it particularly striking his absence from the congresses themselves. Möller’s great effort to contribute to the establishment of the Society aiming at bringing all psychotechnicians together –an idea, moreover, very much related to Claparède’s– seems to have been neglected while leaving him out of the new network linking the group. Neither in the Utrecht nor in the Barcelona Congresses, the two meetings immediately following Paris’s, is Möller’s name to be found. He is not listed among the participants or the attendants to these congresses. And, what is even more surprising, neither is his name included in the Society’s list of

members (Gundlach, 1998a, 5, p. 14 [Utrecht]; id., 6, p. 8 [Barcelona, 1930]). Thus, the Association he had done so much to create was to carry on dispensing with one of the personalities most decisive in getting it started.

In Paris, psychotechnics came to occupy both the center of attention of participants and the totality of the association’s name. From succeeding history, however, we learned that, in the 1955 London Congress, psychotechnics became integrated into the wider, more general domain of applied psychology, where it claimed its scientific character as well as inclusion into the wider science on human beings and behavior, in accordance with psychology’s unstoppable growth and conceptual and practical enrichment to the present day. In this history Max Möller’s apparition is certainly an interesting chapter, but only a brief one.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX Ia

Letter 1: Möller to Claparède

Riga, August 3, 1927.

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from Paris and I hereby allow myself to write to you about some complications that have taken place during the last months.

As you know and with your esteemed assistance, for one and a half years I have strived to establish a direct and permanent cooperation among psychotechnicians on a universal basis. To date, I can consider this attempt to have been successful and I have not heard that any of my "positive" steps had raised any opposition. I think that I have examined the situation quite carefully, even before making the proposal of founding the International Association in 1925. I am quite well informed about the personal differences of the scientists in about 27 countries joining the International Association. Also I was informed in sufficient detail of what was done in the congresses of Groningen and Bonn, two congresses I did not attend to on purpose (I was in Paris in October 1926, as well as often in Germany) - so as not to be forced to decide on issues that were not yet ripe for solution.

The task I have to solve involves many difficulties which I beg you not to belittle.

It was not against the aim that the International Association had set for its activity, but against the way of working that I had chosen, that an opposition was formed, as is always the case. This opposition showed itself especially in Bonn in April, and on May 31, 1927, in Paris. As it emerges from the declarations of some scientists who do not yet work within the International Association, they are only insufficiently informed. The attacks against the way of organizing the Association came mainly from Germany, and partly from Russia and Poland. The situation in the United States is also very complicated, but there are no difficulties. All this had been foreseen and for this reason the final organization of the Association was postponed until 1) the internal consolidation of the organization would be such that a common elaboration of scientific questions could be introduced; this moment could not be fixed a priori, but now a number of facts indicate that the time has arrived; 2) a general conference resp. a congress would be guaranteed; this point will be fulfilled by the conference in Paris on October 10-14, 1927.

Most of the original difficulties are now resolved:

- a) in Russia, by the "Russian General Congress of Work Psychophysiology", which took place in Moscow at the end of May 1927, when after a report by Prof. Spielrein, Messrs. Profs. Rossolimo and Spielrein were elected as official representatives of Russian psychotechnicians at the International Association. I thus consider the previous objections of Prof. Dunaswsky as resolved.
- b) in Poland - by the decision of the "Polish Psychotechnical Society", which delegated on Messrs. Wojciechowski and Biegeleisen on

April 6 1927 as representatives of Poland in the International Association.

c) In the U.S.A. Dr. Cattell and Dr. Bingham work for the benefit of the Association. From a letter from Dr. Cattell dated July 11 1927 I see that the question of the United States representation is currently the subject of discussion.

d) Now Germany. There are two organizations in Germany:

1) the Society for Experimental Psychology,

I. president: Prof. Dr. Marbe;

2) the Association of Practical Psychologists,

Chairman: Prof. Dr. Moede,

Honorary President: Prof. Dr. Marbe.

I cannot admit in any way that these two presidents of the competent German organizations would not have the majority of German psychologists on their side. This is why I also asked the two aforementioned gentlemen to take charge of the provisional representation of Germany, and for the division of labor I still gave some spheres of activity to Prof. Deuchler, Dr. Hische and Dr. Heydt. It was absolutely impossible to invite other German gentlemen to join the International Association until the conditions in the other countries were made clear. I regret that I cannot give you the detailed causes in writing.

It goes without saying that for the present I cannot count on the confidence of all psychologists in all countries of the world, but I need the confidence of several gentlemen who are recognized in their countries. It is also my opinion that I chose the only possible way to establish an "international psychotechnics". But on the other hand, I also believe that the introduction of new difficulties in our activity, until now unanimous, would soon discredit the permanent international cooperation for many years in advance.

In comparison with the high goal of creating a lasting understanding of psychotechnics and joining all forces available for the implementation of such program of social application as humanity is at present so much in need of, all personal questions are of little importance and will be resolved in Paris in October.

The interview in Paris on May 31 caused me a lot of difficulty, because unfortunately it appeared in the daily press and I often receive letters asking me what the matter is.

I am sure I will overcome these difficulties. I agree with the decision that invitations to the congress be sent by the "Conferences"; The Association invites only to the general assembly.

I am sending to M. Lahy all the materials I have collected during the year and am still receiving, without which it would be exceedingly difficult to organize the congress at such short notice -from June to October-. It is not so important who summons the congress, the main thing is that it takes place and is successful.

It also seems to me that the fairest way to proceed would be to fuse the Conferences and the Association. My suggestion is that they do so under the name "International Association of Psychotechnics (not "Psychology and Psychotechnics"), and that this first international association may carry out a sustained activity in the form of a permanent office. You can judge for yourself whether there is still a need for a steering committee for the next conference.

With Dr. Christiaens and Dr. Lippmann I spoke during my last trip, it seems to me that we are now in agreement.

I am adding a copy of the invitation from German representatives to German scientists for the constituent assembly in Paris - for your information. The administration will send the invitations to all other states, because Riga is over there acknowledged as a center. Invitations to the congress were accepted, in addition to Finland, Estonia and Bulgaria, by all other countries.

Further explanations of my actions, I will give, if necessary, to the general meeting in Paris. I think it is my duty to give you personally some information, and I beg you to be kind enough to let me know as early as possible your intentions in this matter, so that I can regulate my next steps for the general salutation.

Please accept, dear Sir, the assurance of my highest esteem and sincere greetings

M. Möller

P.S. Mr Lahy proposes to merge under the name "Association of International Conferences of Psychotechnics". In my opinion, this question is not very important and can be decided by the plenum.

APPENDIX Ib
Letter 1: Möller to Claparède

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Riga, le 3 août 1927.

Cher Monsieur,

Je viens de retourner de Paris et je ne permets par la présente de vous écrire à propos de quelques complications qui sont résultées pendant les derniers mois.

Comme vous le savez et avec votre assistance estimée, je me suis efforcé pendant 1 1/2 années d'établir une coopération directe et permanente des psychotechniciens sur un plan universel. Jusqu'à présent je peux considérer cet essai comme réussi, et je n'ai entendu que quelqu'un de mes pas "positifs" aurait, jamais provoqué d'opposition. Je crois que j'ai examiné la situation assez soigneusement, déjà avant que je fis la proposition de fonder l'Association Internationale en 1925. Je suis bien informé relativement aux différences personnelles des hommes de science dans quelquesuns des 27 pays, qui se sont joints à l'Association Internationale. Aussi on m'a communiqué assez en détail ce qui s'est fait sur les congrès de Groningen et de Bonn, quels deux congrès je n'ai pas visités à dessein (j'étais à Paris en octobre 1926, ainsi que bien souvent en Allemagne) - pour n'être pas obligé à décider des questions qui n'étaient pas encore mûres pour une solution.

La tâche que j'ai à résoudre comprend bien de difficultés que je vous prie de ne pas déprécier.

Ce n'était pas contre le but que l'Association Internationale s'était mis pour son activité, mais contre la façon de travailler que j'avais choisie qu'il se forma une opposition, comme c'est toujours le cas. Cette opposition se montra surtout en avril à Bonn et le 31.V.o. à Paris. Comme il sort des déclarations de quelques hommes de science qui ne travaillent pas encore dans l'Association Internationale, ceux-ci ne sont qu'insuffisamment informés. Les attaques contre la façon d'organiser l'Association venaient surtout de l'Allemagne, et en partie de la Russie et de la Pologne. La situation aux Etats Unis est aussi bien compliquée, mais il n'y a pas de difficultés. Tout cela avait été prévu et pour cette cause on avait différé l'organisation finale de l'Association jusqu'à un terme, quand: 1) la consolidation intérieure de l'organisation sera telle, qu'une élaboration commune des questions scientifiques pourrait être introduite; ce moment ne pouvait pas être fixe a priori, mais

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à présent un nombre de faits indiquent que ce temps est arrivé; 2) une conférence générale resp. un congrès serait garanti; ce point sera rempli par la conférence à Paris le 10 - 14 octobre 1927.

La plupart des difficultés originelles est à présent liquidée:

a) en Russie, par le "Congrès général russe de la psycho-physiologie de travail", qui eut lieu à Moscou, à la fin du mai a.c., quand après un referat de Prof. Spielrein, les messieurs Prof. Rossolimo et Prof. Spielrein furent élus comme représentants officiels des psychotechniciens russes dans l'Association Internationale. Je regarde alors les objections précédentes de Prof. Dunasewsky comme terminées.

b) En Pologne - par la décision de la "Société psychotechnique polonaise", qui délégua les messieurs Wojciechowski et Biegeleisen le 6.IV.27 comme représentants de Pologne dans l'Association Internationale.

c) En U.S.A. Dr. Cattell et Dr. Bingham travaillent dans l'intérêt de l'Association. Par une lettre de Dr. Cattell du 11 juillet a.c. je vois que la question de la représentation des Etats Unis est actuellement sujet des discussions.

d) Maintenant l'Allemagne. Il y a en Allemagne deux organisations:

- 1) la Société de psychologie expérimentale,
I. président: Prof. Dr. Marbe;
- 2) l'Association des psychologues pratiques,
Président: Prof. Dr. Moede,
Président honoraire: Prof. Dr. Marbe.

Je ne peux pas admettre en aucune façon que ces deux présidents des organisations allemandes compétentes n'auraient pas le gros des psychologues allemands pour eux. C'est pour cela que j'avais aussi prié les deux messieurs susnommés de se charger de la représentation provisoire d'Allemagne, et pour la division du travail j'avais encore remis quelques sphères d'activité aux messieurs Prof. Deuchler, Dr. Hische et Dr. Heydt. Il était absolument impossible d'inviter les autres messieurs allemands à l'entrée dans l'Association Internationale avant que les conditions dans les autres pays n'étaient pas rendues toutes claires. Je regrette que je ne peux pas vous en donner les causes détaillées par écrit.

Il va sans dire que pour le présent je ne peux pas compter sur la confiance de tous les psychologues dans tous les pays du monde, mais j'ai besoin de la confiance de plusieurs messieurs qui sont reconnus dans leurs pays. C'est aussi mon opinion que j'ai choisi le seul chemin possible pour établir une "psychotechnique internationale". Mais de l'autre côté je crois aussi que l'introduction des nouvelles difficultés dans notre activité jusqu'à présent unanime discréditerait la coopération internationale permanente

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comme ça pour bien d'années en avance.

A été du haut but de créer une entente durable de la psychotechnique et unir les forces disponibles pour réaliser un programme d'application sociale dont l'humanité a actuellement le plus grand besoin - toutes les questions personnelles sont peu importantes et seront réglées en octobre à Paris.

L'entrevue à Paris le 31 mai m'a causé beaucoup de difficultés, parce que malheureusement elle parut dans la presse du jour et je reçois souvent des lettres me demandant de quoi il s'agit.

Je suis sûr de surmonter ces difficultés. Je suis d'accord avec la décision que les invitations au congrès soient envoyées par les "Conférences"; l'Association invite seulement pour l'assemblée générale.

Tous les matériaux que j'ai ramassés pendant l'année et que je reçois encore, sans lesquels il serait excessivement difficile d'organiser le congrès en si peu de temps - de Juin à Octobre - je remets à Monsieur Lahy. Ce n'est pas si important qui convoque le congrès, mais la chose principale est qu'il a lieu et qu'il a du succès.

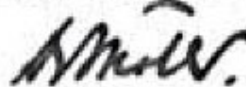
Il me semble aussi le plus juste que les Conférences et l'Association fusionnent. Je propose que cela aurait lieu sous le nom de "Association internationale de psychotechnique" (pas "Psychologie et psychotechnique"), et que l'ouvrage de la première association internationale soit continué en forme d'un bureau permanent. Vous pouvez vous-même mieux juger si l'on a besoin encore d'un comité directeur pour la conférence prochaine.

Avec Dr. Christiaens et Dr. Lippmann j'ai parlé pendant mon dernier voyage, il me semble que nous sommes maintenant d'accord.

J'ajoute une copie de l'invitation des représentants allemands aux hommes de science allemands pour l'assemblée constitutive à Paris - pour votre information. L'administration enverra les invitations à tous les autres états, parce que la partout Riga est reconnu comme centre. Les invitations pour le congrès ont été acceptées, outre la Finlande, l'Esthonie et la Bulgarie, par tous les autres pays.

Toutes autres explications de mes actions je vais donner, si c'est nécessaire, à l'assemblée générale à Paris. Je trouve que c'est mon devoir de vous donner personnellement quelques informations et je vous prie d'avoir la bonté de me faire savoir le plus tôt possible vos intentions dans cette affaire, afin que je puisse régler mes pas prochains pour le salut général.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, l'assurance de ma plus haute estime,
et de votre satisfaction sincère



P.S. M-r Lahy propose de fusionner sous le nom "Association des Conférences Internationales de Psychotechnique". De mon avis cette question est peu importante et peut être décidée par le plenum.

APPENDIX IIa
Letter 2: Möller to Claparède

Riga, August 13, 1927.

Dear Sir,

In the past few days, I received letters from American psychologists informing me that they are planning to come to the international congress. I directed this matter promptly to Monsieur Lahy.

It turns out that M-rs Bingham and Cattell, strongly supporting the development of the International Association and on behalf of the International Association, invited all important psychologists in the USA some time ago to attend the congress in Paris.

The wish of the "International Conference" to take charge of convening the congress only became known to me when I had already made all the necessary preparations for the congress.

I have already taken the liberty of communicating to you that I consent post factum to the arrangement which was agreed upon by you and Mr. Lahy in Paris, so that the congress will be held through the combination of our forces.

The dispositions of the Association's representatives in the USA can no longer be undone, as my related circulars arrived too late.

I hope that Mr. Lahy will qualify the text of the printed invitations in a way that the congress participants will not have the impression of disharmony.

I am glad that the American gentlemen will come to the convention and announce their reports, and I hope that the printed invitations will be soon sent by Mr. Lahy and not too late.

In general, I am sure that the congress will be a great success, thanks to the large number of participants which is already guaranteed.

I will be honored to keep you continuously informed from today on those facts that may cause complications, and please, dear Sir, accept the assurances of my highest esteem and sincere greetings.

M. Möller

APPENDIX IIb
Letter 2: Möller to Claparède

Riga, le 13 août 1927.

Cher Monsieur,

Pendant les derniers jours j'ai reçu des lettres des psychologues américains, m'informant qu'ils ont l'intention de venir au congrès international. Je dirige cette affaire promptement à Monsieur Lahy.

Il sort que les M^{rs} Bingham et Cattell, en assistant énergiquement le développement de l'Association Internationale, ont invité tous les psychologues importants en U.S.A. il y a déjà quelque temps, au nom de l'Association Internationale à assister au congrès de Paris.

Le désir de la "Conférence Internationale" de se charger de la convocation du congrès m'a été connu seulement quand j'avais déjà fait toutes les préparations nécessaires pour le congrès.

Je m'ai déjà permis de vous communiquer que je consens post factum à l'arrangement qui était convenu par vous et Monsieur Lahy à Paris, afin que le congrès se fasse par nos forces réunies.

Les dispositions des représentants de l'Association en U.S.A. ne peuvent plus être défaites, car mes circulaires relatives sont arrivées trop tard.

J'espère que Monsieur Lahy va nuancer le texte des invitations imprimées d'une manière que les participants du congrès n'aurent pas l'impression d'une disharmonie.

Je suis bien aise que les messieurs américains viendront au congrès et qu'ils annoncent des réferats, et j'espère que les invitations imprimées seront envoyées par M^r Lahy bientôt, et pas trop tard.

En général je suis sûr que le congrès aura un beau succès, grâce au grand nombre des participants qui est déjà garanti.

J'aurai l'honneur de vous informer continuellement dès aujourd'hui à propos des faits qui pourraient causer des complications et je vous prie, cher Monsieur, d'agréer l'assurance de ma haute estime et mes salutations les plus sincères.

M. Möller

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APPENDIX IIIa
Letter 3: Claparède to Moede

October 1, 1927

Professor Dr. Moede, BERLIN

Dear Sir and colleague,

Forgive me for my late reply. I took a little trip to the south of France, and it is only when I got back that I found your letter.

My sincere thanks for the information you are giving me. I confess you that our next Paris congress seems to me to present itself under rather gloomy colors. Instead of working quietly, we risk losing a lot of time in discussing some administrative issues, that have for me no interest at all. (Life is so short).

You ask me about my Stellungnahme [personal position]. I have no other than that corresponding to pacification. I will do anything in my power to make this Paris Congress succeed in maintaining our relations fraternal, and warding off all ferment of division.

Many sincere thanks for your collaboration in reestablishing the harmony. I also thank you for the analysis of my book; I think I haven't yet received your N V/8. And I have received your very interesting lecture on Leistungspsychologie [performance psychology]. I will very much enjoy reading your book when it is finished.

Bye now, see you in Paris! I strongly hope all will go well. I did not take care of the organization at all. It is Lahy who did everything. Unfortunately, lack of money prevented us from printing the proceedings in advance for lack.

Once again, thank you for your letter. Cordially yours,

APPENDIX IIIb
Letter 3: Claparède to Moede

1 Octobre 1927

Monsieur le Professeur Dr Moede, BERLIN

Monsieur & cher Collègue,

Pardonnez-moi de vous répondre si tard. J'ai fait un petit voyage dans le Sud de la France, & je n'ai trouvé votre lettre qu'à mon retour.

Je vous remercie sincèrement pour les renseignements que vous me donnez. Je vous avoue que le prochain Congrès de Paris me paraît se présenter sous d'assez nombreux ^{couleurs.} Au lieu de travailler tranquillement, nous risquons de perdre beaucoup de temps pour discuter des questions administratives, qui n'ont pour moi aucune espèce d'intérêt. (La vie est si courte!)

Vous me demandez quelle est ma Stellungnahme. Je n'en ai pas d'autre que celle qui correspond à la pacification. Je ferai tout ce qui est en mon pouvoir pour que ce Congrès de Paris aboutisse à maintenir nos relations fraternelles, & à éloigner tout ferment de division.

Je vous remercie très sincèrement de bien vouloir collaborer à rétablir l'entente.

Merci aussi pour l'analyse de mon livre; je crois que je n'ai pas encore reçu votre No 7/8. Et j'ai bien reçu votre si intéressante conférence sur la Leistungspsychologie. Je me réjouis beaucoup aussi de lire votre ouvrage quand il sera terminé.

Et maintenant, au revoir, à Paris! J'espère vivement que tout tournera bien. Je ne suis pas du tout occupé de l'organisation. C'est Lahy qui a tout fait. Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas pu, faute d'argent, faire imprimer les rapports d'avance.

Merci encore de votre lettre, & croyez, je vous prie, à mes sentiments cordialement

vos
votre