

PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM STANLEY JEVONS, Volumes I-VII 1972-1981.  
Edited by R.D. Collinson Black and Rosamond Konekamp, for the Royal Economic Society,  
London and Fairfield, N.J.: Macmillan and Augustus M. Kelley, Vol. I, \$30.50, Vol. II  
\$36.50, Vols. III-VII \$27.50 each.

In 1981 the seventh and presumably final volume of the series of Jevons' Papers and Correspondence was published. The series came about as a result of research by Collinson Black in 1958 into the connection between John Cairnes and Stanley Jevons. The discovery by Black of some of the unpublished correspondence, apart from resulting in an article in Economica (1960: 214-32), led also to the Royal Economic Society agreeing to sponsor the preparation and publication of Jevons's letters. Black had agreed to edit the professional papers and Jevons's grand-daughter, Rosamond Konekamp, the personal papers. In 1968, when the editing of both sections was well advanced, Mrs. Konekamp had to withdraw because of ill health and Black took on the entire editing responsibility.

Volume I, published in 1972, is credited as being jointly edited and contains a 52 page biographical sketch of Jevons by Konekamp, the journal Jevons kept which he used extensively in his years in Australia (and only rarely thereafter) and his family tree. Historians of economic thought will of course be aware that the journal had largely been published by Jevons's wife (in 1886) under the title Letters and Journal of W.S. Jevons. This material had been widely used in investigations into Jevons's career and was wisely republished at this time. Volume I of the Jevons Papers contains some interesting observations on life in colonial Australia, especially of the typical friendliness of the people he encountered in his various trips into the bush. He must have retained at least a passing interest in Australia, because years after returning to the U.K. he wrote a letter about the murder of several aborigines (Vol. IV. pp. 174-7).

The preface to the first volume indicates Black's view that the series would comprise four volumes of which the second and third would "contain the whole of Jevons's correspondence" relevant to his economics, some of the correspondence relevant to the economic and social history of the time but none which were purely personal. It was intended that the fourth volume would contain the "complete set of notes of the lectures which Jevons gave ... in 1875-6, as taken down ... by Harold Rylett; second, a collection of all those articles and papers published by Jevons which were not collected into either [the posthumously published volumes of articles] Investigations in Currency and Finance, Methods of Social Reform or [his fragmentary] Principles of Economics ... Finally this volume includes ... extracts from his early diaries showing his reading on economic subjects ... then the examination paper of 1860 which led to his 'sad reverse' in political economy to be 'fully avenged' 'when I bring about my theory of Economy' and finally the reviews which that theory secured when it did appear in full in 1871" (pp. xi, xii).

The contents of the second volume, published in 1973, covered, as planned, correspondence up to 1862. Letters to and from his family, particularly during his period in Australia, take up most of this volume. Some of this correspondence shows his early interest in economics. Volume II also contains his letters to the Sydney Morning Herald, The Empire, and The Sydney Magazine of Science and Art on such topics as free trade, efficient pricing of Crown Land, railway economics, meteorology and the geology of a gold field. Over the years Jevons's interests did not narrow in scope. In passing it should be noted for historians that he provides at one point an interesting description of a Chinese camp on one of the goldfields he visited (Vol. II, 367-8).

The preface to Volume III states that the number of letters increased with later discoveries and what was to be a single volume has increased to three. It also announces the decision to split the miscellaneous volume into two. Subsequent to the

publication of these volumes in 1977 Black has informed us that the series would have been expanded still further had Jevons's considerable correspondence with his brother, Thomas, been discovered before they were. There surely is a warning here for potential editors of large works.

Volumes III to V contain some family correspondence but a large proportion of the material is professional correspondence with British economists such as Palgrave, Cairnes, Bagehot, Foxwell, Edgeworth, Sidgwick, J.N. Keynes, and Marshall and foreign economists such as Walras. It is disappointing that these latter letters did not also have translations with them. Jevons would no doubt agree with such sentiments for he wrote to J. d'Aulnis on 7 July 1874 in the following terms: "I am sorry indeed that it will be printed in a language of which I can read nothing" (IV pp. 61-3 at p.62). Some of the correspondence, notably with Walras and Cairnes, has previously been published but has fortunately been retained in this series. One disappointment for historians of economic thought is that the early letters to Fleeming Jenkin are lost, however, Jenkin's replies are very interesting. These volumes also contain correspondence with the publisher Macmillan and such public figures as Gladstone and Lowe, the writers Spencer and Tennyson, and published letters to The Times, The Economist, Nature, The Spectator and several of the Manchester newspapers.

Volume VI contains his lectures at Manchester, but there is really little additional to his Theory of Political Economy here. Volume VII is a very valuable although miscellaneous collection of Jevonsiana containing uncollected papers including one previously unpublished piece on his sun spot-induced trade cycle; some extracts from his diary which indicate the extent of his early reading on economics and his authorship of some anonymous letters to Australian newspapers; a list of his published writings additional to those included in the Letters and Journal; a series of examination papers in political economy that he was involved with either as examinee or examiner; four reviews of his famous Theory; errata to Volumes I-VI; and an extensive general index of some two hundred pages.

It may be of interest to note Jevons's views in 1867 on coal. He states that the command over coal "partly explain[s] our [Britain's preeminent] position in the world". He goes on to state that Australia has a certain supply of coal and referred to a map of Australia which depicted "a large black tract, or coalfield in the interior of Australia". Jevons comments that "if he [the mapmaker] is correct, and there are really those extensive coalfields, Australia will probably become the first country in the world. But I am very much afraid it is a mistake". (VII, pp. 26-27). He was probably wrong on the extent of coal available in Australia but more importantly it shows his dismissive attitude to the possible development of substitutes to coal. Since the collapse of OPEC and the crash of all energy prices we take Jevons's remarks even less seriously than we may have in the 1960's.

I found the final volume unsatisfactory for two reasons. Firstly, without access to Letters and Journal (as is the case at the National Library in Canberra and from memory also Queensland University) the list of his publications is very unsatisfactory. Secondly, the four reviews provided (Marshall, Cairnes, Leslie and one anonymous review) while perhaps the most important, are not comprehensive and at least a list of additional reviews should have been included. In this respect I must indicate that I was not aware of the extensive commentary that the Theory received when I wrote my article on Jevons in 1982.<sup>2</sup> I indicated there that the Theory received only a couple of reviews when first published. The extensive number of reviews of the Theory when it first appeared is mentioned in Volume IV, p.5, and in Schabas's recent article<sup>3</sup>, while a fuller examination is provided in Howey's book on marginal utility<sup>4</sup>. Perhaps these errors can be remedied in Dr. Johh Wood's forthcoming Critical Assessments of Jevons (1988).

Overall the series is valuable one, containing a preface by Black to each volume, and several diagrams, etchings and photographs appear throughout. Several of the photographs are by Jevons himself whose pioneering work in this field has also been recognised.<sup>5</sup> Black's project was clearly a major one and will serve as the standard reference for decades to come.

#### NOTES

1. Black, R.D.C. (1982), "The Papers and Correspondence of William Stanley Jevons: A Supplementary Note", in The Manchester School, Vol. 50, No. 4, pp. 417-28.
2. Alvey, J. (1982), "Stanley Jevons: A Century of Reviews", in Economic Analysis and Policy, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 35-50, See p. 43.
3. Schabas, M. (1984), "The 'Worldly Philosophy' of William Stanley Jevons" in Victorian Studies, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 129-47. See footnote 15 at p.133.
4. Howey, R.S. (1960), The Rise of the Marginal Utility School 1870-1889, Lawrence, U.S.A., University of Kansas Press. See pp. 61-69.
5. See Burke, I. (1955), "Australia's First Pictorialist" in The Australasian Photo Review, Vo.. 62, January, pp. 6-22.

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HESSION C., JOHN MARYNARD KEYNES: A personal biography of the man who revolutionalized capitalism and the way we live (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1984) pp. xv + 400 \$US 22.95.

This is the third biography of John Maynard Keynes, the others being by Harrod in 1951, shortly after Keynes's death, and Skidelsky in 1983. The two published in the 1980's differ vastly from Harrod's in a number of ways but most notably in their treatment of their subject's private life.

Both Skidelsky and Hession attempt to give a 'warts and all' impression of the man whereas Harrod was concerned to "sell Keynes". In the book under review, for example, there are at least sixty-eight (out of a total of some four hundred) pages in which Keynes's homosexuality in early life is referred to. A similar emphasis also appears in Skidelsky's expose. Unlike the latter book, which seems more intent merely to sensationalize his sexuality, Hession attempts repeatedly to make psychological inferences from this and other activities of Keynes. Hession's book may be better described as biography/psychoanalysis. While this is moderately interesting from the perspective of the development of the man, its relevance to his economics is rather tenuous.

One of Keynes's major psychological attributes was his tendency to alter or even reverse his thinking and advocacy with:n short periods of time. Hession quotes the great man as saying that he awoke each morning "as innocent as a new born babe" (p.112).