

## Alfred Marshall's Lectures to Women

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*Alfred Marshall's Lectures to Women.* Edited by Tiziano Raffaelli, Eugenio Biagini and Rita McWilliams-Tullberg, with a foreword by Giacomo Becaffini (Aldershot: Edward Elgar, 1995). Pp. xv + 198. ISBN 1 85898 310X. Price £39.95.

Apart from the title piece, this book reprints two other items prepared by Marshall when in his early thirties and dating, to put it more precisely, from the twelve months between May 1873 and April 1874. Marshall's lectures to women have never been published before. They had to be read by those interested in the Marshall Archive of the Marshall Library at Cambridge's Faculty of Economics and Politics. The other two items reprinted had first been published during Marshall's life time and have been reprinted after his death. One of these is his lecture on the future of the working class, first given to the Cambridge Reform Club in November 1873, published in the St John's College journal, *The Eagle* and reprinted by Pigou in *Memorials of Alfred Marshall*. The other are two articles published in the important socialist journal, *The Bee Hive*, in response to an article by John Holmes on coal. Marshall's contributions to this debate were reprinted with an introduction in the 1974 *Economic Journal*. The edition under review breaks new ground here by reprinting the piece by John Holmes which started the debate, thereby providing it with context. Otherwise, the title piece is the only 'new piece' in the collection, given the ready availability in most libraries of the other two Marshall items reprinted.

The book can therefore also be conceived as a further step in the creation of a de facto collected works of Alfred Marshall. It joins a number of items from the 'young' Marshall recently published, such as the philosophical papers edited by Tiziano Raffaelli in 1994, my 1990 edition of Marshall's unpublished paper on the *History and Method of Economics* (circa 1870), both of which supplement John Whitaker's major edition of Marshall's *Early Economic Writings*. Other items have been or are about to be added to Marshall's oeuvre in print. *Economics of Industry*, jointly written with his wife, was reprinted in 1994 with a new introduction by Denis O'Brien. During 1996 Cambridge University Press is publishing two further additions to Marshall's works. Most important of these is the three volume editions of Marshall's correspondence (and associated material) by John Whitaker which contains well over 1100 letters to and from Marshall, many for the first time. The second is a supplement to Marshall's *Official Papers* as edited by Keynes in 1926. It prints his evidence before the Committee on Higher Education in Wales and Monmouthshire, material from the Labour Commission, a piece for the Gold and Silver Commission omitted by Keynes, and, by way of an Appendix, the Treasury Memorandum on the Fiscal Policy of International Trade, wrongly attributed to Alfred Marshall by John Wood. Under the imprint of its 'Early Responses' series, Routledge has a Marshall reader in preparation covering biographical material, largely from obituaries; a number of infrequently reprinted articles of which Marshall's 1885 address to the Industrial Remuneration Conference is the more important; and a substantial number of reviews, drawn largely from newspapers, of many Marshall publications including his major books. By the turn of the new century, the 'sage' of Balliol Croft will therefore come close to achieving what he himself probably never wanted, a collected works of his published and 'unpublished' letters and papers.

The contents of the book under review presents the thoughts of Alfred Marshall, the young Cambridge radical and friend of the working class. Although there is a good rectangular area of red on the front cover, adjoining the photographs of Alfred and Mary, this work is not to be compared with the famous little red book of chairman Mao. However, like the latter, Marshall vintage 1873-74 can yield a number of quotable quotes and received some inspiration and instruction from the work of Karl Marx through its use of the first German edition of *Capital*. Some examples:

'To educate at the cost of [the] State will pay' (p. 140).

'Why not make every man a Gentleman? Every woman a Lady?' (p. 141).

'Trades Unions not the authors of the strike movement. The worst strikes occurred in Belgium when there were no Unions.' (p. 141).

'A high educated, mentally, morally, aesthetically cultured staff of strong emotion joy imparting beings [sic] exists in the ladies of modern civilisation.' (p. 148)

These are the words of a Marshall who during these years was tramping the Cambridge country-side addressing rural workers on the wage question and sought to organise them into trade unions. Theory and practice combined in this young radical don. It is also the Marshall who by then was assiduously reading the major texts of German socialism to benefit from their overriding humanity, drawn more from the works of Lassalle than from Marx and mixed in with large doses of Christian socialism learnt through his association with F.D. Maurice and Robert Ludlow. And it was the Marshall eager to help women to education at university, paying for a substantial prize to encourage their study of political economy at the Cambridge Higher Local Examinations, and lecturing them to prepare them for a Tripos or, as vividly illustrated in this book, to urge them to do good beyond the immediate family circle by going into the wider community. Marshall the agitator for rural trade unions therefore joins Marshall the admirer of the Charity Organisation Society dedicated to self help rather than alms giving, and the devotee of the thoughts of Octavia Hill on a joyful and socially responsible economy.

Marshall's Lectures to Women (and other essays) therefore enables the study of the young, radical neo-liberal Marshall from several perspectives. His rhetoric exhorting good works from, and expositing good political economy to, Cambridge middle class women can be compared with his appeals on behalf of working class improvement to the middle class men at the Cambridge Reform Club and with his reflections on sound political economy for socialist workers in the pages of their *Bee Hive*. Readers are aided in such an appraisal by the introductory essays from the editors on method, on the contemporary political background in England and on the nineteenth century quest for higher education for women. More generally, they are encouraged to do so by Becattini's enthusiastic preface which recalls his own impressions of the book's major text. The latter can also be studied as a comparison between the receptiveness of a member of the audience (admittedly a particularly skilled one) and the intentions of the lecturer, since the lectures to women are reprinted from both the notes taken by Mary Paley as one of the audience and from the (much briefer) notes used by the already practised lecturer of five years' standing. In this way, the book provides 'noble sources of joy' to the Marshall scholar and admirer, as Marshall himself had urged on his female audience by way of a positive rebuke to those like Carlyle who saw political economy as the 'dismal science'. The optimistic zeal (and faith) for reform and working class improvement which characterise all three reprinted pieces supplement the better known mature Marshall of the eighth edition of the *Principles* in a fascinating way. They also remind of the wide duties of the academic economist in an era of social and political turmoil. The book should therefore be in every good university library and on the book shelf of all devoted Marshall scholars.