

Book Review

Ute Lampalzer, "...die ökonomische Theorie in einen breiteren philosophischen Rahmen stellen...". *Das Lebenswerk von Louise Sommer (1889-1964)*. Marburg: Metropolis Verlag, 2014, 358pp. ISBN 978-3-7316-1113-4[Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Ökonomie, Bd. 45].

The author of this book has been highly successful in researching primary sources and developing upon them particular attention to the historical aspects of the construction of the life of a prominent German-speaking economist, who was born in Vienna, in 25.1.1889, studied in Vienna and Basel, Switzerland, where she held her Ph.D. in 1921, taught in Geneva (1926-1946) and in USA (1946-1964), with an interruption again in Geneva (1955-1961), and was famous in the English-speaking economic community with her excellent translation of Bernoulli's (1738) paradox of St. Petersburg in 1954. He died in USA in 1964.

The Contents (pp. v-vi) are giving an overview of the volume. The Preface (Vorwort) gives the innovative character of the book. The extensive first chapter, Kapitel 1: Einleitung (Introduction)(pp. 17-22) describes the content of each chapter. The book consists of six chapters.

Chapter 2 entitled «Biografische Hintergründe und intellektuelle Einflüsse» (pp. 23-72) consists of two separate sections. The author describes very extensively Sommer's studies and the influences on her from her professors and academic teachers. The author analyzes three main categories of works: First of all Sommer's contribution to History of Economic Thought. This is the subject of Chapter 3 entitled «Louise Sommers Arbeiten zur wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Theoriegeschichte» (pp. 73-152), which consists of three sections. The author points out that Sommer's magnificent dissertation on the Austrian cameralists is of great value until today.

The second category of Sommer's contribution is Methodology and this subject deserves attention. This is the subject of Chapter 4 entitled «Louise Sommers Arbeiten zu Methodenfragen in den Wirtschaftswissenschaften» (pp. 153-210), which consists of three sections.

The third category of Sommer's contribution is her study on commercial policy, an issue, which has been discussed in detail in Chapter 5 entitled «Louise Sommers Arbeiten zur Handelspolitik» (pp. 211-267), which consists of four sections.

Chapter 6 as Fazit (pp. 269-284) gives an overview of the contents of the book and summarizes the results of the research.

There are Appendices (pp. 285-319) and an analytical table (pp. 320-321), which recapitulates Sommer's life. There is an analytic, well-ordered and carefully organized Bibliography (Literaturverzeichnis) (pp. 323-353), which

is divided into five Parts: First, non edited sources (pp. 323-326), second nomographs (p.327), third, articles of Louise Sommer (pp. 327-329), fourth, reviews of her (pp. 329-331) and fifth translations (p. 331) of her. There is a Secondary Literature (pp. 331-353). A well prepared Index (pp. 355-358) accompanies this well-prepared and weighty edition.

It is evident that Louise Sommer was famous in the German – speaking world on behalf of her Ph.D. thesis on the Austrian cameralists, whereas she made famous in the English-speaking world on behalf of her translation of Bernoulli's work (1738) from Latin in English. The author rightly underlines this fact and emphasizes Sommer's contribution on Bernoulli. The author failed to recognize that Bernoulli's work was known between the economists much earlier. The work has been translated in German in 1794 without the mathematical apparatus (Giocoli 1998, p.9, not.3). I would like to remind that the German F. B. W. Hermann (1795-1868) was the first economist, who recognized and cited Bernoulli (1832, p. 73, not.), although there has been proved (cf. Faccarello 1990, p. 98; Giocoli 1998, pp. 7-43) that Condorcet used in 1793 Bernoulli's work.

The contribution of Metropolis Verlag is also to be praised, in that the publisher has decisively contributed in the research work done in connection of the German economic thought.

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