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HOW TO DEAL WITH SOUND ARCHIVES? DILEMMAS ON THE TECHNICAL PRESERVATION OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Verena Alberti

The text will discuss the main problems nowadays involved in the preservation of oral history archives and will point out possible solutions. One of the greatest dilemma is the disappearance of analogical magnetic tape recorders and the doubts about the longevity of digital technology. The discussion will be based in the study of the specialized literature and the observation of some practices on radio and TV.

ONE DOESN'T SPEAK OF THIS. METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LIMITS AND THE SILENCE IN INTERVIEWS OF FAMILIES OF DISSAPEARED POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

Ludmila da Silva Catela

The interview generates a relationship of trust based on the bonds established between the narrator and the listener. This trust can be built upon various elements, ranging from friendship or empathy to formal or conventional links between the persons concerned. The various forms of personalized interaction generated by this situation undergo a change in front of the possibility that what has been “said” might be exposed in written form in the public sphere. Not everything that was said in the interview can cross this social limit. This methodological problem comes to light with all its richness of nuances in the case of testimonies related with extreme experiences engendered by political violence. The article, based on a series of interviews with relatives of victims of “political disappearances” in the city of La Plata (Argentina), analyses the relationship between many silences and boundaries, and the various generations “talking about the subject”, public versions of events, legitimized voices, group membership, and the emotions and feelings unleashed by the interview itself in the family circle. This methodological analysis opens the way for a reflection on a field where “the unsaid”, “what has been censured” or “corrected” is closely linked with the meaning attached to the passage from private talk to the public sphere, where social, cultural and political conditionings interfere with the expression of the individuals’ singular histories and their identities.

PRIVATE DIARY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND ORAL SOURCES: THE PATH OF PIERRE DEFFONTAINES

Marieta de Moraes Ferreira

The work proposes to discuss the possibilities presented by the use of Pierre Deffontaines' private diary, his autobiography and the oral testimonies of his descendants on the life history of the French geographer, and the characteristics of this approach.

The basic idea is to analyze the points of convergence and memory conflicts revealed by the three different kinds of sources and their meaning in terms of understanding the intellectual trajectory of Deffontaines'. A member of two French university missions sent to Brazil in the 30's, and which spawned the History and Geography courses both at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) and the University of Distrito Federal (UDF) Brasilia, Deffontaines played a protagonist role in cultural relations between France and Brazil.

MEMORY AND HISTORICAL CONSCIENCE

Eugenia Meyer

The tasks facing the historian oblige him to reassess the *raison d'être* of his calling, and the instruments to which he has recourse when he goes about creating the sources which will allow him to embark on the processes of analysis and interpretation. In a world which is in thrall to communications, technology and cybernetics, a close, almost complicit, link will have to be forged with archivists, those natural guardians of the treasure trove with which we historians work. Thus is recollection, the mainstay of history, rescued and retrieved in documents, whether personal, social, or official, in pictures both still and moving, and thus are voices transmuted into priceless, irreplaceable testimonies, in order to build manifold, plural, historical accounts.

POLITICAL ROLE-TAKING AND REJECTION AMONG THE CHILDREN OF THOSE CONDEMNED AFTER THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Adrienne Molnár

The article sums up how by now middle aged people, whose father was executed or imprisoned for their political engagement after the suppression of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, think about politics and participation in political life by means of forty three interviews made during the research on the "Second generation of 56-ers". They were stigmatized and discriminated by the powerholders, they grew up among taboos which had great impact on how they adapted themselves into society. Most of them, both in childhood and in adulthood, have refused participation in political life because of the former official setting and the family atmosphere which taught to avoid conflicts. Responsibility for the others, participation in public and political life have been values only in some families of intellectuals. Their attitude towards politics has five categories: 1/ bitter, withdrawn; 2/ grumbling, rebelling, lonely; 3/ public life actor who avoids engagement in official; 4/ the eternal dissident and finally 5/ the real politician.

REMEMBERING TO FORGET: SABBATEANISM, NATIONAL IDENTITY AND SUBJECTIVITY IN TURKEY

Leyla Neyzi

This article concerns Sabbateanism, which refers to the followers of Sabbatai Sevi, a Jewish rabbi from Izmir (Smyrna) who declared himself the messiah in the 17th century. Of Jewish origin, Sevi's followers maintained a Muslim identity in public and a Sabbatean identity in private in their base in Salonica. Descendants of Sabbatean community of Ottoman Salonica now live mostly in Turkey, in the city of Istanbul. In this article, I will argue that Sabbatean identity is a useful vantage point through which to examine the contradictions and limits of national identity in Turkey. The case of Sabbateanism in Republican Turkey points up the Janus-faced character of Turkish national identity: while Kemalism - centered on the cult of personality of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey- was based on modernist values predicated on a rejection of tradition, Turkishness continued to be defined vis-à-vis Sunni Muslim heritage identified with an imagined Turkish ethnicity. In this article, I will use the life history narrative of Fatma Arig, a woman of Sabbatean heritage, to examine the consequences for subjectivity of the attempt to create a new basis for individual identity in Republican Turkey. I will show that the rejection of the past resulted in a potential conflict between family identity and national identity on the part of individuals. As Arig's narrative shows, in Sabbatean families, parents colluded in this process of erasure by emphasizing their Kemalist heritage while suppressing the Sabbatean past -it was those with multiple identities who felt the most pressure to perform a singular identity. Despite widespread political polarization, the turn to the past in Turkish society suggests the emergence of a new subjectivity (and demands for a new concept of citizenship) predicated upon having a personal history which necessitates the public acknowledgement of a plural cultural heritage.

THE CENTURY SPEAKS: MILLENNIUM ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Robert Perks

In 1998-1999 BBC local radio stations across Britain joined forces with the British Library National Sound Archive to create a powerful record of the twentieth century through the voices of thousands of people from all walks of life. It was the largest project in the history of both radio and oral history in Britain. 640 radio programmes and 5429 interviews have now been deposited at the British Library as the Millennium Memory Bank and will be accessible online late in 2000. This article explores the origins and challenges of the project.

NON S'È PRESENTANTO NESSUNO: I DUE GIORNI DEI DEPORTATI EBREI ROMANI AL COLLEGIO MILITARE DI PIAZZA DELLA ROVERE

Alessandro Portelli

After the SS raided the Jews from the ghetto of Rome on October 16, they were held for two and a half days in a building close to the Vatican. This interval in time and this marginal place have been almost erased from historical memory, but they remain as a site of memory for the Jewish community. The fact that the Jews were held so long and so close to the Vatican raises the question of whether the Catholic Church might have done more it did in order to stop the deportation. The episode also reveals the complexities of the Church's role as an institution bent on saving itself, as a local institution (the Pope as a bishop of Rome), and as an institution that claims universal functions, values, and jurisdiction.

THE SILENCE OF WAR RAPE

Riki Van Boeschoten

We have been long aware that silences can be more revealing than words, but our understanding of how long kept secrets can be suddenly verbalized in the course of our interviews is still underresearched. This article dealt with the traumas produced by war rapes. Using the Bosnian context as a background, it examines why a Macedonian woman, who was raped in the Greek Civil War, decided to break her 50-year old secret in the course of an interview. Three factors appear to have played an important role in the process: the status of the interviewers, the timing of the interview and the way in which this interview linked up with the rape victim's own strategies to deal with past trauma.