

E.M. Jellinek at 125: The past as prologue?

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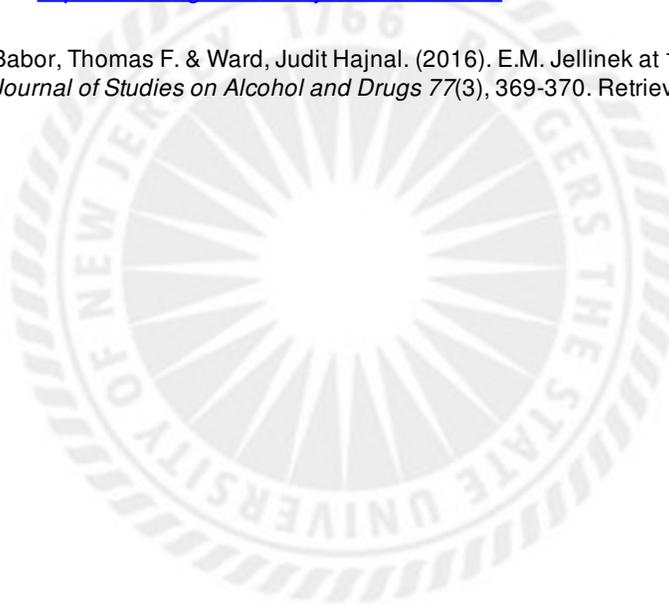
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EM Jellinek at 125: The Past as Prologue?

Thomas F. Babor and Judit Ward

This issue of the Journal contains several commemorative features that draw attention to E. M. Jellinek, one of the most influential personalities in the field of alcohol studies.

There are many truisms about the past. Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it (Santayana); study the past if you would define the future (Confucius), the past ain't what it used to be (Yogi Berra). Suffice it to say that each generation needs to reintroduce itself to its roots. In the case of EM Jellinek, the past is not only a rich intellectual journey to be revisited often, it is also a personal history that reflects the kind of people who are attracted to an academic field that seeks to understand one of life's great mysteries.

This issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* contains several commemorative features that draw attention to one of the most influential personalities in the field of alcohol studies. The first feature is a bibliography that adds to our knowledge about Jellinek by documenting his prodigious scholarly work in Europe and North America prior to his engagement in alcohol studies. In the process of preparing materials for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of his birth, the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies rediscovered a historical collection of Jellinek's contributions to alcohol science, much of which had not been touched since 1967. Further bibliographic research in several languages revealed publications not included in the two prior bibliographies, one compiled in 1966 (Bibliography, 1966), the second in 1970 (Popham, 1970). Both lists started in 1940, when Jellinek was already 50 years old. Both were found to be incomplete and inadequate, not only in terms of numbers, but also in terms of their accuracy. The end result is a new, more complete Jellinek bibliography; published online as a supplement to this issue of JSAD to provide scholars with a more accurate account of his scholarship (Ward & Bejarano, 2016).

The second feature is a pair of virtual online collections in celebration of Jellinek's 125th anniversary, or Quasquicentennial. They have been created to keep the Jellinek legacy alive by sharing his seminal publications, one for the more general readership of JSAD, the other for historians and other scholars. The first "Bunky Bundle" is a compendium of Jellinek's most influential publications selected because of their high citation counts and subsequent popularity. Most of the articles were published in the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. The "Top Ten" collection includes Jellinek's ten most noteworthy publications, such as his two "Phases" articles and the four most famous "Jubilee articles," republished in the "Jellinek Jubilee" volume of QJSA celebrating the 70th anniversary of his birth. Alcohol history aficionados will appreciate "Effects of alcohol on the individual: Review of the literature of 1939," an outcome of a research project funded by a Carnegie Corporation grant to collect and organize the existing scientific alcohol literature.

Several of the articles are related to Jellinek's seminal contributions to the history and infrastructure of addiction science. For example, disseminating this collection would not have been possible without the The Abstract Archive of the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, the first attempt to create an addiction database, albeit in print, which also preserved the bibliographic records and full texts of most articles written about alcohol in the first half of the 20th century. Another article, "The first (1943) Summer Session of the School of Alcohol Studies, Yale University," directed by Jellinek, laid the foundations of education and training in modern day addiction science. Treatment-related articles

complete the list of the famous five pillars of Alcohol Studies at Yale and currently at Rutgers University. A pioneer in health communication to a variety of readers, Jellinek found his way to popular audiences via an entire series of Lay Supplements. The four editions of his “Alcohol, cats and people” indicate that he discovered the modern-day use of cat pictures prior to its going viral in social media. The “Bunky Bundle” will be a great addition to the available full-text Jellinek publications, complementing his best known book title, “The disease concept of alcoholism,” published at the Center of Alcohol Studies in 1960.

The third Jellinek feature published in this issue is a kaleidoscope of information about his remarkable life. Most of this biographical material was first published by the journal’s parent organization, the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies, in a special issue of its Information Services Newsletter in 2015 (Ward & Bejarano, 2015) to commemorate the anniversary along with launching a memorial web site (E. M. Jellinek, 2015). The aims of our condensation and adaptation of the Newsletter pieces are to present a sketch of Jellinek’s colorful personality and exceptional scholarship. As one of the founding scholars of this journal, and the author of some of the most seminal books and papers in the field, his life and works should hold a special interest for JSAD and its readers.

E. M. Jellinek was more than a key figure in the emergence of “a new scientific approach to alcohol” in post-Repeal America. According to Ron Roizen (2014, p. 78), he “saw ‘the big picture’ regarding what was necessary to establish a beachhead for mainstream science’s cultural ‘ownership’ of the nation’s alcohol-related concerns” in the period following the repeal of Prohibition in the USA. More than that, he brought the perspective of a Central European émigré to academic life in the USA. He was a man who experienced the First World War firsthand, studied in several European universities, learned to speak many languages, worked in Africa, Central America, Europe, and North America, and through force of intellect and personality, helped to define a new discipline.

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