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Problems in General Linguistics

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at Lemnos, where I brought you the price of a hundred oxen' Exarthybour $\delta \acute{\varepsilon}$ toi $\tilde{\eta}\lambda \phi ov$ (Il. 21. 79). About a little slave who is offered for sale: 'he will bring you a thousand times his price' δ δ $\delta \mu iv$ $\mu volor$ $\tilde{\omega}vor$ $\tilde{\alpha}\lambda \phi oi$ (Od. 4. 453). Melantheus threatens to sell Eumaeus from Ithaca 'so that he will bring me a good living' $\tilde{l}va$ μoi $\beta lotor$ $\pi o\lambda \acute{v}r$ $\tilde{\alpha}\lambda \phi oi$ (Od. 17. 250), and the suitors invite Telemachus to sell his guests at the market in Sicily 'where they will bring you a good price' $\delta \theta ev$ $\kappa \acute{e}$ toi $\tilde{\alpha} \xi iov$ $\tilde{\alpha} \lambda \phi oi$ (Od. 20. 383). There is no variation in the meaning of the verb and the full force of it is found in the epithet that describes maidens: $\pi \alpha \varrho \theta \acute{e} voi$ $\tilde{\alpha} \lambda \varphi e \sigma l \beta oi$ they 'bring in oxen' for their father who gives them in marriage.

"Value" is characterized, in its ancient expression, as a "value of exchange" in the most material sense. It is the value of exchange that a human body possesses which is delivered up for a certain price. This "value" assumes its meaning for whoever disposes of a human body, whether it is a daughter to marry or a prisoner to sell. There we catch a glimpse, in at least one part of the Indo-European domain, of the very concrete origin of a notion connected to certain institutions in a society based on slavery.

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The Notion of "Rhythm" in its Linguistic Expression

IT MIGHT BE THE TASK of a psychology of movements and gestures to make a parallel study of the terms that denote them and the psychological phenomena that they express, the meaning inherent in the terms, and the often very different mental associations that they awaken. The notion of "rhythm" is one of the ideas that affect a large portion of human activities. Perhaps it even serves to distinguish types of human behaviour, individual and collective, inasmuch as we are aware of durations and the repetitions that govern them, and also when, beyond the human sphere, we project a rhythm into things and events. This vast unification of man and nature under time, with its intervals and repetitions, has had as a condition the use of the word itself, the generalization, in the vocabulary of modern Western thought, of the term rhythm, which comes to us through Latin from Greek.

In Greek itself, in which $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ does indeed designate rhythm, where does the notion come from and what does it properly mean? An identical answer is given by all the dictionaries: $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ is an abstract noun from $\delta\epsilon \bar{v}v$ 'to flow,' the sense of the word, according to Boisacq, having been borrowed from the regular movements of the waves of the sea. This is what was taught more than a century ago, at the beginnings of comparative grammar, and it is what is still being repeated. And what, really, could be more simple and satisfying? Man has learned the principles of things from nature, and the movement of the waves has given rise in his mind to the idea of rhythm, and that primordial discovery is inscribed in the term itself.

There is no morphological difficulty in connecting $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ to $\delta \epsilon \omega$ by means of a derivation which we shall have to consider in detail. But the semantic connection that has been established between "rhythm" and "to flow" by the intermediary of the "regular movement of the waves" turns out to be impossible as soon as it is examined. It suffices to observe that $\delta \epsilon \omega$ and all its nominal derivatives ($\delta \epsilon \tilde{v} \mu \alpha$, $\delta \circ \eta$, $\delta \circ \circ \varsigma$, $\delta v \delta \varsigma$, $\delta v \tau \circ \varsigma$) are exclusively indicative of the notion of 'to flow,' but that the sea does not "flow." ' $P \epsilon \tilde{v} v$ is never said of the sea, and moreover, $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ is never used for the movement of the waves.

The terms which depict this movement are entirely different: $\[\tilde{a}\mu\pi\omega\tau\iota\varsigma, \delta\alpha\chi la, \pi\lambda\eta\mu\nu\varrho l\varsigma, \sigma\alpha\lambda\epsilon\dot{\nu}\epsilon\iota\nu. \]$ Conversely, what flows, $\delta\epsilon\tilde{\iota}$, is the river or the stream, and a current of water does not have "rhythm." If $\delta\nu\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ means 'flux, flowing,' it is hard to see how it could have taken on the value proper to the word "rhythm." There is a contradiction of meaning between $\delta\epsilon\tilde{\iota}\nu$ and $\delta\nu\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$, and we cannot extricate ourselves from the difficulty by imagining—and this is a pure invention—that $\delta\nu\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ could have described the movement of the waves. What is more, $\delta\nu\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ in its most ancient uses never refers to flowing water, and it does not even mean "rhythm." This whole interpretation rests on the wrong premises.

It is clearly necessary, in order to reconstruct a history which was less simple but which is also more instructive, to begin by establishing the authentic meaning of the word $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ and by describing its use at its origins, which go very far back. It is absent from the Homeric poems. It is especially to be found in the Ionian authors and in lyric and tragic poetry, then in Attic prose, especially in the philosophers.¹

It is in the vocabulary of the ancient Ionian philosophy that we may apprehend the specific value of $\delta v \theta \mu \delta c$, and most particularly among the creators of atomism, Leucippus and Democritus. These philosophers made $\delta v \theta u \delta c (\delta v \sigma u \delta c)^2$ into a technical term, one of the key words of their teaching, and Aristotle, thanks to whom several citations from Democritus have come down to us, transmitted its exact meaning to us. According to him, the fundamental relationships among bodies are established by their mutual differences, and these differences come down to three: δυσμός, διαθυγή, γροπή, which Aristotle interprets thus: διαφέρειν γάρ φασι τὸ ὄν δυσμῷ καὶ διαθιγή καὶ τροπή τούτων δ' δ μὲν δυσμὸς σχήμά εστιν, ή δὲ διαθιγή τάξις, ή δὲ τροπή θέσις. Things are differentiated by $\delta v \sigma \mu \delta c$, by $\delta \iota \alpha \theta \iota \gamma \dot{\eta}$, and by $\tau \rho o \pi \eta$; the $\delta v \sigma \mu \delta \varsigma$ is the $\sigma \chi \tilde{\eta} \mu \alpha$ ('form'), the $\delta \iota \alpha \theta \iota \gamma \eta$ ('contact') is the $\tau \dot{\alpha} \xi \iota \varsigma$ ('order'), and the $\tau \rho \rho \pi \eta$ ('turn') is the $\theta \epsilon \sigma \iota c$ ('position') (Metaph. 985b 4). It is clear from this important passage that $\delta v \sigma \mu \delta \zeta$ means $\delta \chi \tilde{\eta} \mu \alpha$ ('form'), which is confirmed by Aristotle by what follows in the passage, in an example borrowed from Leucippus. He illustrates these three notions by applying them respectively to the "form," "order," and "position" of the letters of the alphabet: A differs from N by the $\sigma_{\gamma}\tilde{\eta}_{\mu}\alpha$ (or $\delta v\sigma_{\mu}\delta_{\zeta}$), AN differs from NA by the $\tau \dot{\alpha} \dot{\xi} \iota \zeta$, and I differs from H by the $\theta \dot{\varepsilon} \sigma \iota \zeta$.

Let us hold on to the idea suggested by this passage that $\delta v \sigma \mu \delta \zeta$ is the equivalent of $\sigma \chi \tilde{\eta} \mu a$. Between A and N, the actual difference is one of "form" or "configuration": two of the strokes are identical— Λ —and only the third is different, being interior in A and exterior in N. And it is indeed in the sense of "form" that Democritus always uses $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$. He wrote a treatise $\Pi \varepsilon \rho l \tau \tilde{\omega} v \delta \iota \alpha \varphi \varepsilon \rho \delta v \tau \omega v \delta v \sigma \mu \tilde{\omega} v$, which means 'on the variety of form (of

atoms).' His doctrine taught that water and air, $\delta v\theta\mu\tilde{\omega}$ $\delta\iota\alpha\varphi\acute{e}\rho\epsilon\iota v$, differ from each other in the form that their constituent atoms take. Another citation from Democritus shows that he also applied $\delta v \theta \mu \delta c$ to the form of institutions: οὐδεμία μηχανή τῷ νῦν καθεστῶτι ρυθμῷ μή οὐκ ἀδικεῖν τοὺς ἄρχοντας 'there is no way, in the present form (of the constitution) to prevent rulers from committing injustice. The verbs $\delta v \sigma \mu \tilde{\omega}$, $\mu \epsilon \tau a \rho \rho v \sigma \mu \tilde{\omega}$, $\mu \epsilon \tau a \rho \rho v \sigma \mu \ell \zeta \omega$ to form' or 'to transform' proceed from this same meaning, in the physical or moral sense: ἀνοήμονες ὁνσμοῦνταῖ τοῖς τῆς τύχης κέφδεσιν, οἱ δὲ τῶν τοιώνδε δαήμονες τοῖς τῆς σοφίης 'fools are formed by the acquisitions of chance; but men who know [what] these acquisitions [are worth], by those of wisdom'; $\dot{\eta}$ $\delta\iota\delta\alpha\chi\dot{\eta}$ $\mu\epsilon\tau\alpha\rho\nu\sigma\mu$ $\delta\iota$ $\dot{\tau}\dot{\sigma}\nu$ $\dot{\alpha}\nu\theta\rho\omega\pi\sigma\nu$ 'instruction transforms man'; $\dot{a}v\dot{a}\gamma \kappa\eta$. . . τὰ σχήματα μεταρρυθμίζεσθαι 'it is indeed necessary that the σχήματα change in form (in order to pass from angular to round).' Democritus also uses the adjective ἐπιρρύσμιος, whose meaning can now be corrected; it is not "courant, qui se répand" (Bailly) or "adventitious" (Liddell-Scott), but 'possessing a form': ἐτεῆ ουδὲν ἴσμεν περὶ οὐδενός, ἀλλ' ἐπιρουσμίη εκάστοισιν ή δόξις 'we have no genuine knowledge of anything, but everyone gives a form to his belief' (= lacking knowledge of anything, everyone makes up his own opinion about everything).

Accordingly, there is no variation, no ambiguity in the meaning that Democritus assigns to $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \varsigma$, and this is always 'form,' understood as the distinctive form, the characteristic arrangement of the parts in a whole. This point being established, there is no difficulty in confirming it by the total number of ancient examples. Let us first consider the word in Ionian prose. It is found once in Herodotus (5. 58), along with the verb μεταρουθμίζω. in a passage which is particularly interesting because it deals with the "form" of the letters of the alphabet: ("The Greeks borrowed the letters of their writing from the Phoenicians";) μετὰ δὲ χρόνου προβαίνοντος ἄμα τῆ φωνῆ μετέβαλον καὶ τὸν δοθμὸν τῶν γραμμάτων 'as time passed, at the same time that they changed their language, the Cadmeans also changed the form (δυθμός) of the characters'; οί παραλαβόντες ("Ιωνες) διδαχή παρά τῶν Φοινίκων τὰ γράμματα, μεταρροθμίσαντές σφεων δλίγα ἐγρέωντο 'the Ionians borrowed letters from the Phoenicians through instruction, and used them after having transformed (μεταρρυθμίσαντες) them a little.' It is not chance that Herodotus used $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ for the 'form' of letters at almost the same period that Leucippus, as we have just seen, was defining this word by using the very same example. This is proof of an even more ancient tradition that applied $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ to the configuration of the signs of writing. The word remained in use among the authors of the Corpus Hippocraticum, and with the same sense. One of them prescribes, for the treatment of clubfoot, the use of a small leaden boot, 'in the form of the ancient sandals of Chios' (olive al. 284

χῖαι κρηπίδες ἐνθμὸν εἶχον). From ἐνθμός, come the compounds ὁμόρρυσμος, ὁμοιόρρυσμος 'of the same form,' ὁμορρυσμίη 'resemblance' (Hip. 915h, 916b), εὐρρυσμός 'of a beautiful form, elegant,' etc.

If we now turn to the lyric poets, it is even earlier, as early as the seventh century, that we see the appearance of δυσμός. It is taken, like σχῆμα οτ τρόπος, as defining the individual and distinctive 'form' of the human character. Archilochus counsels, "do not boast of your victories in public and do not collapse at home in order to weep over your defeats; rejoice at reasons for joy and do not exacerbate yourself unduly over evils; γίγνωσκε δ'ολος δυσμός ἀνθρώπους ἔχει 'learn to know the dispositions which men have' "
(2. 400. Bergk). In Anacreon, the δυσμοί are also particular 'forms' of mood or character: ἐγὼ δὲ μισέω πάντας ὅσοι σκολιοὺς ἔχουσι ξυσμοὺς καὶ χαλεπούς (fr. 74. 2), and Theognis counts δυθμός among man's distinctive traits: μήποτ' ἐπαινήσης ποὶν ἀν εἰδῆς ἄνδρα σαφηνῶς ὀργὴν καὶ ξυθμὸν καὶ τρόπον ὅντιν' ἔχει 'never praise a man before knowing clearly his feelings, his disposition (ψυσμός), his character' (964). Let us add here Theocritus: 'Αντονόας δοθμὸς ωὐτος 'the attitude of Autonoë was the same' (26. 23).

Among the tragedians, $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ and the verbs derived from it invariably maintain the same sense as in all the texts cited: ἐν τριγώνοις ὁνθμοῖς 'in a triangular form,' in a fragment of Aeschylus (fr. 78 N²); νηλεῶς ὧδ' ἐρούθισμαι 'a pitiless fate has made my present form (= condition)' (Prom. 243); πόρον μετερρύθμιζε '(Xerxes, in his madness,) wanted to transform a strait' (Pers. 747); μονορρύθμοι δόμοι 'a dwelling arranged for one person' (Suppl. 961).6 The use of $\delta v \theta \mu l \zeta \omega$ in Sophocles is very instructive (Antig. 318): to the guard whom Creon has commanded to be quiet because his voice makes him suffer and who asks him, "Is it in your ears or in your soul that my voice makes you suffer?" Creon replies, τί δὲ δυθμίξεις τὴν ἐμὴν λύπην ὅπου 'why do you picture the location of my grief?' Here is the exact sense of $\delta v \theta \mu l \zeta \omega$ 'to give a form,' and the scholiast correctly renders $\delta v \theta \mu l \zeta \epsilon w$ by $\sigma \chi \eta \mu \alpha \tau l \zeta \epsilon w$, διατοποῦν 'to picture, to localize.' Euripides speaks of the $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \zeta$ of a garment, of its distinctive 'form' (δυθμὸς πέπλων, Heracl. 130); of the 'modality' of a murder (τρόπος καὶ ἀνθμὸς φόνον, El. 772); of the 'distinctive mark' of mourning (δυθμός κακῶν, Suppl. 94); he uses εὐρύθμως 'in a suitable fashion,' for the arrangement of a bed (Cycl. 563) and ἄρρυθμος for a 'disproportionate' passion (Hipp. 529).

This meaning of $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ persists in the Attic prose of the fifth century. Xenophon (Mem. 3. 10. 10) makes $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ ('proportion') the quality of a fine cuirass, which he qualifies by $\epsilon v \theta \mu \delta\varsigma$ (of a beautiful form.' In Plato one finds, among others, the $\delta v \theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ the 'balanced state' between opulence and poverty (Laws 728e), and expressions like $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta \epsilon v \tau \delta \pi \alpha \iota \delta v \delta \delta$ to form a young favorite' (Phaedr. 253b), $\mu \epsilon \tau \alpha \rho \varrho v \theta \mu \delta \zeta \epsilon v \delta \delta v$ 'reproduce the form,'

in speaking of the images which mirrors reflect (Tim. 46a); this same verb μεταρονθμίζειν has the moral sense of 'to reform (the character)' in Xenophon (Econ. 11. 2. 3). And Aristotle himself invented ἀρρύθμιστος 'not reduced to a form, amorphous' (Metaph. 1014b, 27).

We must limit ourselves here to this almost exhaustive list of examples. The citations suffice amply to establish: (1) that $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ never meant 'rhythm' from the earliest use down to the Attic period; (2) that it was never applied to the regular movement of the waves; (3) that its constant meaning is 'distinctive form, proportioned figure, arrangement, disposition' in conditions of use which are otherwise extremely varied. Similarly the derivatives or compounds, nominal or verbal, of $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ never refer to anything but the notion of "form." Such was the exclusive meaning of $\delta v\theta \mu \delta \varsigma$ in all types of writings down to the period at which we halted our citations.

Having established this meaning, we can and must determine it precisely. There are other expressions in Greek for 'form': σχημα, μορφή, εἶδος, etc., among which $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ should be distinguished in some way, better than our translation can indicate. The very structure of the word $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ should be investigated. We can now profitably return to etymology. The primary sense, the one which we have just deduced, seems unquestionably to take us far away from "to flow," by which others have explained it. And nevertheless, we shall not lightly abandon a comparison which is morphologically satisfying; the relation of $\delta v\theta\mu\delta c$ to $\delta \delta\omega$ does not in itself give rise to any objection. It is not this derivation itself that we have criticized, but the wrong sense of $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ that was deduced from it. Now we can take up the analysis again. basing it on the corrected meaning. The formation in $-(\theta)\mu\phi c^7$ deserves attention for the special sense it confers upon "abstract" words, It indicates, not the accomplishment of the notion, but the particular modality of its accomplishment as it is presented to the eyes. For example doynous is the act of dancing, δοχηθμός, the particular dance seen as it takes place; γρῆσις is the act of consulting an oracle, yonquoc the particular response obtained from the god; $\theta \dot{\epsilon} \sigma \iota c$ is the act of placing, $\theta \dot{\epsilon} \sigma \iota \iota \dot{c} c$ the particular disposition: στάσις is the state of being in some position (Fr. se tenir), σταθμός the position assumed, whence the balancing of a scale, a stance, etc. This function of the suffix emphasizes the originality of $\delta v\theta \mu \delta c$. But it is especially the meaning of the radical which must be considered. When Greek authors render it is only an approximation. There is a difference between $\sigma \chi \tilde{\eta} \mu \alpha$ and $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$; σχημα in contrast to έγω 'je (me) tiens' (cf. the relation of Lat. habitus to habeo) is defined as a fixed 'form,' realized and viewed in some way as an object. On the other hand, $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$, according to the contexts in which it is given, designates the form in the instant that it is assumed by what is moving,

mobile and fluid, the form of that which does not have organic consistency; it fits the pattern of a fluid element, of a letter arbitrarily shaped, of a robe which one arranges at one's will, of a particular state of character or mood. It is the form as improvised, momentary, changeable. Now, $\delta \varepsilon \tilde{v}$ is the essential predication of nature and things in the Ionian philosophy since Heraclitus, and Democritus thought that, since everything was produced from atoms, only a different arrangement of them produced the difference of forms and objects. We can now understand how δυθμός, meaning literally 'the particular manner of flowing,' could have been the most proper term for describing "dispositions" or "configurations" without fixity or natural necessity and arising from an arrangement which is always subject to change. The choice of a derivative of $\delta e \tilde{\iota} v$ for explaining this specific modality of the "form" of things is characteristic of the philosophy which inspired it; it is a representation of the universe in which the particular configurations of moving are defined as "fluctuations." There is a deep-lying connection between the proper meaning of the term $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$ and the doctrine of which it discloses one of its most original notions.

How then, into this coherent and unvarying semantics of "form" did the notion of "rhythm" thrust itself? Where is its connection with the original concept of $\delta v\theta u\delta \varsigma$? The problem is to understand the conditions that made $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\zeta$ the word suited to express what we understand by "rhythm." These conditions are partially implied in advance by the definition posited above. The modern sense of "rhythm," which indeed existed in Greek itself, came about a priori from a secondary specialization, that of "form" being the only one attested until the middle of the fifth century. This development is really a creation to which we can assign, if not a date, at least a circumstance. It is Plato who determined precisely the notion of "rhythm," by delimiting the traditional value of $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ in a new acceptation. The principal texts in which the notion became fixed must be cited. In the Phileb. (17d), Socrates insists on the importance of intervals ($\delta\iota\alpha\sigma\tau\dot{\eta}\mu\alpha\tau a$), whose characteristics, distinctions, and combinations must be known if one wishes to study music seriously. He says, "Our predecessors taught us to call these combinations 'harmonies'—(άρμονίας); έν τε ταῖς κινήσεσιν αὐ τοῦ σώματος έτερα τοιαῦτα ἐνόντα πάθη γιγνόμενα, ἃ δὴ δι' ἀριθμῶν μετρηθέντα δεῖν αὖ φασὶ ουθμούς καὶ μέτρα ἐπονομάζειν. They also taught us that there occur other analogous qualities, inherent this time in the movements of the body, which are numerically regulated and which must be called rhythms and measures (δυθμούς καὶ μέτρα).' " In the Symposium (187b): Η γὰρ άρμονία συμφωνία ἐστίν, συμφωνία δὲ ὁμολογία τις . . . ὅσπερ γε καὶ ὁ ἑυθμὸς ἐκ τοῦ ταχέος καὶ βραδέος, ἐκ διενηνεγμένων πρότερον, ὕστερον δὲ δμολογη-

σάντων, γέγονε 'Harmony is a consonance, and consonance an accord. . . . It is in the same way that rhythm results from the rapid and the slow, at first contrasted, then in accord,' Finally, in the Laws (665a), he teaches that young people are impetuous and turbulent, but that a certain order $(\tau \dot{\alpha} \xi \iota \zeta)$, a privilege exclusively human, appears in their movements: τῆ δὴ τῆς κινήσεως τάξει ξυθμός ὄνομα εἴη, τῆ δ' αὖ τῆς φωνῆς, τοῦ τ' ὀξέος ἄμα καὶ βαρέος συγκεραννυμένων, άρμονία ὄνομα προσαγορεύοιτο, χορεία δὲ τὸ ξυναμφότερον κληθείη 'This order in the movement has been given the name rhythm, while the order in the voice in which high and low combine is called harmony, and the union of the two is called the choral art.'

The Notion of Rhythm

It can be seen how this definition developed from the traditional meaning and also how that meaning was modified by it. Plato still uses $\delta v\theta \mu \delta c$ in the sense of 'distinctive form, disposition, proportion.' His innovation was in applying it to the form of movement which the human body makes in dancing, and the arrangement of figures into which this movement is resolved. The decisive circumstance is there, in the notion of a corporal $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \zeta$ associated with μέτρον and bound by the law of numbers: that "form" is from then on determined by a "measure" and numerically regulated. Here is the new sense of $\delta v \theta u \delta c$: in Plato, 'arrangement' (the original sense of the word) is constituted by an ordered sequence of slow and rapid movements, just as "harmony" results from the alternation of high and low. And it is the order in movement, the entire process of the harmonious arrangement of bodily attitudes combined with meter, which has since been called $\delta v\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$. We may then speak of the "rhythm" of a dance, of a step, of a song, of a speech, of work, of everything which presupposes a continuous activity broken by meter into alternating intervals. The notion of rhythm is established. Starting from $\delta v\theta u \delta c$, a spatial configuration defined by the distinctive arrangement and proportion of the elements, we arrive at "rhythm," a configuration of movements organized in time: πᾶς δυθμὸς ἀρισμένη μετρεῖται κινήσει 'all rhythm is tempered by a definite movement' (Arist. Probl. 882b. 2).

The history sketched here will assist in the appreciation of the complexity of the linguistic conditions from which the notion of "rhythm" was disengaged. We are far indeed from the simplistic picture that a superficial etymology used to suggest, and it was not in contemplating the play of waves on the shore that the primitive Hellene discovered "rhythm"; it is, on the contrary, we who are making metaphors today when we speak of the rhythm of the waves. It required a long consideration of the structure of things, then a theory of measure applied to the figures of dance and to the modulations of song, in order for the principle of cadenced movement to be recognized and given a name. Nothing is less "natural" than this slow working out, by

the efforts of philosophers, of a notion which seems to us so necessarily inherent in the articulated forms of movement that we have difficulty in believing that people were not aware of it from the very beginning.

From Journal de Psychologie 44 (1951): 401-410

Civilization: A Contribution to the History of the Word

THE WHOLE HISTORY of modern thought and the principal intellectual achievements in the western world are connected with the creation and handling of a few dozen essential words which are all the common possession of the western European languages. We are just beginning to perceive how desirable it would be to describe with precision the genesis of this vocabulary of modern culture. Such a description could only be the sum of many detailed investigations of each of these words in each language. These works are still rare, and those who undertake them feel keenly the scarcity of the most necessary lexical documentation, especially in French.

In a well-known study, Lucien Febvre gave a brilliant sketch of the history of one of the most important terms of our modern lexicon, the word *civilisation*, and the development of the very productive notions attached to it between the end of the eighteenth and the middle of the nineteenth century. He also deplored the difficulties encountered in dating exactly the appearance of the word in French. Precisely because *civilisation* is one of those words which show a new vision of the world, it is important to describe as specifically as possible the conditions under which it was created. The present article, which has as its particular purpose the broadening of the problem and the enrichment of the documentation, will be limited to that early phase of the first uses of the word.

Febvre did not encounter any reliable example of *civilisation* before 1766. A little after the publication of his study, new specific details and earlier examples were contributed on the one hand by Ferdinand Brunot, in a succinct note in his *Histoire de la langue française*, and on the other by Joachim Moras, who devoted a detailed treatise to the notion of civilization in France. To this we can now add still other data encountered in our own reading.

It now appears quite likely that the earliest examples of the word are to be found in the writings of the Marquis de Mirabeau. Today it is hard to imagine the fame and influence of the author of L'Ami des hommes, not only in the circle of the physiocrats, but in the entire intellectual world and for many

7. This meaning of $\delta\omega\tau i\nu\eta$, once fixed, helps to settle a philological problem. We read in Herodotus 6. 89 that the Corinthians, by way of friendship, ceded to the Athenians some ships with the "symbolic" price of five drachmas, 'because their law forbade a completely free gift' δωτίνην (var. δωρέην) γὰρ ἐν τῷ όμω νοὐκ ἐξῆν δοῦναι. The sense of a 'free gift,' which is that of δωρεή, not of δωτίνη, should cause the adoption of the reading δωρεήν of ABCP, in opposition to the editors (Kallenberg, Hude, Legrand) who admit δωτίνην, following DRSV.

8. Cf. Mauss, L'Année sociologique, new series, 1 (1923-1924):38, n. 1.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

1. Most of the references used here are to be found in Lidell-Scott-Jones, s.v., δνθμός. But the different acceptations of ψυθμος in it are arranged almost at random, starting with the meaning of 'rhythm,' and without one's being able to discern the principle of the classification.

2. Between ἐυθμός and ἐυσμός the difference is only dialectal; ἐυσμός is the prevailing form in Ionian. There are many other examples of the coexistence of $-\theta\mu$ oc and

-σμος: cf. Doric τεθμός, Homeric θεσμός; βαθμός and βαδμός etc.

3. These observations are valid for the form of the letters in the archaic alphabets, which we cannot reproduce here. An I is, in effect, a vertical H.

4. The citations from Democritus that follow may easily be found in H. Diels, Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker, rev. W. Kranz (Berlin, 1951-1952), vol. 2.

5. E. Littré, ed., "Des Articulations," Oeuvres complètes de Hippocrate (Paris, 1844),

6. Another example of ἀνθμός in Aeschylus, Choeph. 797, in a very emended text, was

7. For an analysis of the formations in $-\theta\mu\delta\varsigma$, cf. J. Holt, Glotta 27 (1939):182ff; but he does not mention $\delta v \theta \mu \delta \varsigma$.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

1. L. Febvre, "Civilisation. Le mot et l'idée," Publications du Centre International de Synthèse (Paris, 1930), pp. 1-55. Paper read at the Centre de Synthèse in May,

2. F. Brunot, Histoire de la langue française (1930) 6, 1st part: 106. He gives as the first example of the word a passage from Turgot which L. Febvre ("Civilisation,"

pp. 4-5) eliminated as probably belonging to Dupont de Nemours.

3. J. Moras, Ursprung und Entwickelung des Begriffs der Zivilisation in Frankreich (1756-1830), Hamburger Studien zu Volkstum und Kultur der Romanen 6 (Hamburg, 1930).

4. 1814 edition, p. 53, n. 1.

5. This was demonstrated by G. Weulersse, Les Manuscrits économiques de François Quesnay et du marquis de Mirabeau aux Archives nationales (Paris, 1910), pp. 19-20, which shows "that the work was composed entirely, and undoubtedly even printed, in 1756, but it did not appear until 1757."

6. It was not difficult to go back to Mirabeau. This passage is cited in the second edition of the Dictionnaire de Trévoux. The reference now appears in the new edition of O. Bloch and W. von Warburg, Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française (Paris, 1950), but with a wrong date (1755, instead of 1757) and an error in the title of the work (L'Ami de l'homme instead of L'Ami des hommes).

- 7. We do not think it would be of any use to take up again the examples given by J. Moras for Mirabeau or those of the Abbé Baudeau in the Ephémerides du citoven. already cited by L. Febvre and J. Moras.
- 8. Dossier M. 780, no. 3. The manuscript was pointed out by G. Weulersse (Les Manuscrits économiques, p. 3). J. Moras did not make complete use of it.
- 9. The passages in italics are underlined in the original ms.
- 10. It is the only passage cited by Brunot (Histoire) with a different reference (p. 190) which either refers to another edition or is wrong.
- 11. F. Gohin, Les Transformations de la langue française pendant la deuxième moitié du XVIII⁶ siècle (Paris, 1902), pp. 266ff.
- 12. Brunot, Histoire, 6, 2nd part: 1320.
- 13. Gohin, Les Transformations, p. 271.
- 14. Febvre, "Civilisation" pp. 7ff.
- 15. Moras, Ursprung, pp. 34ff.

Notes

- 16. R. Price, Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, the Principles of Government and the Justice and Policy of the War with America (Dublin, 1776), p. 100.
- 17. This translation was only mentioned by Febvre, "Civilisation," pp. 9, 22. In the French translation, it is always civilisation which translates the English word and which is sometimes even employed (p. 154) where the English text has "refinement."
- 18. A French translation, Histoire de la société civile, tr. Bergier, was published in 1783 (the publisher's note states that it was printed almost five years before that date). The translator uses civilisation everywhere. It is even less useful for listing the examples than the French version of Millar's work.
- 19. In any case it is now clear that Boswell, being himself a Scotsman and one who had studied at Edinburgh, had every reason for being familiar in 1772 with a term which Ferguson's courses must have made known.
- 20. Letter cited by Dugald-Stewart in his biography of Adam Smith, published at the beginning of the posthumous collection, Essays on Philosophical Subjects (1795) p. xlvi.