

Part I. THE SCIENTIFIC HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY

The book begins with two chapters that define the terms of the discussion. What does it mean to attain eminence in psychology? How can the history of psychology be subjected to scientific analysis?

Chapter 1. Eminence in Psychology

In this introductory chapter I examine the various ways that individuals can contribute to the emergence of psychology as a science. In particular, it discusses the contributions of philosophers, scientists, and psychologists.

Annin, Boring, Watson (1968)

- initial list of 1040 candidates who (a) had attained some degree of prominence, (b) lived between 1600 and 1967, and (c) who were presumed deceased at the time of the study. rated by a panel of nine distinguished jurors from four countries: Edwin G. Boring (Harvard), Richard J. Herrnstein (Harvard), Ernest R. Hilgard (Stanford), Robert I. Watson (New Hampshire), Michael Wertheimer (Colorado), Robert B. MacLeod (Cornell), Megumi Imada (Kyoto), Paul Fraise (Sorbonne), and Joseph R. Nuttin (Louvain).
- ratings were along a four-point scale, where the highest score should be given to those candidates who would most properly belong among the top 500 most “important psychologists” in the discipline’s history.
- final list of the supposed greats actually contained 538 notables, but that was close enough.
- the 53 that received the highest possible ratings from all 9 raters are shown in Table 1.1.

The 53 Most Highly Rated Important Psychologists, 1600-1967

Domain Individuals

Philosophers: Franz Brentano, René Descartes, John Dewey, G. T. Fechner, J. F. Herbart, David Hume, William James, John Locke, James Mill, J. S. Mill, and Herbert Spencer.

Scientists: V. M. Bekhterev, W. B. Cannon, J. M. Charcot, Charles Darwin, H. L. F. v. Helmholtz, Ewald Hering, I. P. Pavlov, Karl Pearson, C. S. Sherrington, and E. H. Weber.

Psychologists: Alfred Adler, G. W. Allport, J. R. Angell, Alfred Binet, Hermann Ebbinghaus, Sigmund Freud, Francis Galton, G. S. Hall, C. L. Hull, Pierre Janet, C. G. Jung, Wolfgang Köhler, Kurt Koffka, Emil Kraepelin, Oswald Külpe, K. S. Lashley, William McDougall, **C. L. Morgan**, Henri Piéron, E. J. Rubin, C. E. Spearman, Carl Stumpf, L. M. Terman, E. L. Thorndike, L. L. Thurstone, E. B. Titchener, E. C. Tolman, J. B. Watson, Max Wertheimer, R. S. Woodworth, Wilhelm Wundt, and R. M. Yerkes.

Watson and Merrifield (1973):

- only 42% of the 538 luminaries can be considered psychologists in the strictest sense,
- another 6% can be considered psychiatrists,
- and yet another 3% psychoanalysts.
- nearly half of psychology’s history in the hands of notables that might not be considered psychologists, psychiatrists, or psychoanalysts – mostly scientists and philosophers.
- Philosophers (17%), including epistemologists, logicians, and theologians
- Scientists (29%): mainly physiologists (10%), but also biologists, sociologists, physicists, anatomists, anthropologists, neurologists (2% each), astronomer-mathematicians, mathematicians, statisticians, ophthalmologists, chemists, and geneticists (1% each)