

History
Abbott Gleason

September 20, 1978

Upon receiving my request Abbott Gleason called me up immediately. He said he would like to comply but felt that we should sit down and talk about it so as to allow himself to be drawn out. A week later, over kebabs and Bass Ale at Andr  as', he arrived at the following dreams.

1. Heilsgeschichte. History as the road to salvation. The linking of the story of a people with the universal sacred dramas.
2. History as a guide to conduct. The "lessons of history"; the mirror for princes.
3. History as it really was. The total recovery of the past.
 - a) Reconstructing the past (Ranke)
 - b) Reexperiencing or re-enacting the past in one's mind (Dilthey-Croce)
4. History as the ultimate or only explanation of how we come to be as we are. Historicism as organic thinking.
5. History as a science. Laws of history can be discovered and they have the same kind of validity as scientific laws.