

Symposium to honor retirement of history professor H. Stuart Hughes

May 19, 1986

A special symposium to honor University of California, San Diego professor of history H. Stewart Hughes, who is retiring next month, will be held at UCSD May 23-24.

"Hughes is recognized as the outstanding American historian of European intellectual history," according to UCSD history professor Allan Mitchell.

The symposium, which features talks by five outstanding historians from around the country will center on the European origins of intellectual history and its impact on contemporary America.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Peter Gay, of Yale University, who has written extensively about the French Enlightenment and is currently writing a five volume work entitled "The Bourgeois Experience," which centers on moral and ethical behavior of Europe's middle classes.

The topic of Gay's talk, Friday, May 23, at 8:30 p.m. in Room 110 Peterson Hall, will be "Psychoanalyzing the Psychoanalyst: On Writing a Biography of Freud." Gay is writing about the founder of psychoanalysis as part of his five volume work. Admission to the talk is free and the public is invited.

The other four speakers are all former students of Hughes who have become leading figures in the study of European intellectual history.

The first symposium, Friday, May 23, at 2 p.m. in Third College Lecture Hall 104, will discuss "European Theories and American Practice," and will feature talks by Professor Martin Jay, UC Berkeley, and Professor John Toews, University of Washington.

Jay will discuss "Modernism, Postmodernism and the Denigration of Vision in Twentieth Century France," while Toews' topic will be "Contemporary Trends in Intellectual History."

On Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. until noon in Third College Lecture Hall 104, the concluding symposium will discuss "The Unconscious and Society."

Professor Dominick LaCapra, Cornell University, will speak on "Psychoanalysis and History," while Professor Paul Robinson, Stanford University, will discuss "H. Stuart Hughes and Intellectual History: Reflections on the State of the Discipline."

Among Hughes' best known books are "Consciousness and Society," "The Obstructed Path," "The Sea Change," and most recently, "Prisoners of Hope."

"Together they examine the intellectual genius of late nineteenth-century Europe, including such figures as Freud, Max Weber, Croce, Bergson, and Durkheim, and the ramifications during their twentieth century in Europe and the United States," said Mitchell.

Hughes is also the author of the best-selling college textbook "Contemporary Europe," now in its fourth edition.

Hughes was born in New York in 1916 and received his B.A. from Amherst College and his Ph.D. from Harvard.

He taught at Brown University before enlisting in the Army in 1941. By 1944 he was the Chief of the Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services (a forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency) in the Mediterranean Theater and later held the same post in Germany. He retired from the service as a Lt. Colonel in 1946.

During his academic career Hughes has been head of the history department at Stanford and professor of history at Harvard, where he held the Gurney Chair of History and Political Science from 1969-75. He has been a professor of history at UCSD since his arrival in 1975.

He has also been Chief of the State Department's Division of Research for Europe, a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the holder of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Hughes is the grandson of Charles Evans Hughes, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and candidate for President in 1916.

Stuart Hughes was himself a candidate for U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, during the 1960s when he ran on an independent anti-war ticket.

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