

III. Reaction to Carl Menger's “The Errors of Historicism”

By Gustav Schmoller*

The editorial office of the yearbook is not in a position to report on this book, as it immediately returned it to the author with the following lines. “Dear Sir! I have received a wrapper with your work ‘The Errors of Historicism in German Economics.’ It bears the printer’s mark ‘by the author,’ so that I am indebted to you personally for sending it to me. I have been informed for some time from various sides that it would essentially contain an attack on me, and the first glance at the first page confirmed this. As much as I now acknowledge your good will to deal with me and to enlighten me, I believe I should remain true to my principles about such literary armed conflicts. I must therefore reveal these principles to you and recommend them to you for imitation; they save one much time and trouble. I throw all such personal attacks, especially if I do not expect any further new promotion for myself from the respective author, unread into the oven or into the dust bin. In this way I never get into the temptation to bore the audience with the continuation of literary feuds in the manner of show fence of some German professors. I do not want to be rude to you to destroy such a beautifully designed booklet by your hand; I therefore send it back to you enclosed with sincere thanks and the request to make a better use of it elsewhere. Incidentally, I will always remain grateful to you for further attacks. Because: ‘many enemies, much honor’. Please accept the assurance of my respect.

G. Schmoller”

* Gustav Schmoller. 1884. “Menger, Dr. Karl, Die Irrthümer des Historismus in der Deutschen Nationalökonomie. Wien: Hölder. 8. 87 S.” *Jahrbuch für Gesetzgebung, Verwaltung und Volkswirtschaft im Deutschen Reich* 8 (2): 677.