Bunky’s scholarly selfie: Critical edition of E.M. Jellinek’s bibliography

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This poster was designed in part to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of E. M. Jellinek, showing the efforts of the Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) Library in creating his critical bibliography. Existing bibliographies had been found to be incomplete list and inaccurate. To date, E. M. Jellinek’s only publicly available bibliography (Popham, 1970) begins with an article dated 1940, when he was already 50 years old. An observant, reflective, and prolific writer, Jellinek had started to publish much earlier. However, his work from the preceding years could not previously be addressed due to a scarcity of information and language barriers. Seizing a unique opportunity, the authors took on the courageous task of creating Jellinek’s complete bibliography in order to shed light on his scholarship that had not been captured by those earlier bibliographic attempts.

Based on previous records collected by CAAL staff, this critical bibliography builds upon the latest developments of research in Jellinek’s early life, first presented at the 2014 SALIS conference. CAS Library staff verified Jellinek’s Hungarian past and found publications written in the less well-publicized periods of his life, such as the mysterious “banana book,” written under a pseudonym while working in Central America (Goldstein, 2014). These discoveries opened up avenues to add new records from the years prior to 1939 (his pre-alcohol studies years), along with items published during his time working for Worcester State Hospital. In addition, numerous versions of Jellinek’s alcohol-related publications have been found and added.

The poster notes the process of discovering potential new entries, locating new items, and sorting out versions, editions, and reprints: a painstaking but also exciting set of tasks. Always the innovator, Jellinek was instrumental in establishing and developing the alcohol studies framework at its inception, including the organization and distribution of its body of literature (Jellinek, 1941). The poster is intended to capture this spirit, imagining Jellinek’s activity in our current age of information. Taking his pioneering efforts to its logical conclusion, Jellinek very well could have created a distinct social network for addiction scientists, which we have dubbed “ATODSCHOLARNET.” Depicted in the center panel of the poster is a mock profile page for this fictional network, complete with a list of
Jellinek's publications, metrics (both real and imaginary, the latter marked with asterisks), and qualitative assessment of his complete scientific output based on the data extracted from his bibliography.

This poster aims to call attention to the responsibilities of librarians when they try to make collections accessible with new technology, and discloses some unexpected tasks and surprising findings they may have to face along the way. The poster also highlights the international collaboration of scholars and librarians, who were essential in completing a project of this magnitude.

References

