SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

Bonald and Philosophy

Pierre MACHEREY

Bonald, as an advocate of the monarchy of the Ancien Régime, is usually considered as a reactionary theoretician. But, considering his attempts at initiating a « new tradition », he can also be viewed as being of the avant-garde at the turn of the XIXth century. He thus anticipates the science of man as social being, a point of view to be further developed by Comte and Durkheim. It will be shown that his theory of power amounts to a critique of the psychological conception of an « internal man » ; this critique appears to be one element in the background of a future sociology.

*Anthropology of Violence in Early Modern
France (xvith-xviiith Centuries)*

Robert MUCHEMBLED

The obsession with security in the 1980's leads to a definition of violence as a purely psychological phenomenon and suggests that violence can be removed from society.

The Human Sciences, such as psychology, biology and ethology, enable us to distinguish between various forms and functions of violence. In France and Low Countries in the late Middle Ages, violence was, to a large extent, part of an intense but normal sociability. From the xvith century to the xviiith century, a gradual transformation occurred, under the control of the established powers which led to an assimilation of violence to criminality. That assimilation has reappeared today in criminal law. Those who are obsessed with security are dangerously trying to exploit it.

*Commercial and Economic Discourse
in Eighteenth-Century France*

Jochen HOOCK

Commercial and economic discourse are generally, particularly for the mid-eighteenth-century, considered as antithetical. The article questions whether the technical content and information in mercantile manuals and commercial encyclopaedias were important to the economic debates in eighteenth-century France. It tries to show that the enormously increased amount of commercial knowledge and its problematic internal organisation were an important theme in the work of Turgot and Morellet. Their ultimate failure to establish canons of economic practice preserved the prevalent mode of discourse in economics and restricted commercial theory to technical matters.

*Notes about the Birth
of the Term « Monumentalité »*

Jacques GUILLERME

The purpose of this paper is to make clear the symbolic, political and social mechanisms involved in the differentiation of public and private « monumentality » during the XIXth century. The problem arose a juridical matter at the administrative level in the main European cities before the term monumentalité was generally used. The subject has now arrived at a critical stage with the convergence of two heterogeneous trends, integration of old monuments in their modern context and misleadings from « post-modern » patchworks.