

Cambridge University Press

0521827124 - William Stanley Jevons and the Making of Modern Economics

Harro Maas

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations xiii*Abbreviations* xv*Preface* xvii*Acknowledgements* xix

- 1 **The Prying Eyes of the Natural Scientist** 1
 - Jevons's place in the history of economics 3
 - The distinction between mind and matter in Victorian Britain 9
 - Mechanical reasoning 13
 - Mixed mathematics in Victorian Britain 18
 - Formal logic and the mechanics of utility and self-interest 22
 - Outline of the book 24
- 2 **William Stanley Jevons: Victorian Polymath** 26
- 3 **The Black Arts of Induction** 37
 - Dugald Stewart: history and political economy as induction by reflection 37
 - John Stuart Mill: shielding political economy from history 41
 - Cambridge opposition to Ricardianism 44
 - Richard Jones on Ricardian theory 46
 - Whewell and Jones on the method of political economy 50
 - "This poor word metaphysics" 51
 - Saving the phenomena 54
 - Political economy as an inductive science 59

x ~ CONTENTS

- Section F of the BAAS and the Statistical Society of London 64
 Coda 70
- 4 Mimetic Experiments 72**
 Humboldtian science 72
 Naming the clouds 74
 Mimicking nature 77
 Jevons's experiments on the formation of clouds 80
 Artificial clouds, real clouds, and clouds "on an average" 88
 Jevons's uniform approach to the sciences 94
- 5 Engines of Discovery 96**
 Babbage and his calculating engines 98
 God is a programmer 105
 An intelligent machine 108
 Is the mind a reasoning machine? 111
- 6 The Machinery of the Mind 123**
 The Logical Abacus 124
 The Logical Machine 128
 The machine mind 137
 "Induction – the inverse of deduction" 141
 "To decide what things *are* similar" 146
- 7 The Private Laboratory of the Mind 151**
 Jevons between Jones and Mill 153
 The association psychology and freedom of will 155
 "A vexed question in psychology" 159
 "Thought – a secretion of the brain" 162
 Carpenter's "correlation of forces" 164
 The physical groundwork of economics 169
 Free will is simply chance 173
 The private laboratory of the mind 176
- 8 The Laws of Human Enjoyment 181**
 The factory system and the division of labour 184
 Ruskin's aesthetic-driven criticism of the factory system 189
 Mill and the "gospel of work" 194
 Work and fatigue 196

CONTENTS ~ xi

	Jevons's experiments on the exertion of muscular force	200
	Maximising utility while minimising painful exertion	205
	Amusements of the people	209
	“Of Kings' Treasuries”	213
9	Timing History	217
	Tables, graphs, and history	217
	Timing history	220
	Mapping history in graphs	224
	Images of laws of the phenomena	230
	Data, phenomena, and the graphical method	233
	Jevons's expression for the King Davenant “law”	237
	Jevons's standardising and timing of events	243
	Time-series graphs take hold in economics	248
	Logical and historical time	250
10	Balancing Acts	254
	The balance as a tool of analysis	257
	The balance as a measuring instrument	261
	Balancing disturbing causes: “a serious fall in the value of gold ascertained”	264
	Balancing pleasure and pain	270
	Conclusions	276
11	The Image of Economics	278
	Bridging the natural and the social	278
	Mechanical dreams	280
	Economics as a natural science	285
	<i>Bibliography</i>	291
	<i>Index</i>	319