ences between soils (Chapter 6), classification of soils (Chapter 7), and the role of soil in the hydrologic cycle and in plant and animal growth as well as the changes of soil with time (Chapter 8). For the latter, he wrote on pages 166 to 190, that “everything changes itself in form and substance with time... the soil will, like all other things in this world, get not younger but older and in the end will lose its productivity.” On his discussion about the chemical processes of soil change with time, Fallou wrote that “weathering in the soil body involves transformation and rearrangement... the most important is the dissolution of the unweathered rock material to release its nutrients for plants use thereby transforming it completely to soil.”

It appears that Fallou’s book could have provided the foundation on which modern soil science developed. Thus, it is not without reason that some authors, particularly E. Blanck, the editor of the 10-volume Handbuch der Bodenlehre (published from 1929–1932) considered to be a monumental book (Yaalon, 1997), named Fallou as the founder of soil science (Blanck, 1949). The meager credit given to him in recent treatises on soil science history and soil science textbooks is a historical puzzle that needs a second look. One possible reason could be that very little is known about the content of Fallou’s famous book. Another reason could be that he was not a recognized scientist or professor during his time such that he was not properly given credit for his ideas by later generations of authors (for instance, some of Fallou’s ideas are still evident in Glinka’s [Glinka, 1914] and Ramann’s Ramann’s [Ramann, 1911] influential books, yet his contribution is not generally acknowledged except when it comes to his definition of soil and his soil classification). Although Fallou studied geology and law, he worked as a land tax assessor and pursued the study of soil as a hobby. And because he was not a teacher, he was not able to train students who could have promoted his ideas and name in the same way that students of Liebig, Dokuchaev, Glinka, and Ramann have done for their teachers.

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VICTOR B. ASIO

Institute of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition
Martin Luther University
06108 Halle (Saale), Germany
vbasio_ph@yahoo.com

REFERENCES


Response to “Comments on ‘Historical Development of Soil and Weathering Profile Concepts from Europe to the United States of America’”

We congratulate Professor Asio on a well composed letter providing several revelations and augments our essay. We are thankful that your letter provides several revelations and augments our essay, particularly E. Blanck, 19th century European pioneer pedologists. Fallou obviously was a charter member of this august group of such concepts guide our interpretations and models, and the best ones lead us to prediction. In good part of what science is about, it justifies our forays into our conceptual-historical past. One historical puzzle that needs a second look. One possible reason could be that very little is known about the content of Fallou’s famous book. Other topics Fallou treats, as reviewed by Asio, in his Introduction justifies soil science as an independent natural science, and that soil, being a natural body, is thus deserving of our study. (Hmmm, we think such concepts were attributed to famed geologist-pedologist Dokuchaev!) Other topics Fallou treats, as reviewed by Asio, include soil quality, soil diversity, and soil thickness, steepness and elevation. We learn that Fallou expresses ideas of soil evolution, where “everything changes itself in form and substance with time.” Many more comments to this developing dialog on key concepts of Liebig, Dokuchaev, Glinka, and Ramann have done for their teachers.

Now sometimes a nuance of thought or a blurred, or changed slightly—or in the worst case misinterpreted when articulating a conceptual point from one language to another. Nevertheless, who better to assess Fallou’s pedologists? So, if the reason could be that very little is known about the content of Fallou’s famous book. Other topics Fallou treats, as reviewed by Asio, in his Introduction justifies soil science as an independent natural science, and that soil, being a natural body, is thus deserving of our study. (Hmmm, we think such concepts were attributed to famed geologist-pedologist Dokuchaev!) Other topics Fallou treats, as reviewed by Asio, include soil quality, soil diversity, and soil thickness, steepness and elevation. We learn that Fallou expresses ideas of soil evolution, where “everything changes itself in form and substance with time.” Many more comments to this developing dialog on key concepts of Liebig, Dokuchaev, Glinka, and Ramann have done for their teachers.
