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There are many interesting similarities between Paul Cezanne and Henry George.

George did for economics what Cezanne did for art. These contemporaries (both were born in 1839) gave their respective subjects new meaning, new vitality.

The dead hand of academicism lay on both art and economics in the mid-nineteenth century. Inflexible rules, a smug and superficial interpretation of reality, and a frown upon innovation, characterized the outlook for both subjects.

George the American and Cezanne the Frenchman didn't know one another. But each one was the untutored man of originality and depth that was needed at the time to pierce through the complexities and arrive at simple but obscured truths.

Each one felt within himself that indefinable stirring that drives the genius on, and each one dedicated himself to its fulfillment. Cezanne called it his "little sensation" and his "piece of gold." George called it his "talent entrusted to me" and "a thought, a vision, a call—give it what name you please."

And both men struck a rich vein of ore that makes their works a never ending source of satisfaction, inspiration and new ideas.

Cezanne sought to "do art over again from nature" — to "bring to life, in contact with nature, the instincts, the sensations of art that reside in one's heart."

George brought the same freshness of vision to economics. "Nothing more is needed (but this *is* needed) than the habit of careful thought," said George, and he appealed to "intelligent observation of familiar facts" to do the job that economics was supposed to do — solve economics problems.

Both offered the same beacon to penetrate the fog — the heart, the mind of man concentrating directly on the facts and forces of nature and life. This is the secret of art and of economics. No wonder there was fury in the temples of the professionals against both George and Cezanne!

The postscript is written for only one of these two. Cezanne has triumphed, and his enemies have been consigned to the attic. Henry George's influence is not inconsiderable—but the day of his triumph is yet to come.