Gleanings From Academic Gatherings

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GLEANINGS FROM ACADEMIC GATHERINGS

I. History of anthropology in Germany--At the biennial conference of the German Ethnological Society DGV (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde), which met in Leipzig from 4 to 8 Oct. 1993, two sessions were held on the history of anthropology. Under the general theme 'Ethnologiegeschichte - wozu?', 16 papers and a historical film were presented. The contributors came from West- and East-Germany, Austria, France, Danmark, Slovenia and The Netherlands. It was the second time that such a symposium was held at the conferences of the DGV. The first one was held in October, 1991 in Munich, organised by Annemarie Fiedermutz (Munich) and Han F. Vermeulen (Leiden) and consisted of 9 papers. This time the organisation was done by a team consisting of Hans-Jürgen Hildebrandt (Mainz), Lothar Pützstück (Cologne) and Han F. Vermeulen (Leiden), on the basis of a questionnaire distributed to some 200 individuals and 80 institutes in the German-speaking world, which had a response of some 90 scholars.

The papers presented on October 6 discussed the following topics: Bozidar Jezernik (Ljubljana), The eyes that would not see. The Balkans in the eyes of European travellers in the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century; Britta Rupp-Eisenreich (Paris), The history of German-speaking anthropology: views from Paris; Bernhard Streck (Heidelberg), The ancestors of the 'scientific community', or: why we study the history of anthropology; Michael Harbsmeier (Copenhagen), The prehistory of ethnology; Han F. Vermeulen (Leiden), Ethnology and ethnography in the 18th century: the relevance of historiography; Friedrich Valjavec (Tübingen), Émile Durkheim - preconditions and effects; Hans-Jürgen Hildebrandt (Mainz), Early anthropology of law and its importance for current discussions on the theory of law; Rolf Husmann (Göttingen), First experience with a film project with Sir Raymond Firth, followed by the presentation of a film by Peter Loizos, Rolf Husmann and Werner Sperschneider, entitled Firth on Firth. Reflections of an Anthropologist (1992, 49 min.).

On October 6, the following papers were presented: Hilke Thode-Arora (Hamburg/Cologne), Research report on the firm and family Umlauff as collectors of ethnographic objects; Felicitas Bergner (Hannover), Africa in German museums - on the acquisition history of German ethnological museums during the colonial period; Peter Linmayr (Vienna), Ethnology in Vienna and its relation with German ethnology during national-socialism; Ute Michel (Hamburg), Research proposals for an ethnology of Europe in the national-socialist period: the case of W. E. Mühlmann; Birgit Scheps (Leipzig), German ethnologists in German-New-Guinea (1870-1914); Dietrich Schleip (Stuttgart), Early ethnographies as historical sources; Andrea Schmidt (Freiburg), Paul Wirz and ethnographical collecting: ethnological research as classical science and personal experience; Stephan Augustin (Herrnhut), The beginnings of ethnographical collecting within the Evangelische Brüder Unität; Gundrun Meier (Dresden), Historico-critical edition of a manuscript: C. G. A. Oldendorp on the West-Indian islands in the 18th century. All papers were presented in German, except for the paper by Dr. Jezernik.

The last session was followed by a meeting, in which some 15 present decided to constitute a working group on the history of anthropology: Arbeits-Gruppe (AG) Geschichte der Ethnologie, which earlier has been approved of by the general members meeting of the society. The committee of this AG consists of: Adam Jones (Frankfurt/Leipzig), Bernhard Streck (Heidelberg), Han F. Vermeulen (Leiden). The primary tasks of this committee are the organising of four sessions at the next DGV-conference in Vienna (October 1995), and of a smaller session on the history of anthropological research in Africa (in Leipzig, early 1995). The address of the chairman is: Dr. Adam Jones, Institut für Historische Ethnologie, Liebigstraße 41, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
III. The History of Anthropology in Mexico--From July 5-7, in Mexico City, a colloquium organized largely by Mechthild Rutsch and sponsored by INAH (the National Institute of Anthropology and History) was held on "The History of Anthropology in Mexico: Sources and Transmission." Curtis Hinsley gave an opening talk on "Anthropology and National Identity: Reflections on the United States in the Nineteenth Century." The session on July 5 ("The Importance of History in Mexican Anthropology") included papers by Guillermo de la Peña ("Nationals and Foreigners in the History of Mexican Anthropology"); Ignacio Rodríguez ("Ideological Resources of the Mexican State: The Case of Archeology"); Luis Vargas Guadarrama ("The Teaching of the History of Medicine: Reflections on Physical Anthropology"); and Francisco Javier Guerrero ("The Disillusionment of Marxism and Anthropology in Mexico, 1970-90"). The session July 6 ("Sources for the History of Mexican Anthropology") included papers by Rodolfo Coronado ("Oral Sources in the History of Mexican Anthropology"); Guillermo Alfaro ("The Use of Photography and Film in Anthropology"); Columba Quiñones ("Data Bases in Mexican Anthropology"); Luis Vasquez Leon ("The National Archive of Anthropologists"); Jesus Monjarras, Elena Limon, and Ma. de la Cruz Paillos (The Archive of Robert H. Barlow"); Erendira Nansen ("The Humboldt Manuscripts"); Carlos Garcia Mora ("The Paul Kirchoff Archive"). The final session ("Formal and Informal Transmission of Historical Memory in Mexican Anthropology") included papers by Raymundo Mier ("Taxonomies of Contempt"); Jaime Litvak King ("The Anecdotal in the Formation of Anthropologists"); Otto Schumann ("The Extramural Formation of Linguists"); Carlos Navarrete ("Teaching Anthropology"); Fernanda Camara ("Anthropology Inside and Outside Classrooms"); Francisco Barriga ("The Magnified Classroom.") It is planned to publish the conference papers.

IV. American Society for Ethnohistory--The 1993 annual meeting, November 4-6, at Indiana University, included a plenary session on "Forty Years of Ethnohistory," in which Raymond Fogelson, William Fenton, William Sturtevant, Helen Tanner and James W. vanStone participated, as well as papers by Fred Gleach on Frank Speck, by Jennifer Brown on A. I. Hallowell, by Douglas Parks and by Raymond DeMallie on James R. Murie. Scott Forsythe gave a paper on "Records Concerning Native Americans in the National Archives."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

History of anthropology in Europe

At the 3rd biennial conference of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), at Oslo, 24-27 June 1994, there will be two sessions on the History of European Anthropology. These sessions are organized by Dr. Jan de Wolf on behalf of the History of European Anthropology Network (HEAN). The address is: Dr. Jan de Wolf, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology, University of Utrecht, P.O. Box 80.140, 3508 TC Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Cheiron

Cheiron: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, will hold its twenty-sixth annual meeting June 2-5, 1994 at the Université du Québec in Montreal. Program submissions (symposia, papers, and posters), which may include topics in the history of anthropology, must be postmarked by January 15, 1994. Travel awards are available to assist students. For further information, contact Dr. Andrew S. Winston, Program Chair, Department of Psychology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G2W1 (phone:519-824-4120; fax:519-837-8629).