

ANDRE GINGRICH AND SIEGFRIED HAAS (EDS.)

SOUTHWEST ARABIA ACROSS HISTORY:
ESSAYS TO THE MEMORY OF
WALTER DOSTAL

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
PHILOSOPHISCH-HISTORISCHE KLASSE
DENKSCHRIFTEN, 472. BAND

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Vorgelegt von w. M. Andre Gingrich in der Sitzung vom 27. Juni 2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	7
Walter Dostal, Obituary and List of Academic Print & Film Publications	9
Southwest Arabia across History: Introducing Insights from Current Research ANDRE GINGRICH and SIEGFRIED HAAS	21
Walter Dostal and (Ancient) South Arabia: Cultural and Social Anthropology and the “Ivory Tower” of Regional Studies ROSWITHA STIEGNER	25
Water Engineering and Management Practices in South Arabia: Aspects of Continuity and Change from Ancient to Medieval and Modern Times INGRID HEHMEYER	43
Birka and Baraka - Cistern and Blessing: Notes on Custom and Islamic Law Regarding Public Cisterns in Northern Yemen EIRIK HOVDEN	55
Cultural Heritage and Identity Politics in Early Medieval South Arabia DANIEL MAHONEY	67
Sa‘da revisited JOHANN HEISS	79
Inhabiting Tribal Structures: Leadership Hierarchies in Tribal Upper Yemen (Hamdān and Khawlān b. ‘Āmir) MARIEKE BRANDT	91
Galactic Polities: Anthropological Insights for Understanding States in Yemen’s pre-Ottoman Past ANDRE GINGRICH	117
Notes on Contributors	125
Illustrations: References	128

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The present volume is the outcome of a conference held on October 8th 2012 at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria. The conference was convened on the occasion of commemorating Walter Dostal's untimely death fourteen months earlier, in August 2011, and was co-hosted by the three institutions where Walter Dostal had been active throughout his academic career since his return from Switzerland in 1975. These include the University of Vienna's Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology (in 1975 still bearing the old name Institut für Völkerkunde) where he became department chair, the Austrian Society for the Middle East (Österreichische Orient-Gesellschaft Hammer-Purgstall) which Dostal himself had founded in the 1950s and whose Honorary President he remained until the end, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences' (AAS) Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) whose precursor units Dostal chaired since the late 1970s, acting first as an Associate and then as a Full Academy Member.

The editors thus gratefully acknowledge the good services and assistance provided by these three host institutions, together with the Diplomatic Academy, for making the event possible that preceded this volume. The presence and support of members of the Dostal family was appreciated with gratitude, in particular that of his nephew Prof. Dr. Michael Roden. Moreover, the presence of several high-ranking scholars from the Republic of Yemen, including epigrapher Dr. Yusuf Abdallah and historian Dr. Husayn al-Amri, testified to the great respect and affection that scholarly communities engaging with the study of Arabia continue to hold for Walter Dostal, and share with significant segments of public life in southwest Arabia where he carried out the greatest and most extensive part of a lifetime of research.

Beyond that original commemorative conference, the editors wish to express their gratitude to the academic contributors to the event and to this volume for their commitment to demonstrate the fertility of combining anthropological approaches in a cross- and transdisciplinary manner with expertise in epigraphy, archaeology, philology, history, geography, and other related fields for the advancement of South Arabian studies.

Finally, our respect and gratitude are expressed to all those who were involved in the process of producing this volume including Lisbeth Triska, Herwig Stöger and Robert Püringer at the AAS publishing house (Verlag der ÖAW); Rosemarie Willi for her translation into English of Roswitha Stiegner's contribution; Sarah Kwiatkowski, David Mihola, and Andrea Sulzgruber for their assistance in adapting the manuscript according to the publisher's specific technical style. We also are thankful for the permissions given by the European Association of Social Anthropologists' "*EASA Newsletter*" and by the "*Anthropos*" journal's editor to reprint revised sections of the respective obituaries and Dostal's list of academic print and film publications for the present context. In addition, the editors wish to praise the valuable insights, advice and feedback provided by the publishing house's two anonymous international academic reviewers.

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Vienna, Spring 2014

Siegfried Haas and Andre Gingrich

WALTER DOSTAL | 1928-2011

Walter Dostal was one of the most eminent representatives of German-speaking socio-cultural anthropology between the 1960s and the turn of the 20th/21st centuries. His family's experience as bilingual citizens of Czechoslovakia (or: Bohemia) before and during World War II, their anti-Nazi orientation and the communist takeover at the end of the war profoundly shaped Dostal's engagement as a student and scholar. Born in Grulich near Brno (Moravia, today: Czech Republic), Dostal moved to Vienna in 1945 where he began his university studies in a field still called "Voelkerkunde" during the 1950's. Those formative years in Dostal's career resulted in his clear rejection of speculative historicism and diffusionism, and in his preference for ethnographic fieldwork and solid historical evidence. In spite of his critical stand regarding his teachers' approaches, they decisively promoted and encouraged him during the early phases of his career – in particular Robert Heine Geldern as a leading expert in the archaeology and historical anthropology of Asia, and Joseph Henninger as the Arabia expert among the Vienna culture circle theory group.

After his doctoral thesis on groups of Semitic languages Dostal soon embarked upon fieldwork in the Arab-speaking parts of the Middle East. His early empirical studies in the Arab Gulf countries during the 1950's, and in southern Yemen (early 1960's) – both regions still under indirect British control at the time – in fact made Dostal the world's first professional socio-cultural anthropologist to carry out ethnographic fieldwork in eastern and southern Arabia.

He established his reputation as an excellent analyst of ethnography and history already through his first book (submitted as his *Venia Docendi* thesis) on the Bedouins in Southern Arabia. In 1965, he left his position as curator of the Vienna Museum for Ethnology's Middle Eastern Department to become the founding professor in Switzerland's capital at the Bern University's Seminar for Ethnology, which he helped to build up throughout the subsequent decade. In 1975, he returned from Switzerland to Vienna to take over Chair I of what today is that University's Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology.

His study of the market of San'a, and his co-editorship (with Georg Gruenberg) of the results from the first Barbados conference on native Americans' rights highlighted his growing interest in socio-economic topics, and in what then were relevant new issues such as local markets, indigenous struggles, gender issues, and questions of political power. – During the 1970s, Dostal also initiated together with Eugen Wirth, the leading head of the German school of cultural geographers at Erlangen University, the "Geographers' and Anthropologists' Working Group on Contemporary Islam". Throughout the subsequent two decades, that working group and its annual conferences functioned as one of the most relevant forces across German-speaking academia for promoting, orienting and inspiring interdisciplinary research in the Middle East. As chair of the Vienna department, Dostal further elaborated these interests through his publications on the intersection between environment and society, his edited volume "On Social Evolution", and his studies on tribal organization and development in Arabia. Those years also showed that in several important ways, Dostal for some time pursued a German-speaking version of what was contemporary neo-evolutionism in North America and Western Europe.

After becoming a corresponding (1977) and a full member (1993) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Dostal re-invigorated the field's institutional unit there as well. Through the Academy's Commission for Social Anthropology, he promoted new fieldwork projects in Tibet and the Himalayan areas, in South East Asia, and in South Arabia. Several generations of contemporary socio-cultural anthropologists in Vienna, Bern, Germany, and elsewhere were his doctoral students, benefitting from his wide ethnographic expertise and his competent reading of the disciplinary production in several languages other than German – comprising English, French, Italian, Russian and Arabic. During his later years, Dostal continued his prolific publication activities, which included his book on equality and hierarchy in Arabia, his two volumes on the famous Austrian 19th century Yemeni scholar Eduard Glaser (born in what today is the Czech Republic), and his

two edited books on the southwestern provinces of Saudi-Arabia. After his retirement from the University of Vienna Department in 1996, Dostal continued at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in helping to build the current Institute for Social Anthropology's precursor unit there. Walter Dostal will be remembered as one of the pioneers in post-1945 German-speaking socio-cultural anthropology who decisively contributed to its re-connection and integration into today's global discipline, and as an eminent ethnographer of South Arabia.

Andre Gingrich and Helmut Lukas

Adapted after obituaries for Walter Dostal by Andre Gingrich, published in Almanach der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften 2012, 607-612 (with Helmut Lukas); *Anthropos* 107/1/2012, 167-169; EASA Newsletter 54, September 2011, 18.

LIST OF ACADEMIC PRINT & FILM PUBLICATIONS BY WALTER DOSTAL

COMPILED BY VERENA BALDWIN, SILVIA HAAS, WOLFGANG KRAUS

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

- 1949 Kriminologie und Ethnologie. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 4: 214–218.
- 1955 Die Zigeuner in Österreich. Monographische Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse meines Studienaufenthaltes unter Zigeunern (1954). *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 10: 1–15.
- 1956 Die Šolubba und ihre Bedeutung für die Kulturgeschichte Arabiens. Monographische Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse meines Studienaufenthaltes in Kuwēt (1956). *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 11: 15–42.
- 1957a Ein Beitrag zur Frage des religiösen Weltbildes der frühesten Bodenbauer Vorderasiens. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 12: 54–109.
- 1957b Das Museum für Völkerkunde, seine Aufgaben und Probleme im Rahmen der Volksbildung. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 12: 230–241.
- 1957c Personality and Culture Conflict of the Austrian Gypsies. *Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society* 36: 53–56.
- 1958a Arabia. *Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research* 1: 42–45.
- 1958b Ethnographische Notizen über die el-Äzēridj. *Wiener völkerkundliche Mitteilungen* 6/1–4 (N. F. 1): 93–99.
- 1958c Felsmalereien in al-Kuwait. *Archivio Internazionale di Etnografia e Preistoria* 1: 57–68.
- 1958d Zum Problem der Mädchenbeschneidung in Arabien. *Wiener völkerkundliche Mitteilungen* 6/1–4 (N. F. 1): 83–90.
- 1958e Zur Frage der Entwicklung des Beduinentums. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 13: 1–14.
- 1959 The Evolution of Bedouin Life. *Studi Semitici* 2: 1–34.
- 1960a Bemerkungen über meine Südarabien-Reise (Oktober bis Dezember) 1960. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 15: 1–6.
- 1960b Some Remarks Concerning the Baṭāḥira, a Social Inferior Tribe in Southern Arabia. *Archiv für Völkerkunde* 15: 7–9.
- 1962a Über Jagdbrauchtum in Vorderasien. *Paideuma* 8: 85–97.
- 1962b Vorderasien. In: A. Lommel und O. Zerries (Hrsg.), *JRO-Völkerkunde. Afrika – Amerika – Asien – Australien – Ozeanien*; pp. 47–69. München: JRO-Verlag.

- 1964a Paria-Gruppen in Vorderasien. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* 89: 190–203.
- 1964b Zur Frage der Konstanz von Kulturformen. In: E. Haberland, M. Schuster und H. Straube (Hrsg.), Festschrift für Ad. E. Jensen. Teil 1; pp. 91–101. München: Klaus Renner Verlag.
- 1965 Vorläufige Ergebnisse einer Untersuchung zur Feststellung der politischen Meinungsbildung in Südarabien. *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien* 95: 1–21.
- 1967 Die Beduinen in Südarabien. Eine ethnologische Studie zur Entwicklung der Kamelhirtenkultur in Arabien. Horn: Berger. (Wiener Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte und Linguistik, 16)
- 1968 Zur Megalithfrage in Südarabien. In: E. Gräf (Hrsg.), Festschrift Werner Caskel. Zum 70. Geburtstag gewidmet von Freunden und Schülern; pp. 53–64. Leiden: Brill.
- 1968/69 Zum Problem der Stadt- und Hochkultur im Vorderen Orient. Ethnologische Marginalien. *Anthropos* 63/64: 227–260.
- 1969 Umsturz und Verschwörung. Dargestellt an drei Beispielen aus dem islamischen Raum – ein ethnologischer Beitrag zur Phänomenologie der Macht. *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien* 99: 13–43.
- 1970a Erfahrungen mit einem Situationsbilder-Test in Südarabien. (Ein Beitrag zur Methodik der ethnographischen Datenerhebung.) *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien* 100: 380–387.
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- 1972a Handwerker und Handwerkstechniken in Tarîm (Südarabien, Hadramaut). Göttingen: Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film. (Publikationen zu wissenschaftlichen Filmen, Sektion Völkerkunde – Volkskunde; Ergänzungsband, 3)
- 1972b The Shiḥūḥ of Northern Oman. A Contribution to Cultural Ecology. *Geographical Journal* 138/1: 1–7.
- 1973 Islam ükelerinde etnografi arastirmalari ve özellige etnografie Filim. *Avusturya kültür yayainlari* 3, *Etnografya ve Bilimsel Filimler* (Istanbul): 11–14.
- 1974a Nomaden. In: K. Kreiser, W. Diem und H. G. Majer (Hrsg.), Lexikon der islamischen Welt. Bd. 2: Gram–Nom; pp. 206–212. Stuttgart: Verlag W. Kohlhammer.
- 1974b Quellenkritische Bemerkungen zum “Ethnographic Atlas”. *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien* 104: 44–55.
- 1974c Sozio-ökonomische Aspekte der Stammesdemokratie in Nordost-Yemen. *Soziologus* 24: 1–15.
- 1974d Theorie des öko-kulturellen Interaktionssystems. *Anthropos* 69: 409–444.
- 1975 Two South Arabian Tribes: al-Qarā and al-Ḥarāsīs. *Arabian Studies* 2: 33–41.
- 1976 Zur Kooperation zwischen Ethnologen, Kameramann und einheimischen Mitarbeitern bei der ethnologischen Filmdokumentation. *Wissenschaftlicher Film* 17: 24–32.

- 1978 Taṭawwur ḥayāt al-badw fī 'l-djazīra 'l-ʿarabīya fī ḍaww al-mādda 'l-atharīya (Entwicklungen des Beduinenlebens im Lichte des archäologischen Materials). *Fikrun wa Fann* 15/31: 20–43.
- 1979a The Development of Bedouin Life in Arabia Seen from Archaeological Material. In: Abd al-Rahman T. al-Ansary (ed.), *Studies in the History of Arabia*. Vol. 1, part 1; pp. 125–157. al-Riyād: Jāmiʿat al-Riyād.
- 1979b Der Markt von Ṣanʿāʿ. Wien: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Veröffentlichungen der Arabischen Kommission 1; Sitzungsberichte der Phil.-Hist. Kl., 354)
- 1979c Towards an Ethnographic Atlas of Arabia. *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 9: 45–52.
- 1980 [Together with J. Salat] Arabic, English, Turkish, and German Questionnaire for Crafts in Western Asia. *Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research* 22: 9–109.
- 1981a [Zusammen mit Leo Reisinger] Ein Modell des öko-kulturellen Interaktionssystems. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* 106: 43–50.
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- 1983f Some Remarks on the Ritual Significance of the Bull in Pre-Islamic South Arabia. In: R. L. Bidwell and G. R. Smith (Hrsg.), *Arabian and Islamic Studies. Articles presented to R. B. Serjeant on the Occasion of His Retirement from the Sir Thomas Adam's Chair of Arabic at the University of Cambridge*; pp. 196–213. London: Longman.
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