

*Gerhard Oberhammer: Ausgewählte kleine Schriften.*

Edited by UTZ PODZEIT. Publications of the De Nobili Research Library, vol. 33. Vienna: INSTITUT FÜR SÜDASIEN-, TIBET- UND BUDDHISMUSKUNDE DER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN, 2007. Pp. xxxvii + 769.

In 1994, the year of Gerhard Oberhammer's sixty-fifth birthday, two volumes appeared in his honor. One was edited by Francis X. D'Sa and Roque Mesquita, under the title *Hermeneutics of Encounter* (Vienna: Publications of the De Nobili Research Library, vol. 20; 1 + 303 pp.). Twenty scholarly essays were preceded by a brief "Zum Geleit" by Cardinal Franz König and a substantial "The Remembering of Text and Tradition," in which Francis D'Sa reflected on the hermeneutics of encounter of Oberhammer, "who though an Indologist by profession is a philosopher by temperament and a theologian by inclination" (p. ix). In an appendix, "Begegnung im 'Sich-öffnend-dasein-für,'" Utz Podzeit provided some interesting information on the origin of the "Sammlung De Nobili" and on the role played in it by Oberhammer (and, at an earlier stage, also by Paul Hacker). The other volume, called *Orbis Indicus. Gerhardo Oberhammer lustrum XIII. exigenti ab amicis discipulisque oblatus*, was edited by Mesquita and Chlodwig H. Werba (*Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde Südasiens* 38; xix + 522 pp.). A bibliography of Oberhammer (pp. xi–xix) was followed by thirty-one essays.

Five years earlier, Anand Amaladass had translated and edited seven articles by Oberhammer, together with one originally in English, under the title of *Philosophy of Religion in Hindu Thought* (Delhi: Sri Satguru Publications, 1989). In the new volume, Podzeit, together

with Velizar Sadowski and the editorial assistance of Susanna Bohdal, has edited, in an even weightier volume than the earlier ones, thirty-four of Oberhammer's *Kleine Schriften*, eighteen under the heading "Indologische Beiträge," and sixteen under "Religionshermeneutische Beiträge." Three essays are written in English and three are followed by an English summary.

Readers will be grateful to the editor and his assistants for the effort they have made to render this impressive body of materials user-friendly. Earlier bibliographies of Oberhammer (Amaladass 1989: 140–44, and Werba, *WZKSA* 38, 1994, xi–xix) have been corrected and updated in a new bibliography that is conveniently arranged under nine titles: Indologie (51 items), Theologie und Religionshermeneutik (35), Herausgegebene Werke (18), Varia (4), Nachrufe (5), Rezensionen und Anzeigen (29), Übersetzungen von Werken Gerhard Oberhammers (11), Das Werk Gerhard Oberhammers in der wissenschaftlichen Literatur (8), and Zur Person Gerhard Oberhammers (5).

The volume concludes with three useful indexes: an index of persons, mythical names, and names of gods; one of Sanskrit terms explained in the text and the footnotes; and one of Sanskrit sources consulted throughout the essays.

Even though Oberhammer occasionally wrote in English, or in French, and even though seven of his essays have been translated into English by Anand Amaladass, yet most of his work is available only in German. Reading through this rich volume of *Kleine Schriften*, I cannot help being reminded, *mutatis mutandis*, of what Francis Clooney wrote, in our *Journal*, à propos Oberhammer's five-volume *Rāmānuja Studies*: "It would be very good . . . if someone were to undertake the laborious but worthy task of translating [more of Oberhammer's writings] into English, to insure that they reach a much wider audience in India and the West" (*JAOS* 122 [2002]: 922).

I regret not to have been able to access an article in the Tyrolean cultural journal *Das Fenster* (44 [1988]: 4352–65), in which Wolfgang Pfaundler reported on an interview with Oberhammer: "Das Tiroler Porträt. Der Indologe Gerhard Oberhammer."

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