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**Proceedings of the Strehlow Conference 2002**

It has been a busy year for the Strehlow Research Centre with the publication of both the Proceedings of the Strehlow Conference 2002 and the long awaited Occasional Paper 3.

The hugely successful 2002 Strehlow Conference was held 18-20 September at the Araluen Centre in Alice Springs. The Conference was organised by former Strehlow Research Centre Director Brett Galt-Smith, and brought together a diverse audience and range of speakers including members of the Strehlow family, Arrernte people, anthropologists, historians and artists.

The proceedings contain 28 papers covering topics focused around the central theme of TGH Strehlow’s life and work:
- Arrernte culture, society and custodianship
- TGH Strehlow and his work
- The Strehlow Family
- The Legacy of the Missionaries
- The Wider Context

Occasional Paper 3 is subtitled The Struggle for Souls and Science, Constructing the Fifth Continent: German Missionaries and Scientists in Australia. The 16 papers in this volume, edited by Professor Walter Veit, explore the contribution of late nineteenth and early twentieth century German scientists and missionaries in the emerging fields of Australian ethnography and linguistics.

Proceedings of the Strehlow Conference 2002 and Occasional Paper 3 can be purchased from the Strehlow Research Centre for $33 each plus $7 postage inc. handling (Master Card, Visa, cheque or money order). All prices are inclusive of GST. There are also limited quantities of Occasional Paper 1 and 2 available.

**German Correspondence**

Imagine a treasure trove of historic material that remains almost unopened.

The Strehlow Research Centre has over 2000 letters written in German from 1876 to the 1950’s. The bulk of the letters comprise of correspondence between Carl Strehlow and Frieda Strehlow nee Keysser in the 1890’s. Later letters were from Germans and South Australians corresponding with Carl and Frieda while they were living at Hermannsburg.

One of the problems faced in indexing these letters is that they are written in different forms of archaic German script. The poor handwriting of some correspondants, and the deterioration of some letters with age, adds to the challenge.

Birgit Nielsen a German citizen with a background in Library science and knowledge management, and also an understanding of the old German scripts, has been employed for five months to assist in the transcription and indexing of this correspondence.

One of the major problems solved was to find

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From the Director

“It is an exciting time for the Strehlow Research Centre…”

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I write this message as the new Research Director of the Strehlow Research Centre. For those of you who I have not yet met, I commenced in this position in January, after a varied career working in museums, as an archaeologist and as an accountant in East Timor. I come to the SRC with a particular interest in the issue of cultural repatriation, and look forward to exploring this over the next few years.

It is an exciting time for the Strehlow Research Centre. In recent weeks we have finalised the publication of two significant new volumes, *Traditions in the Midst of Change, Proceedings of the Strehlow 2002 Conference* and *Occasional Paper Number 3*. The SRC launched, in collaboration with the Alice Springs Town Council Library, the ‘Desert Honeymoon’ exhibition, a photographic account of the 1936 Petermann Ranges expedition. Over recent months we have begun a major cataloguing and translation project on the German correspondence held in our archives, and participated in a cultural repatriation program with Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Cultural Centre from Tennant Creek. All of these activities are described in this newsletter.

There are many more exciting developments on the immediate horizon. A process of stakeholder consultation has commenced over possible changes to the Strehlow Research Centre Act. The SRC has recently entered into a major new research project with Professor Hart Cohen and the University of Western Sydney titled “Re-imagining Journey to Horseshoe Bend”. And we are about to enter into a collaborative arrangement with Museum Victoria to assist them with the repatriation of sacred objects back to Central Australian Traditional Custodians. We hope to bring you details on all of these projects in the December newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Graeme Shaughnessy, Shane Hersey and David Lloyd, all of whom acted in the position of Research Director at various times in 2003. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of the previous permanent Research Director Brett Galt-Smith. The warm welcome I have received from the many researchers and Traditional Owners is the legacy of his work in reaching out and making the SRC relevant to the wider community.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the staff and board members of the SRC, and to all the other members of Arts, Museums and Library Services team for making me feel so welcome. It is a privilege to have joined you.

Dr Scott Mitchell
Research Director

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Tennant Creek Handback

In a ceremony on 27th February 2004 a number of ethnographic objects from the Tennant Creek region were handed back in a ceremony at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct. Attending were staff of the SRC and a group of Traditional Owners from Tennant Creek led by Mr Michael Jampin Jones. Mr Jones is a senior Warramangu man and the Cultural Tourism Manager for the NyinkkaNyunyu Art and Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek.

The handover was made possible through the generosity of Ms Jane Weekes, whose father John Weekes lived at and owned the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station from the 1960s until it was sold to the National Trust in the 1980’s. John originally obtained the objects from his many Aboriginal employees and friends. According to Jackie Hingston from Nyinkka Nyunyu, the objects “were important to Aboriginal People and should be handed back to rightful country… The handover was a success and the objects had travelled back to Tennant Creek safely to be housed at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Cultural Centre”.

Handback of objects

Congratulations to Nyinkka Nyunyu for their recent success at the Museums Australia Publication Design Awards 2004.
Bertha Strehlow Exhibition - Desert Honeymoon

Desert Honeymoon presents a human side to the Strehlow story: one of love and danger, endurance and ultimately triumph.

The Alice Springs Public Library in conjunction with the Strehlow Research Centre is currently hosting a photographic exhibition titled Desert Honeymoon. The exhibition was opened on 4 June by her honor Mayor Fran Kilgariff with other speakers including Anneke Rose from the Alice Springs library, Theodore Strehlow the eldest son of Bertha and TGH Strehlow, SRC Research Director Dr Scott Mitchell and Maggie Urban and Steve Peters, friends of Bertha. Approximately 100 guests attended the highly successful exhibition opening. An excerpt from the display tells the story:

“In 1935, at the age of just 24, Bertha married Ted Strehlow, and embraced a very different type of life. Travelling to Hermannsburg for their honeymoon, Bertha joined Ted on one of his most significant research expeditions, a 2000km long camel expedition to Oodnadatta and The Petermann Ranges. The journey took Bertha through what was then some of the most remote wilderness in Australia…”

Photos included in the exhibition were selected from the Strehlow Research Centre Archive, and the captions for the photos are excerpts from publications written by Bertha and entries from Ted’s diaries. All staff at the Strehlow Research Centre contributed to make this display a success.

The exhibition remains on display at the Alice Springs Town Library until 4th August and may form the basis of an expanded display in the future.

Journey to Horseshoe Bend - a cantata?

Andrew Schultz & Gordon Kalton Williams’ musical adaption of Journey to Horseshoe Bend premiered on 28th May 2003 with a repeat performance on the 29th May at the Sydney Opera House.

The performance involved Arrernte actor Aaron Pedersen, the Ntaria Ladies Choir from Hermannsburg, Areyonga and Mt Liebig in the Northern Territory, conductor David Porcelijn and the Sydney Philharmonia Motet Choir.

TGH Strehlow’s autobiographical novel Journey to Horseshoe Bend weaves together a teenage boy’s narrative of landscape, isolation and death with the adult Strehlow’s insights into Arrernte history and mythology.

The current cantata is the result of more than two years research by Schultz and Williams. The Sydney Symphony librettist and composer worked with the Strehlow Research Centre and Central Australian Aboriginal people in achieving the final work.

The final editing of the Cantata is taking place and it is expected to be released by the ABC in October.

German Correspondence Cont’d

...Continued from page 1

appropriate words and translations from the German to the English as there were often no literal translations for a meaningful searchable database.

In the future researchers, while still needing to understand German to read the letters, will be able to search this index.

Letters from 1893 onwards were selected for this indexing process. This was the time that Frieda and Carl first began corresponding with each other after their first meeting in Obersulzbach. Keywords and several different persons and locations were then identified for the index in German and then translated into English. Rules for keywords and the database were set up after much discussion.

The database can also be used for the numerous letters written and received by TGH Strehlow in English which are also held at the SRC. Future German speaking researchers will be welcomed to add to this ongoing project.
Conference Proceedings Contents:

- Gordon Walkington, Mick McLean Irinjilli, *This is About Our Grandfather*.
- Mavis Malbunka, *Accessing Family Information at the Strehlow Research Centre*.
- Heather Shearer, Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between CASG&FAC and the Strehlow Research Centre.
- Anna Kenny, *Pmara Kutata—Pmerekwetethe*.
- Shane Hersey, *Aranda Games*.
- Barry Hill Strehlow’s, Poetic Unities, His Poem Called Journey to Horseshoe Bend.
- Philip Jones, *A Maverick and His Mentors*.
- John Morton, Krippendorf’s Lesson in the Centre: The Shaping of the Arrernte through TGH Strehlow’s ‘Family Romance’.
- Lisa Wendelndt, *Teenage Diary and Award-Winning Novel: A Cross-Textual Perspective on 1922, a Key Year in Theodor Strehlow’s Life*.
- Gavan Breen, *The Ingkarte’s Ear: A Preliminary Evaluation of T.G.H. Strehlow’s Hearing and Writing of Aboriginal Languages*.
- Diane Austin-Broos, *Western Arrernte Endogenous Change and the Impact of Settlement*.
- Simone Kaiser, ‘The Stern Case’.
- James Warden, T.G.H. Strehlow and the 1935 Board of Inquiry into the Alleged Ill-treatment of Aboriginals.
- Shirley Crawley, Bertha Strehlow.
- John Strehlow, Shifting Focus.
- Wighard Strehlow, *Dispersion of the Strehlow Children*.
- Walter Veit, *Labourers in the Vineyard or The Uneducated Missionary*.
- Vicki Humphreyre, 6,762 and Counting….. The Preservation of the Strehlow Diaries and Genealogies.
- Ruark Lewis, Disguisement.
- Andrew Schultz and Gordon Kalton Williams, *Journey to Horseshoe Bend—a cantata?*
- Brett Galt-Smith, *That’s just the right way and there is nothing mysterious about that: De-mystifying the Strehlow Research Centre*.

Occasional Paper 3 Contents:

- Rob Amery, *Beyond Their Expectations: Teichelmann and Schürmann’s Efforts to Preserve the Kaurna Language Continue to Bear Fruit*.
- John Strehlow, Reappraising Carl Strehlow Through the Spencer–Strehlow Debate.
- Paul Albrecht, Friedrich Wilhelm Albrecht: An Appraisal of his Work Among the Aborigines of Central Australia, Based on Personal Recollections.
- Peter Mühlausler, *Dr Hermann Koeler’s Remarks on Language and Culture in South Australia 1838*.
- Barbara Murray, Georg Baltsas von Neumayer’s Directives for Researchers.
- Vivienne Courto, *Ethnographer Erhard Eylmann*.
- Silke Beinssen-Hesse, *Leo Frobenius in the Pacific?: Plans for Founding a German Institute for the Morphology of Culture in Sydney*.
- Silke Beinssen-Hesse, *Correspondence of Leo Frobenius and Colleagues with Ekkehard Beinssen Concerning Proposed Activities of the Frankfurt Institute for the Morphology of Culture in Australia*.
- Helmut Petri, Joe Nangan: A Man Between Two Worlds With drawings by Joe Nangan.
- Klaus-Peter Koepping, *From Dreaming to Nightmare: Transformations and Deafness in Discourses on Aboriginality*.

Find out the latest about the SRC at: www.strehlow.com.au