

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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.

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