

Current Activities

SIEF's 5th Congress "Ethnologia Europaea".

September 12–16, 1994

First circular and call for papers.

The 5th SIEF Congress will be held in Vienna from September 12–16, 1994. It has been decided in the course of a preparatory meeting that due to recent international developments, the original topic of the congress should be extended. Under the title *Ethnologia Europaea* (which is intended to emphasize common ground), the congress will deal with the ethnization of culture, a subject Konrad Köstlin has called "The ethnic paradigm and the turn of the century". He writes: "At the end of the 19th century the ethnization of culture led to the institutionalization of the discipline. It was also a topic in the arts and crafts discussion regarding 'national styles'. At the end of the twentieth century the ethnization of culture has taken on an unexpected importance, extending from regional and nationalistic movements and radicalism to the political use of 'ethnic cleansing'. This aspect is also closely connected to aesthetic and symbolic dimensions of ethnically defined culture":

This process of "ethnization" occurring around the turn of the century – the period around 1800 would have to be included here as well – is to constitute the central theme, illustrated by both "ethnographic" and "folkloristic" examples. Concretely, the question to be dealt with is the role of ethnization and our discipline (not only from a historical viewpoint) in the process of the nationalization of culture.

Especially a science which calls itself "Ethnologia Europaea" "is obliged to take a stand with regard to what has been done in the name of and on the pretext of ethnic interests. One doesn't have to be a prophet to be able to foresee that in light of the tendencies toward centralization in Europe, the regionalization and ethnization of culture will gain in significance. Although the one-sided, rigid patterns of in-

terpretation of many social problems with regard to ethnicity have long been observed, it represents a development that not only prevents democratic structures in the eastern countries, but also jeopardizes the democratic structures of the western world" (Konrad Köstlin).

The organizing committee of the Viennese meeting is fully aware of the explosiveness of statements and issues of this kind; the organizers also realize that a science without any significant problems – and ethnization in the past and present is surely one such problem – is an insignificant science.

As suggestions for possible lecture topics which would apply to the past as well as the present and which would be related to the entire ethnological canon, we cite the following subjects: the use, interpretation and symbolization of the "national"; "folklore" as a distinctive mark of identity of "national" culture; aesthetics of the ethnic; regionalism – nationalism – internationalism; nationalism as a source or solution of conflicts;...

This circular is being sent to the officials and national representatives of SIEF appointed in Bergen, to the editorial offices of scientific journals and to all participants of the meetings in Zürich and Bergen. We request that this information be distributed and brought to the attention of relevant institutions, associations and publications.

At the same time we invite you to send your proposals (the lecture time should not exceed twenty minutes), so that we may finalize the course of the meeting. Timing requires the compliance with fixed dates, so therefore the deadline for this call for papers is November 1, 1993.

Please send your propositions as well as your ideas and registrations in advance to the following adress only:

In the name of the organizing committee,
Yours faithfully,

Olaf Bockhorn

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