



LECTURE TOUR 1965

Erik Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn:

Curriculum Vitae

I was born July 31, 1909 in Austria, the son of a scientist. My first language was French, but soon I acquired German, the language of the country, and English which I picked up during my vacations in Britain. During my classic studies I also learnt Hungarian and Russian, received my bachelor's degree from the Theresianic Academy in Vienna and was aided in my study of Japanese by the then Major Yamashita, at that time military attaché for South-eastern Europe. Early in 1929 I transferred to the University of Budapest and, abandoning the study of civil and canon Law in Vienna, took up the political sciences.

At the age of sixteen I began writing for periodicals and newspapers (the first one being the London *Spectator*). At the age of twenty I was sent to Russia as a special correspondent for a Hungarian daily. Even before receiving my doctor's degree from the University of Budapest I matriculated at Vienna's theological faculty and followed courses in East European history.

During 1935—1936 I acted as master of history at Beaumont College (England) and next went to Georgetown University where I taught for a year. After visiting the scene of the Spanish Civil War, I returned to the United States where I was soon made head of the Department of History and Sociology at St. Peter's College, Jersey City. In 1942—1943 I also taught a course in Japanese at Fordham University, but at the end of this year I joined the faculty of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia. In the summer of 1947 I resettled in Austria to devote myself to reading, writing, and further linguistic studies. Since then I have been back to the United States practically every year.

In the course of these years I have seen all 50 States, Mexico, and most of the Canadian Provinces. In addition to my more scholarly pursuits and mere sight-seeing I have lived on the Navaho Reservation, studied Alaskan urban development, hitch-hiked in the Rocky Mountains and worked on the assembly line.

Knowing all European countries, I started, after 1954 to make annual trips either to the Subarctic, around the world or, to the Southern Hemisphere. Thus I have regularly alternated my periods of study with periods of travel in order to gain first-hand information and impressions. In the past ten years

I have visited the following countries outside of the United States and Europe: Greenland, Iceland, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Macao, Hongkong, National China, Okinawa, Japan, Cambodia, Iran, Nepal, Turkey, Philippine, Islands, the Fiji Islands, New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania, Mauritius, the Union of South Africa, Mozambique, the French and the Belgian Congo (including Katanga and Ruanda-Urundi), Nigeria, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Panama and Bolivia.

Many of these countries I have visited two or three times. In the summer of 1963 I spent six weeks travelling in the Soviet Union as far east as Lake Baikal and as far south as Transcaucasia. This was my third visit after a lapse of 32 years. In the winter 1963—1964 I studied the Caribbean area, in the summer of 1964 Yugoslavia; in the winter of 1964—1965 I revisited practically all of Latin America down to the Magellan Straits, and West Africa.

Among my novels — the first one written in German at the age of twenty — I would like to mention *Die Anderen* (Vienna 1931), a thoroughly immature, even if prophetic work, *Gates of Hell* (Salzburg, London, New York, Poznan, Milan, Budapest) which received a prize from Cardinal Baudrillart, was confiscated by the Nazis and was sold in American Catholic bookstores "under the counter" as "obscene", *Night Over the East* (Salzburg, London), *Moscow 1979* (London, New York, Zürich, São Paulo, Madrid, Freiburg, Paris) and *Black Banners* (London, Caldwell, Paris, Madrid), *Die Gottlosen* (Salzburg, Roosendaal). I have also a detective story to my credit, published in Vienna (*Mord im Blaulicht*).

Among the theoretical books I have written I reluctantly mention *The Menace of the Herd* (Milwaukee 1943), a socio-political study written under a pseudonym. The book found a worthier successor in *Liberty or Equality?* (London and Caldwell 1952). A greatly enlarged German text, almost twice as long, appeared in Salzburg (1953). A much briefer treatise, *America's Founding Fathers* (Vienna 1948) was written to correct certain misunderstandings of American realities entertained by Americans and Europeans alike. I have also contributed essays to

Catholicism in America (New York 1954), *Born Catholics* (New York 1954), *Realities* (Milwaukee 1958), *Wanderwege* (Zürich 1961), *Schicksalsfragen der Westlichen Zivilisation* (Zürich 1965), *Between Two Cities* (Chicago 1962), *Lateinamerika* (Zürich 1962) and an account of American history to the *Handbuch der Weltgeschichte* (Olten 1956). My most recently published works of nonfiction are *Neoconservatismo y Neo-liberalismo* (Madrid), a study of the Catholic faith and the liberal position and another one on the relationship between Christianity and technology in *Ordo* (volumes X and XIII) and a larger panoramic sketch of the role of freedom in the Catholic Church: *Zwischen Ghetto und Katakombe* (Salzburg 1960). Its American translation is scheduled for publication in 1965 under the tentative title: "Catholic Freedom". (The anthology *Gendai shicho to katorishizumu*, Tokyo 1959, contains its last chapter.)

In the of field journalism I have concentrated in the past twenty years more or less on the English-speaking world, where I have appeared in *Colosseum*, *Catacomb*, *The Dublin Review*, *The Tablet*, *The Catholic Herald* (all in London), *Tomorrow*, *The Catholic World*, *The Commonweal*, *America*, *The Geographic Review*, *The Southwest Review*, *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Modern Age*, *New Scholasticism*, *Journal of Central European Affairs*, *The National Review*, *The Critic*, *Thought*, *The Freeman*, *Confluence* (all in the United States). I have also appeared in other journals; in Germany and Austria in *Frankfurter Heft*, *Die Industrie*, *Una Sancta*, *Neues Abendland*, *Rheinischer Merkur*, *Wort und Wahrheit*, *Christ und Welt*, *Die Furche*, *Hochland*, *Die Presse*; in Italy in *Humanitas*; in Spain in *Nuestro Tiempo*; in Argentina in *Criterio*; in Sweden in *Credo*, *Samtid och Framtid*; in Norway in *Farmand*; in Switzerland in *Schweizer Rundschau*; in France in *Revue de Psychologie des Peuples*, *Recherches et Débats*, *Fédération*, *La Table Ronde*, *La Vie Intellectuelle*, *Études*, *Esprit des Lettres*, in Japan in *Sophia* and *Seiki*, in New Zealand in *Comment*, in Australia in *Quadrant*.

From all this it should be evident that I have catholic interests. In the pursuit of these I am helped by the fact that I can read most European languages. (In the past six years, for instance, I have spent a good deal of time studying contemporary Russian literature.) I have always had a special interest in the religious scene and the coordination of the humanities with the sciences contingent upon them — theology, philosophy, psychology, politics, history, sociology, economics. Since I dislike specialization I have constantly altered the line of my activity in an effort to attain and keep a comprehensive view of the humanities. I take my stand with no specific political camp; the label I would be least reluctant to bear is that of a "Neo-Liberal" in the Central European

sense and I am a liberal *because* I am a Christian. My skeptical views on democracy are similar to those of the Founding Fathers, Alexis de Tocqueville, Jacob Burckhardt and, especially, Montalembert, whom I admire greatly. My studies in political theory and practice have been largely directed toward finding ways of strengthening the great Western tradition of human freedom, now under attack from so many directions. Recently my interests have been channelled towards a slightly different subject matter: the spiritual problem of Eros as distinguished from sex.

This research does not necessarily interfere with my main activity, i. e. to labor for a better understanding between the English-speaking nations and the Continent. In my work as a lecturer and writer I have constantly tried to bring these parts of the Occident closer together, and because of my particular training a large part of this effort has been made in the realm of higher education. I might add that my lecturing in American colleges and universities has been continuously rewarding to me, since it has kept me in live contact with the younger generation of the country on which so much of the world's future depends. This contact has been facilitated by my fluency in English and my knowledge of the American scene. I prefer to keep my lectures lively and enjoy, more than anything else, an animated debate. For a stay of several days, up to a week, with three to five lectures daily, I offer a special rate.

For my lectures I suggest the following topics: "America-Europe: The Great Misunderstanding", "Neo-Conservatism and Neo-Liberalism", "The Future of Democracy in Europe", "Jansenism: Past and Present", "Spain Today", "Germany Today", "The Church in Asia", "Political Problems of Asia", "Soviet Man Today", "Religion in Europe", "Interfaith Relations in Europe", "The Sexes in Europe", "The Church: Her Worldwide Problems", "Education in Two Worlds", "Confessions of a Novelist", "Eros, Sex, Marriage and Death", "An Alien Looks at America's Faith", "The New World of Australasia", "The African Turmoil (From Capetown to Casablanca)", "Colonialism — Myth and Reality", "The Church in Latin America", "Political and Social Problems of Latin America", "The United States and Latin America", "Asia [Twice Revisited]", "America, Europe, and the Vatican Council", "The Soviet Union Now".

To give a few modest details for those interested: I am married to the former Countess Christiane Goëss (Ph. D.): we have three children, live in a small mountain village near the capital of the Austrian Tyrol, a night's railroad trip from either Paris, Rome, Vienna or Bonn. My hobbies are photography, painting, hitch-hiking, music, bridge, stamp-collecting and the writing of satirical essays.

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