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Erik Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn: Curriculum Vitae and Lecture Topics 1983

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Erik Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn: Curriculum Vitae and Lecture Topics

Born July 31, 1909 in Austria, I began to study civil and canon law at the University of Vienna, but took up political science when I transferred to the University of Budapest in 1929, where I got my doctor's degree. In between I also attended courses at the Theological School of Vienna University. I speak — more or less fluently — eight languages and have a reading knowledge of 11 others, necessary for my research.

At sixteen I began to write for newspapers and periodicals (the first being the London *Spectator*) and at the age of twenty I was sent to Russia as special correspondent for a Hungarian daily.

In 1937 I went to Georgetown University where I taught for one year. After a visit to Spain during the Civil War I returned to the United States where I soon was made head of the Department of History and Sociology at St. Peter's College, Jersey City. In 1942—1943 I also taught a course of Japanese at Fordham University. At the end of that year I joined the faculty of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, where I remained until the summer of 1947, when I resettled in Austria to devote myself to reading, writing and further studies, visiting America every year.

Knowing all European countries, I started in 1955 to make annual trips either to the Subarctic, the Southern Hemisphere, or around the world. Thus I regularly alternated periods of study with periods of travel in order to gain first-hand information and impressions. In the past two decades I have visited the following countries: Iceland, Greenland, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panamá, Haiti, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Curaçao, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Tahiti, Fiji, Australia and Tasmania, New Guinea, New Zealand, Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, China, Hong-Kong and Macao, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Singapore, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, Iran, the USSR and Siberia, Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Israel, Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Liberia, the Spanish Sahara, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Congo-Kinshasa, Congo-Brazzaville, Angola, South Africa, Morambique, Rhodesia, Mauritius. Most of these countries I have visited on several occasions, Vietnam, for instance, five times and Northern Ireland recently twice. The United States? I know all 50 States, including Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone.

Among my novels I would like to mention *Gates of Hell* (Salzburg, London, New York, Poznan, Milan, Budapest); *Night over the East* (Salzburg, London); *Moscow 1979* (Lon-

don, New York, Zürich, São Paulo, Madrid, Santiago, Freiburg, Paris); *Black Banners* (London, Caldwell, Paris, Madrid); *Die Gottlosen* (Salzburg, Roosendaal).

My theoretical books include *Liberty or Equality?* (London and Caldwell 1952, Madrid 1962, Rome 1966). A greatly enlarged German edition, almost double in size, came out in Salzburg in 1953. A brief treatise, *America's Founding Fathers* (Vienna 1948) was written to correct certain misunderstandings, entertained by Americans and Europeans alike, concerning American realities. I have also contributed essays to *Catholicism in America* (New York 1954), *Realities* (Milwaukee 1958), *Wanderwege* (Zürich 1961), *Between Two Cities* (Chicago 1962), *Lateinamerika* (Zürich 1962), *Schicksalsfragen der Westlichen Zivilisation* (Zürich 1965), *Moskau-Peking* (Olten 1965), *Seeds of Anarchy* (Dallas 1969), *Adel in Österreich* (Vienna 1971), *Konservatismus International* (Stuttgart 1973), and an account of early American history for the *Handbuch der Weltgeschichte* (Olten 1956). Other published works of non-fiction are *Neoconservatismo y Neoliberalismo* (Madrid 1955), essays on the Catholic faith and the liberal position, and the relationship between Christianity and technology in *Ordo* (volumes X and XIII), as well as a panoramic sketch of the role of freedom in the Catholic Church: *Zwischen Ghetto und Katakombe* (Salzburg 1960), the last chapter of which is also contained in the anthology *Gendai Shicho to katorishizumu* (Tokyo 1959). Two small volumes, *Lateinamerika — Geschichte eines Scheiterns* (Osnabrück 1967) and *Herz, Hirn und Rückgrat* (Osnabrück 1968), the latter illustrated with my own paintings and published in Chicago (1969) as *The Timeless Christian*, are among my later publications. The most recent ones are *Amerika, Leitbild im Zwielicht* (Einsiedeln-Cologne 1971), *Luftschlösser, Lügen und Legenden* (Vienna 1972), and *Leftism — From Sade and Marx to Hitler and Marcuse* (New Rochelle 1974). *Das Rätsel der Liebe* (Vienna 1975), deals with the relationship between the sexes.

In the field of journalism I have written for: *Tomorrow*, *The Catholic World*, *The Commonwealth*, *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); *The Dublin Review*, *The Tablet*, *The Catholic Herald* (all in London). In Germany and Austria I contributed to *Frankfurter Hefte*, *Die Industrie*, *Una Sancta*, *Neues Abendland*, *Rheinischer Merkur*, *Wort und Wahrheit*, *Deutsche Zeitung*, *Deutschlandmagazin*, *Criticón*, *Die Furche*, *Hochland*, *Die Presse*, *Die Welt*, in Italy to *Humanitas*, in Spain to *Revista del Occidente* and *Nuestro Tiempo*, in Argentina to *Criterio*, in Sweden to *Credo*, *Samtid och Framtid*, in Norway to *Farmand*, in Switzerland to *Schweizer Rundschau* and

Civitas, in France to *Revue de Psychologie des Peuples*, *Recherches et Débats*, *Fédération*, *La Table Ronde*, *La Vie Intellectuelle*, *Etudes*, *Esprit des Lettres*, *Cahiers de Sociologie Economique*; in Japan to *Seiki*; in New Zealand to *Comment*, in Australia to *Quadrant* and *The Advocate*.

From all this it should be evident that I dislike specialization. I have repeatedly altered the line of my activities in order to attain and retain a *comprehensive view of the humanities*. My skeptical views in regard to democracy resemble those of the Founding Fathers, of 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 to strengthen the great Western tradition of human freedom, now under attack from so many sides. Recently my interests have been channelled toward a slightly different subject matter: the spiritual problem of Eros as distinguished from sex.

This research does not necessarily interfere with my efforts toward a better understanding between the English-speaking nations and the European Continent which, due to my particular training, have largely been made in the field of higher education. I might add that my lecturing in American colleges and universities has been continuously rewarding since it has kept me in live contact with the younger generation of the country upon which so much of the world's future depends. These contacts have been facilitated by my fluency in English and my knowledge of the American scene. I prefer to keep my lectures lively and I enjoy, more than anything else, an animated debate. For arrangements covering several days, up to a week, with three to five lectures a day, I offer a special rate.

As lecture topics I suggest the following:

- "America—Europe: The great Misunderstanding"
- "Right—Left, Conservatives and Liberals, an Exercise in Semantics"
- "The Near-East Today"
- "The Far-East Today"
- "Soviet Man Today"
- "Vietnam — Fiction and Reality"
- "The Five Wounds of Latin America"
- "The Church in an Age of Confusion"
- "Sex, Eros, Friendship, Charity"
- "Work Ethics and Commercialism: a World Problem"
- "Liberty or Equality"
- "What to think of South Africa"
- "Classes in Europe — Yesterday and Today"
- „The Germans and the Germanies"
- "The Irish Problem"
- "Spain, Portugal, Italy"

For those who are interested, here are a few personal details: I am married to the former Countess Christiane Goess (Ph. D.), we have three children and two grandchildren and live in a mountain village near the capital of the Austrian Tyrol. Recently I became special adviser of *BROCKHAUS*, Germany's leading encyclopedia. My hobbies are photography, hitch-hiking, music, bridge, stamp collecting, the writing of satirical essays and, since 1960, painting. I had my first exhibition in 1971 and, to be quite frank, I enjoy much more wielding the brush than the pen.

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Recent Publication:

Narrenschiff auf Linkskurs (Graz 1977)

Scheduled for 1978 or 1977: 1979

An Intelligent American's Guide to the European ~~Country~~

1980

*Rechts, wo das Herz verläßt **

1983

Austria Infelix oder Die Republik der Neidgenossen. (May 1983)

Black Banners 1953

Liberty or Equality 1952

both. Caxton Printers,

Caldwell, Idaho

not in catalog, but still obtainable from publisher.

** only book available.*

All others out of print.