

The Anthropos Institute: Fifty Years of Dedication to Anthropology

One of the most significant developments of the *Anthropos* has been the fact that fifty years ago this journal gave birth to the Anthropos Institute. The journal, in turn, has become one of the greatest concerns of the Institute, if not indeed its most important undertaking.

The Institute was never really *founded*: it merely grew out of the journal begun by Father Wilhelm Schmidt "for and by missionaries" a quarter of a century earlier. Being the lone survivor from among the charter members of the Institute, I was asked, as the Anthropos Institute celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary, to record some of my personal thoughts on the subject.

The purpose of this commemorative note is not so much to list and evaluate the many achievements of the members of the Institute (such as Martin Gusinde, Paul Schebesta, and many others, and, of course, Wilhelm Schmidt himself). This has been done several times before¹. Suffice it to say that the Institute can be rightly proud of the numerous publications of its members as well as of their fieldwork, teaching activities, and other professional anthropological achievements around the globe. However, we do not wish to overlook the close and invaluable collaboration between the Anthropos Institute and other anthropologists of various faiths, races, and cultures. In this brief paper, I wish to point out especially the close connection between the *Anthropos*, *International Review of Ethnology and Linguistics* and the Anthropos Institute, as well as between the Institute and its sponsor, the Society of the Divine Word (Societas Verbi Divini — S.V.D.). It is this Society that assigns qualified men from among its members to the Institute and for fifty years has made great financial sacrifices in maintaining the Institute. This paper will also offer us an opportunity to glance at the future of the Institute.

It was in 1932, in Vol. 27 (pp. 275-277) of *Anthropos*, that Father Schmidt announced the "establishment" of the Institute². He deliberately speaks of an *Errichtung* ("establishment") and not of a *Gründung* ("founding"). On the other hand, he speaks of a *Gründung* in reference to his journal *Anthropos*, which he founded in 1906 at St. Gabriel's Mission Seminary,

¹ See the pertinent articles listed in the Bibliography.

² Schmidt's short article (see Bibliography) will henceforth be referred to as "Announcement."