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BOOK REVIEWS

Jens Weinreich (ed.) *Korruption im Sport. Mafiose Dribblings. Organisiertes Schweigen*, Forum Verlag Leipzig, Auflage 2006, pp. 319.

Jens Weinreich' *Korruption im Sport. Mafiose Dribblings. Organisiertes Schweigen* (Corruption in Sport, Mafia Dribbles, Organized Silence) is a fascinating publication being "the first study in the world devoted to the issue of corruption in sport in the international and interdisciplinary context. It is an interesting journalistic venture combining economic, sports, historical, sociological, political and cultural aspects of the problem". The volume comprises 24 articles written by authors from nine countries: Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Kenya, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States. The authors include German university professors from Bielefeld, Halle and Heidelberg; editors of "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", "Berliner Zeitung", "Süddeutsche Zeitung", "Zeitung O Globo", "SonntagsZeitung", "Neue Zürcher Zeitung AG", "Zeitungen Welt", "Welt am Sonntag", "Berliner Morgenpost" and "Trynidad Express"; freelance reporters; Presidents of the German Table Tennis Union, European Table Tennis Union and German Olympic Committee; journalists from Brazil, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago, and, first and foremost, experts such as Wolfgang Schaubenstein, Britta Dannenberg, Dieter Rosner, Hans Leydencker, Jens Sejer Andersen, Werner Franke and Hans Wilhelm Gäb.

The authors are the most competent specialists in the field. They discuss corruption in sport against the broad philosophical, sociological, political, Olympic and historical background. The result is a compelling collection of articles written in German and English in the best historiographic tradition, based on an impressive variety of German and English language sources. The book is also the outcome of long-term investigation of all aspects of corruption in sport conducted by Editor-in Chief Jens Weinreich and dozens of other top class researchers. Their joint exposition of various

aspects of corruption in multiple sport disciplines as well as among national and international sports authorities, e.g. among presidents of football unions, is a huge incentive to the readers to promote the idea of sport deprived of fraud and unethical behaviors. *Korruption im Sport* is a great contribution to the general historiography of physical culture and law. It can be a useful resource for university students who take courses in sports law, history of physical culture and Olympism.

The twenty-four chapters of the book (with the Introduction and one chapter written by Jens Weinreich) constitute a coherent whole. The problem of corruption is divided by the contributors into several components: structures and forms, inventories, multi-million financial fraud under the Olympic cover, financial profits exemplified by low taxation schemes or the Volleypate, effects of parliamentary investigative committees, links between football and politics, tax havens, business interests, football clubs' fight against corruption and dubious contracts as exemplified by a German corporation buying the World Cup. The authors also discuss the issues connected with the global black market of football wagering and match fixing; corruption in modern German sports journalism; conflicts of professional and private interests; corruption beneficiaries; corrupt scientists; medals, doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations as corruption benefits; mounting opposition to corruption, illegal doping and bribery in sport; corrupt referees; the greatest criminal scandal in figure skating in history (Skategate); money laundering, illegal drug trade and illegal sports.

Highly noteworthy are articles written by Hans Leydencker on "sticky reality" revealing examples of corruption among German sports journalists, who for example, lobbied for groups bidding for the organization of the Olympic Games; or dubious affiliations between journalists and

athletes, sports clubs and sports associations. Similar issues are tackled by Jens Sejer Andersen in his article "Play the Game", who enumerates examples of consequences for journalists expressing critical views of activities of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) or International Federation of Volleyball (FIVB). Ezequiel Fernandez Mores in his articles "Brazilian Pizza" "God the Father Don Julio" describes irregularities in Brazilian and Argentinian football.

The book includes photos and short biographical notes of the authors, which are great sources of information about the contributors' activities directed against sport corruption in Germany and many other countries.

Korruption im Sport has been received very well by legal professionals and physical culture historians. The only shortcoming of the book is lack of article abstracts in English or German. I am certain, however, that it will attract huge interest both in Germany and abroad, as it constitutes an exciting read to everyone.

The book possesses a great theoretical and cognitive quality. It is an invaluable contribution to the discussion of corruption in sport in Germany and other countries, and it surely deserves to be propagated worldwide.

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Krzysztof (Christopher) Konstany Vorbrich, *Memoirs of the Forsters – the Polish-Born Participants of Cook's Expedition: the Same Voyage, Worlds Apart – excerpts: Volume Two, History of European Oceanic Exploration Discussed in the Forsters' Narrative Writings – Selected Issues*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe CONTACT, Poznań, 2010.

Krzysztof Konstany Vorbrich's book is undoubtedly a fascinating study based on abundant historical sources, concerning a most interesting subject: the exploration of all the world's oceans by two Polish citizens, Johann Forster and his son George, in the final years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The book is the 2nd volume of Vorbrich's trilogy on the Forsters' literary output. It makes references to the 1st volume published in December 2009 and to the author's another book published earlier that year as well as to numerous papers on the Forsters published since 2004.

The introductory chapter is devoted to a detailed explanation of the rationale behind this remarkable publishing project. It includes valuable initial bibliographical information on the most important memoirs (*Journals...*, *Observations...*, *A Voyage...*, *Reise...*) and essays (*A Reply...*, *A Letter...*, and *...Entdecker*) of the Forsters written in relation to their participation in Cook's Second Voyage. Vorbrich presents a host of arguments in support of his research. For example, we learn that the goal of the project is to shed light on the impressive literary heritage of the Forsters, which is almost unknown in the United Kingdom and in

Poland. Vorbrich's intention is to review certain completely forgotten or top-secret cultural relations between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

From the three critical academic-level assessments published in the book we discern that the author's university education and sport acquirements suit him perfectly to conduct this kind of research. Vorbrich holds two PhDs: one in Physics, in the field of Astronomy and one in English in the field of Literary Studies. He is also a certified Ocean Going Yacht Master and owns the glider pilot licence. Krzysztof Vorbrich has published over a hundred academic papers on the subject of navigation and artificial satellite positioning. In the field of maritime and avionic navigation he has been involved in several international research projects. In pursuit of his research goals he travelled extensively in the footsteps of James Cook and the Forsters.

In the biographical chapter we learn that the Forsters were born near Gdańsk in Poland. Their Scottish ancestors "...most probably guided by the prospects of religious freedom /.../ fled to Polish Royal Prussia in the late 1630s or early 1640s"

(p. 38). The Forsters moved to England in 1766. Johann was invited to take part as a scientist in the British Navy Expedition to the Pacific Ocean and was allowed to take his eldest son, seventeen-year-old George with him. Vorbrich proves that the choice of the Forsters as the supernumeraries was in this case fully justified, bearing in mind their huge factual knowledge as well as their excellent logistic experience.

The readers can learn that "...Owing to their extraordinary efforts, the amount of scientific work done by two Polish citizens – participants in the Voyage was enormous. /.../ by the time the Expedition returned, the Forsters had collected thousands of natural history specimens, together with illustrations, and notes on ethnology and languages.. /.../ The cornerstone of the work seemed to be Johann's *Journals...*, with its highly detailed daily entries..." (p. 51).

Having presented the importance of the Forsters' immense achievements during the voyage, Vorbrich proceeds to put before the reader the literary controversy between the British Admiralty and the Forsters. Their memoirs and essays written after the voyage, sometimes placed both the British national hero James Cook and the Tory government in an outright critical context. The controversy stemmed from the Forsters' struggle for the right to publish the narrative relation of the voyage. The public polemic led to the alienation of the Forsters by the British establishment. Vorbrich proves that after the publication of the memoirs and essays concerning Cook's Second Voyage, the Forsters had to endure many hardships from the British Admiralty. Johann Forster was expressly forbidden to publish his *Journals...* and was briefly confined in a prison hulk for his debts. The Forsters were denied any job. It led to their leaving England for Germany and the later to George's return to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Subsequently, Vorbrich's main interest is narrowed down in the third chapter, which constitutes the main part of the book. The author states that in the course of the third chapter in its entirety, whenever necessary, the arguments provided by the four memoirs will be supported by appropriate fragments from George Forster's monumental essay *Cook, der Entdecker*, which he wrote in German at the University of Vilnius. This essay summarises all European oceanic expeditions and commemorates Cook's all voyages of discovery. Vorbrich makes plentiful references to

Cook, der Entdecker and includes numerous quotes both in German and English.

First the author attempts to analyse the Forsters' literary works in terms of their contribution to the history of European exploration of the Pacific Ocean. The Forsters' ideas are placed in the context of the works written on this subject by other authors. Some of the Forsters' judgments were truly revolutionary.

The Forsters wrote to the effect that the great European sea powers aimed at gaining control of new lands and territories. Individual areas in the Pacific Torrid Zone had been re-discovered by the Europeans, accompanied with a pre-programmed removal into the shade of their predecessors' discoveries. As a matter of fact, the European Pacific expeditions were of paramount political nature. Vorbrich, while citing the Forsters, recalls fewer English, but more Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and French explorers amongst Cook's predecessors. Concurrently, Vorbrich creates a wide civilization related context, providing readers with information about the state of shipbuilding, navigation, medicine (fighting scurvy) and chronometry. The Forsters observed that the maritime power which had the most accurate chronometers was in the position to build the worldwide empire. Then Vorbrich presents the Forsters' sometimes highly controversial views on the most illustrious period of British maritime exploration of the Pacific Ocean and on its main proponent James Cook.

In his work Vorbrich skillfully proves that the Forsters' attitude towards the ideas of brotherhood and freedom, turned out to be incompatible with the mentality and objectives of the British on board of Cook's ship. During the voyage conflicts between the Forsters and the management of the Expedition erupted. The Forsters stressed their loyalty to Cook, for example, in ...*Entdecker* George wrote about Cook: "He was completely motivated by the spirit of discovery and his talents were so suited to the business for which destiny had chosen him that on his own he achieved more than all his predecessors put together and, as a mariner and discoverer, stands unrivalled and unique, the pride of his own century..." (p. 196). Nevertheless, they were also Cook's first critics: "J.R. Forster /.../ wrote in his *Journals...*: '...there are people [Cook], who /.../ will give no ear to the dictates of humanity /.../ by their perseverance, which costs the lives of poor sailors....' " (p. 197).

The Forsters also criticised the British Admiralty and the Tory government. For example, Vorbrich writes that: “The Forsters in their writings showed that the dockyard [and Cook] did not adapt the ship well for this contingency of heating and drying [even breathing]. /.../ Johann Forster writes [in *Observations...*]: ...render the air between decks [of the *Resolution*] at least unfit for breathing; or at least so much charged with alkaline and septic effluvia, that it must be very difficult to preserve the health of the seamen in the midst of such a cloud of infecting steams...” (p. 169). In his accurate and meticulous analysis of the Forsters’ texts and sources written by Cook and other authors, K.K. Vorbrich demonstrates the ruthless behaviour of members of the crew of Cook’s ships, leading to ignoring of the local taboo, and even to slaying the natives by the British matelots for no reason. Vorbrich writes: “Cf. one of many lists of violence done by Cook compiled by Johann Forster [in *Observations...*]: ‘...we had killed a man at the Marquesas, grievously wounded one at Easter-island, hooked a third with a boat-hook at Tongataboo, wounded one at Namocka, another at Mallicollo, and killed another at Tanna...’ ” (p. 179). Further, Vorbrich’s analysis of Forsters’ texts shows that the choice of the crews was haphazard, the sailors and mariners were marked by contentiousness, and that the abuse of alcohol and misuse of free sex as well as the mariners’ mentality precluded any humanitarian attitudes. Vorbrich cited Johann Forster who in his *Observations...* wrote that more care should be put into selecting crews for the voyages: “It is not enough to send them out, but they ought likewise to be encouraged in their laborious task, liberally supported and generously enabled /.../ as may prevent their fellow creatures in future times from becoming sacrifices to their own ignorance” (p. 179).

In his book Vorbrich constantly refers to the Forsters’ humanism, their profound feeling of brotherhood and the need of independence in the fullest sense of the word: “...Johann Forster observes [in *Observations...*]: ‘...cruel /.../ the civilised nations of Europe, who plunder, waste, and burn with so much eagerness, and so little concern...’ ” (p. 186).

In the third chapter and the Appendix, which includes copies of sea charts and coloured photos taken by Vorbrich, we learn that the author was involved in complicated navigating procedures,

voyaging aboard a sailing yacht from the southern tip of Tasmania along the eastern coast of Australia and New Zealand, partly repeating Cook’s Voyages. Vorbrich combines his plentiful library sources (app. 500 listed in the Bibliography) with field investigations. He stresses that the Forsters were moderators between Polish, Lithuanian, English and Scottish cultures and that their narratives were a wonderful example of literature.

Readers of Vorbrich’s book have a unique chance to broaden the limits of personal memory and direct experiences to events that stretch further into the past. We can trace hundreds of years through our genes, language, folk poetry and literature. The distant past lives on in our vocabulary and place names. The experience of many generations is preserved in words, folk poetry and literature, giving to people’s existence an exceptional depth and dimension of memory. These two great Polish investigators speak via the author to us in our own language, but it is not the voice of ocean waters we hear, but rather the whisper of tens of generations, the distant echo of their tasks and joys, hardships and battles, truths and untruths – in our case memory governs time.

Vorbrich’s greatest accomplishment is exposing our memory from beneath ancient layers, taking an inventory of it and presenting it to the public in ways enriching various branches of science. The joining of fantasy and historical facts of the vision of the world in poetry and physical science is unique not only in the Forsters’ writing in English but also globally. This book serves as a bridge from the past to the present, from poetry to science, and constructs hypotheses, which are not only difficult to prove but also to dispute. To understand the world according to K.K. Vorbrich, means to encompass it constantly in time as well as in space. Being myself a traveller I greatly appreciate K.K. Vorbrich’s capacity and energy and the high quality of his work, which should be propagated in different countries.

The overall conclusion is that K.K. Vorbrich’s book is indeed an extraordinary oeuvre. In addition, it is extraordinary in several dimensions. Firstly, it is concerned with the forgotten albeit essential literary and scientific achievements of the Forsters. Secondly, it places the aspects and problems of Cook’s Expeditions, as well as the fates and attitudes of their participants in a wide historical and societal context. Thirdly, K.K. Vorbrich not only made great use of library

archives from all over the world, but also undertook the trouble of sailing and travelling in the footsteps of Cook and the Forsters. This no doubt allowed him to empathize more fully with the problems of the Expeditions, undertaken two and a half centuries ago. The book under review, bulky and extensive as it is, has been naturally unable to cover all aspects promised in its title. Therefore, it could be considered as a starting point for a more detailed

study on the Forsters' literary output both in Europe and in the countries of the Pacific Rim.

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