

**PETER LIENHARDT 1928–1986:
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

AHMED AL-SHAHI

Introduction

NEITHER Peter Lienhardt nor his brother Godfrey kept systematic records of their publications or of their academic activities. While they did give copies of some of their publications to the Tylor Library at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford, where they both taught, they failed to provide other information for the records, so that until now the Institute has had only very brief, though useful, biographical notes. Moreover, though they kept copies of their books and offprints of some of their articles, it has required much detective work to track down the rest of their publications. For example, as executor of both their literary estates, since their deaths I have frequently found among their papers undated typescripts of papers and book reviews that give no clue as to where—or, indeed, whether—they were published.

It is widely appreciated that Peter Lienhardt was a fine and sensitive field-worker. His published writings, though modest in volume, display a profound understanding of the culture and institutions of the various Muslim and Arab communities he studied. This understanding is evident in his essays and articles, but may also be seen in his many book reviews. Like all his writings, these were meticulously drafted and redrafted until he found their form and content satisfactory. Given the intrinsic interest of these reviews, I have tried to track down all of them but recognize that there may be some I have missed. For example, it has not been possible to discover if Peter reviewed for the *Times Literary Supple-*

ment before the introduction of signed reviews in 1974. I quite expect, therefore, that additional material may come to light and will be pleased to receive (via the editors of *JASO*) corrections and additions to the information published here.¹

Biographical Notes

Peter Arnold Lienhardt was born on 12 March 1928 in Bradford, Yorkshire, to a Swiss father and a British mother. He was educated at Eastborough Council School, Dewsbury (1933–38) and Batley Grammar School, Batley, West Yorkshire (1938–46). He took part in athletics and in school plays and became a proficient cadet in the Air Training Corps. He was senior house captain and prefect and served on the library committee and as treasurer of the music society. He was also editor of the school magazine. In 1946 he gained his Higher School Certificate with distinction in Principal English and French. In 1946 he was awarded a Dewsbury Major Scholarship and Open Scholarship in English to Downing College, Cambridge. In 1948 he passed the English Tripos, Part I, Class I. In 1949 he passed the Oriental Languages Tripos, Part I in Arabic and Persian, Class II Division I. He was also awarded his MA in 1949.

From 1950 to 1952 he carried out his military service with the RAF. Most of this service was spent in a civilian department of the Foreign Office reading and translating Arabic and Persian texts. In 1952 he was awarded a Treasury Junior Studentship in Foreign Languages and Cultures and was admitted in October to Lincoln College, Oxford. In 1953 he was awarded a three-year Treasury Senior Studentship (later extended) which enabled him to carry out fieldwork in the shaikhdoms of the Trucial Coast, Kuwait, and Bahrain. In 1957 he was appointed to a Senior Research Fellowship in Anthropology at the East African Institute for

1. My original intention was to publish these combined biographical notes and bibliography together with those for Peter Lienhardt's brother Godfrey. For editorial reasons, however, it was decided to publish them separately. The biographical notes and bibliography for Godfrey Lienhardt will now appear in a later issue of *JASO*, where a revised version of this text will also appear. I should like to thank the following for their help in compiling the information presented here: Mr Jeremy Coote (Assistant Curator, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford), Mrs Isabella Birkin (Administrative Secretary, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford), Mr Mike Morris (Tylor Librarian, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford), Mr C. S. Parker (headmaster, Batley Grammar School, Batley, West Yorkshire), Mr Leslie Spurr (former master at Batley Grammar School, Batley, West Yorkshire), Dr Philip Howell (Archivist, Downing College, Cambridge), Anne Macdonald (College Secretary, Exeter College, Oxford), Dr Shirley Ardener (Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford) and Dr Derek Hopwood (St Antony's College, Oxford). I should also like to thank Margaret Tulip for her help in preparing the material for publication.

Social Research at Makerere, Kampala (Uganda). From here he carried out fieldwork among the Swahili of the East African coast. In 1959 he received a special award from the Nuffield Foundation. From 1960 to 1962 he was a Research Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, during which time he became advisor to Shaikh Shakhbut, the ruler of Abu Dhabi. In 1962 he was appointed Faculty Lecturer in Middle Eastern Sociology at the Institute of Social Anthropology. From 1962 to 1970 he held this post in conjunction with a Fellowship at St Antony's College, during which time he carried out fieldwork in the Iranian city of Isfahan (1965–66). In 1970 he was appointed to a College Lectureship, which post he held with his Faculty Lectureship until his death. Peter was an active member of the Oxford University Anthropological Society, presiding over its successful relaunch in 1979 after a low period and again during the last months of his life. He died on 17 March 1986 at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Peter Lienhardt's death was marked in these pages by the publication of an Obituary Notice by Wendy James (see *JASO*, Vol. XVII, no. 1, pp. iii–iv) and in a later issue by the publication of Emrys Peters's funeral address, an appreciation by Ahmed Al-Shahi, and an account of his association with the Oxford University Anthropological Society by Jeremy Coote; details of the Peter Arnold Lienhardt Memorial Fund were also announced in that issue (see *JASO*, Vol. XVII, no. 2, pp. 181–6). The following year a memorial volume was published: Ahmed Al-Shahi (ed.), *The Diversity of the Muslim Community: Anthropological Essays in Memory of Peter Lienhardt*, London: Ithaca Press (for the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies) 1987. This contained contributions from a number of his colleagues, former students and friends, and a brief list of his major publications.

It also contained the first part of 'Disorientations', a text Lienhardt had been working on at the time of his death. The other parts of 'Disorientations' appeared in this Journal and later in book form (see bibliography below). Two other essays have been published posthumously (including the essay 'Family *Waqf* in Zanzibar', that appears above), and I hope to be able to prepare for publication in the near future his major work on the shaikhdoms of the Trucial States.

Bibliography

1948. Review of *The Romantic Comedy*, by D. G. James (London, 1948), *Downside Review*, Vol. LXVI, no. 206 (Autumn), pp. 473–4.
1950. Review of *The Palisades of Fear*, by Ronald Bottrall (London, 1949), *Scrutiny*, Vol. XVII, no. 1 (Spring), pp. 81–3.
- 1953a. *The Northern Arabs: An Account of their Social and Political Organization*, University of Oxford: B.Litt. thesis.

- 1953b. Review of *Chaucer*, by Raymond Preston (London, 1952), *Blackfriars*, Vol. XXXIV, no. 397 (April), p. 206.
1955. Review of *The Road to Mecca*, by Muhammad Asad (London, 1954), *Blackfriars*, Vol. XXXVI, no. 423 (June), p. 252.
- 1957a. *The Shaikhdoms of Eastern Arabia*, University of Oxford: D.Phil. thesis.
- 1957b. 'Village Politics in Trucial Oman', *Man*, Vol. LVII (art. no. 61), p. 56.
- 1957c. Review of *Libya: The New Arab Kingdom of North Africa*, by Henry Serrano Villard (New York, 1956), *African Affairs*, Vol. LVI, no. 223, pp. 170–1.
- 1957d. Review of *Unity and Variety in Muslim Civilization*, ed. Gustav E. von Grunebaum (Chicago, 1957), *Man*, Vol. LVII (art. 230), pp. 183–4.
1959. 'The Mosque College of Lamu and its Social Background', *Tanganyika Notes and Records*, no. 53 (October), pp. 228–42.
1960. 'Contra Gentiles [review of *Myths, Dreams and Mysteries*, by Mircea Eliade (London, 1960)]', *The Tablet*, Vol. CCXIV, no. 6288 (26 November), pp. 1091–2.
1961. Review of *Jordan*, ed. George L. Harris (Newhaven, CN, 1958) and *Iraq*, ed. George L. Harris (Newhaven, CN, 1958), *Man*, Vol. LXI (art. 41), pp. 46–7.
1963. Review of *Land Tenure in Zanzibar*, by John Middleton (London, 1961), *Africa*, Vol. XXXIII, no. 3, p. 275.
- 1964a. 'Behind the Zanzibar Mystery', *New Society*, Vol. III, no. 71 (6 February), pp. 9–10.
- 1964b. Review of *A Pastoral Democracy*, by I. M. Lewis (London, 1961), *Africa*, Vol. XXXIV, no. 2, p. 176.
- 1964c. Review of *Marsh Dwellers of the Euphrates Delta*, by S. M. Salim (London and New York, 1962), *American Anthropologist*, Vol. LXVI, no. 1, pp. 164–6.
- 1965a. 'Kuwait: A Changing Country', *The Listener*, Vol. LXXXIV, no. 1904 (23 September), pp. 442–4 (originally given as a talk on the BBC Third Programme).
- 1965b. 'Tribesmen and Cosmopolitans: On African Literature [review of the first five volumes of the Oxford Library of African Literature]', *Encounter*, Vol. XXV, no. 5 (November), pp. 54–7.

1966. 'A Controversy over Islamic Custom in Kilwa Kivinje, Tanzania', in I. M. Lewis (ed.), *Islam in Tropical Africa: Studies Presented and Discussed at the Fifth International Africa Seminar, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, January 1964*, London: Oxford University Press (for the International African Institute), pp. 374–86.
- 1968a (ed. and transl.). *The Medicine Man: Swifa Ya Nguvumali*, by Hasani bin Ismail (Oxford Library of African Literature), Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- 1968b. 'Preface', in 1968a, pp. v–vi.
- 1968c. 'Introduction', in 1968a, pp. 1–80.
- 1968d. 'Appendix: Two Cases of Murder', in 1968a, pp. 190–208.
1969. 'Captain Swing [letter about beer-house keepers and rural shoemakers]', *Times Literary Supplement*, no. 3527 (2 October), p. 1131.
1972. 'Some Social Aspects of the Trucial States', in Derek Hopwood (ed.), *The Arabian Peninsula: Society and Politics* (School of Oriental and African Studies on Modern Africa and Asia, No. 8), London: George Allen and Unwin, pp. 219–30.
1973. 'Women Behind the Veil: The Arab World', in Ahmed Al-Shahi (ed.), *The Arab World*, Volume 17 of E. E. Evans-Pritchard (ed.), *Peoples of the Earth*, Danbury, CN: Danbury, pp. 58–9.
- 1975a. 'The Authority of Shaykhs in the Gulf: An Essay in Nineteenth Century History', in R. B. Serjeant and R. L. Bidwell (eds.), *Arabian Studies II*, London: C. Hurst (for the Middle East Centre, University of Cambridge), pp. 61–75.
- 1975b. 'The Interpretation of Rumour', in J. H. M. Beattie and R. G. Lienhardt (eds.), *Studies in Social Anthropology: Essays in Memory of E. E. Evans-Pritchard by his Former Oxford Colleagues*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp. 105–31.
- 1980a. 'Facts, Theories and Values in Middle Eastern Education', *British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Bulletin*, Vol. VII, no. 2, pp. 92–9.
- 1980b. Review of *Outcaste: Jewish Life in Southern Iran*, by Lawrence D. Loeb (New York, 1977), *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. III, no. 3 (July), pp. 366–8.
1981. 'Logical Grandmothers [review of *Wisdom from The Nile: A Collection of Folk-Stories from Northern and Central Sudan*, transl. with intro. by Ahmed Al-Shahi and F. C. T. Moore (Oxford, 1978)]', *JASO*, Vol. XII, no. 2, pp. 110–13.

- 1982a. Review of *Jassim: A Study in the Psychosocial Development of a Young Man in Qatar*, by Levon H. Melikian (London and New York, 1981), *Arab Gulf Journal*, Vol. II, no. 1 (April), pp. 121–2.
- 1982b. ‘Nomadic Assets [review of *The Rwala Bedouin Today*, by William Lancaster (Cambridge, 1981)]’, *Times Literary Supplement*, no. 4145 (10 September), p. 977.
1985. Review of *Recognizing Islam: An Anthropologist’s Introduction*, by Michael Gilsenan (London and Canberra, 1982), *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 145.
- 1987a (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘British by Birth’, *JASO*, Vol. XVIII, no. 3, pp. 273–8.
- 1987b (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘Disorientations’, in Ahmed Al-Shahi (ed.), *The Diversity of the Muslim Community: Anthropological Essays in Memory of Peter Lienhardt*, London: Ithaca Press (for the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies), London, 1987, pp. 7–27 (reprinted with 1990, 1991a and 1991b as 1993).
- 1990 (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘Disorientations: Part Two’, *JASO*, Vol. XXI, no. 3, pp. 251–67 (reprinted with 1987b, 1991a and 1991b as 1993).
- 1991a (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘Disorientations: Part Three’, *JASO*, Vol. XXII, no. 1, pp. 3–18 (reprinted with 1987b, 1990 and 1991b as 1993).
- 1991b (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘Disorientations: Part Four’, *JASO*, Vol. XXII, no. 3, pp. 245–62 (reprinted with 1987b, 1990 and 1991a as 1993).
- 1993 (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). *Disorientations—A Society in Flux: Kuwait in the 1950s* (Middle East Cultures Series, Volume 19: Kuwait), Reading: Ithaca Press (comprises a reprint of 1987b, 1990, 1991a and 1991b).
- 1996 (ed. Ahmed Al-Shahi). ‘Family *Waqf* in Zanzibar’, *JASO*, Vol. XXVII, no. 2, pp. 95–106.

