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POINT-TO-POINT

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This issue of *The Applied Anthropologist* features a special section with contributions which commemorate the life and accomplishments of a revered figure in the field of applied anthropology, Dr. Gottfried Otto ("Friedl") Lang. A co-founder of the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology, which sponsors this journal, he also served as teacher, mentor, and friend to many anthropologists now working world-wide. Two memos received from colleagues (here condensed) illustrate Friedl's impacts:

Larry Van Horn (of Littleton, Colorado) recalls Friedl "listening attentively to me one Saturday morning at his home in Boulder, Colorado, which he shared with his equally hospitable wife Martha.... This occasion occurred during the time when the High Plains Society ... was turning its newsletter into a peer-reviewed journal.... Friedl queried me about my interests and position: American Indian ethnography, ethnology, and ethnohistory,...a cultural resources specialist for park planning in the National Park Service.... In turn, I learned of Friedl's American Indian interests, especially on contemporary reservations and about his academic work at Brown University, the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. from Cornell University.... Our common focus that day was on naming the new peer reviewed journal. [My suggestion] stuck, I believe, due to Friedl's anthropological insight and influence. It continues today, of course, as is well known and appreciated by its readers."

Gertrud Schanne-Raab (of Zweibruecken, Germany) recalls that with "a German degree in sociology I came to the University of Colorado in the fall of 1970 to learn something new, to study a field that was not taught in Germany. [Applied anthropology] taught me new ways of looking at life.... The deepest impact on me [was through] Friedl Lang and Bob Hackenberg, who became my thesis advisor. To me the most important concept transmitted was that of cultural relativism which I still perceive as the basic assumption of an anthropologist's approach. I learned that all cultures were formed by their own traditions and the interrelationship with their environment and that they developed unique responses to these challenges. I learned that there aren't any cultures that are *a priori* better or worse than others.... Having grown up in postwar Germany with its hidden tensions between overcoming Nazi racism and prejudices and developing a new self-esteem, the idea of cultural relativism had a liberating effect on me. It gave me the chance to study other societies and cultures with an open mind and to treat them as equals. No matter if I talked to church members about development projects or to business students about social change the idea of cultural relativism allowed me to present other societies and their ways of dealing with change as comparable to our ways. Friedl Lang [not only taught] anthropology in class but practiced these views in his daily life. He always took great interest in other people. He loved to ask questions and engage in long debates as he wanted to learn about other persons' ideas and explore their ways of thinking while at the same time giving them a feeling of high esteem."

Our featured articles and research reports provide insight into many different topics including community-based participatory research, creative leadership and group ethic, peace and secession in South Sudan, staff care and aid organizations, and education in emergencies. These authors provide important contributions to the field of applied anthropology and are tremendous additions to the journal's publishing record.

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--Peter Van Arsdale, Editor-in-Chief

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