

**Cawthorn, Michael, ed., 2004. *Traditions in the midst of change. Communities, cultures and the Strehlow legacy in Central Australia*. [= Proceedings of the Strehlow Conference, Alice Springs, 18-20 September 2002]. Alice Springs: Strehlow Research Centre. ISBN 0-9751706-0-0.**

**Veit, Walter, ed., 2004. *The struggle for souls and science. Constructing the Fifth Continent: German missionaries and scientists in Australia*. [= Occasional Paper Number 3]. Alice Springs: Strehlow Research Centre. ISSN 1327-9858.**

**Reviewed by Gerhard Leitner, Berlin**

The two publications have several things in common: they deal with the German legacy in Australia and the work and impact of German missionaries in the Centre. The *Strehlow Conference* was held in 2002 to commemorate the work of Theodor Strehlow, one of three sons of Carl Strehlow, in the Arrernte region. It covers a range of fields, such as his non-academic and non-missionary work (which includes

a paper on the first translation into English of his teenage diary; several facets of the work for which he is so well known; the Strehlow family and their views of him as a person and missionary; the legacy of German missionaries; and the wider context in which his work was set. But the proceedings begin with a number of Aboriginal statements on Strehlow and the Strehlow Research Centre which acted as the host of this conference. With its 205 pages, the proceedings are an essential resource for anyone working on the Strehlows, the work of Christian missionaries in general, and those interested in a critical analysis of scientific and missionary views on Aboriginal cultures.

*Struggle for the souls and science*, an equally important resource, continues the theme of the conflicts between the (anthropological) scientists and missionary-ethnographers from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It contains papers on the *Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine* in South Australia, Carl Strehlow's background and career and the famous controversial debates he had with Walter Spencer and others. It also deals with the missionaries Teichelmann, Schürmann and Friedrich Albrecht and scientists such as Hermann Köler, Georg Balthasar von Neumeyer, Leo Frobenius.

Both books should be available more widely in German and one can only hope that the Strehlow Research Centre takes the initiative to contact relevant bodies such as the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek in Göttingen and others.