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LE SAHARA, TERRE MYTHIQUE D'EXPLORATION

THE SAHARA DESERT, A MYTHICAL LAND OF EXPLORATION

Deserts, and more specifically the Sahara, conjure up a number of images and “values” which attract the interest of our contemporaries, though their own way of life is so different from those images. This was proved, if proof was ever needed, after the death of Theodore Monod, in November 2000. It had been forgotten that this naturalist had travelled through the desert almost anonymously for more than sixty five years before a television programme in 1989 brought him to the general public’s attention.

The desert, a “market leader” for travel agencies, is synonymous with freedom, simplicity, beauty and a return to life’s basic needs. These images arise from the exceptional environment and landscapes but also from the great figures and the actions of some illustrious travellers such as Theodore Monod, Ernest Psichari, Charles de Foucauld, Henri Lhote, Isabelle Eberhardt or Odette du Puygaudeau. The desert has also been glorified in the literature of such luminaries as Saint-Exupéry, Frison-Roche or Le Clézio.

The Sahara desert, a land of incomparable exploration has been the setting of a number of exceptional, famous destinies although the reality is often far removed from the images with which we are left. The aim of this article could thus be to confront a myth and a reality through the evocation of a few great Sahara figures : among them, Theodore Monod was without doubt their last representative.

Sandrine PRODHOMME

LES CIRCULATIONS HISTORIQUES DU GUIDE : DE L'AILLEURS AU VOYAGEUR

FROM ELSEWHERE BACK TO THE TRAVELLER : ABOUT THE HISTORICAL VAGRANCIES OF GUIDE(BOOK)S

The terms “guide” and “guidebook”, which have been in use since the 12th century, have been applied to varying objects, texts, and uses, according to the centuries, which the historians have gathered under the labels of “classical” and “romantic” periods. There are some constants : plagiat, actualisation and reprints, the emphasis upon the ... and the pleasure of the traveller, later of the tourist. In contradistinction, collections, the diversification of the destinations and forms of travelling, the interest for the interiority of travelling, the codification of the object through the use of colours, typography, or dimensions are signs of the romantic version of the guidebook. In the continuity of these textual and material legacies, contemporary guidebooks tend to be concerned with the traveller, rather than with the visited elsewhere. We have been drifting from the guidebook which prepares the traveller to the discovery of elsewhere, to the guidebook which adapts elsewhere to the traveller, who is supposed to know what he is looking for.

Margalit COHEN-EMERIQUE

LES DIFFICULTÉS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE ET DE LA RECONNAISSANCE DE L'IDENTITÉ DU MIGRANT CHEZ LES ACTEURS DU SOCIAL. SES APPLICATIONS EN FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE ET CONTINUE

SOCIAL SERVICES : THEIR DIFFICULTY IN DISCOVERING AND RECOGNIZING THE MIGRANT'S IDENTITY. APPLICATIONS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Within the framework of our action research on the interaction between the migrants and the social, educational and medico-social services, in charge of their integration into a work environment, we have focussed on the difficulties these professionals meet trying to identify the contextual factors which have shaped the complexity and numerous facets of their client's identity and which can be used as a base in order to come to terms with having been uprooted and to adapt to the new country. These bases can be real reference points or fantasized or mythicized recollections. In this article, we present an inventory of these difficulties, identifying everything that gives meaning to the behaviour, the needs and requirements of the client who is the user. Training schemes are offered to each client to prepare him/her to surmount them, the ultimate goal being to allow these professionals access to an opening and to a better understanding of "the different other" and from there to a more adequate practice.

Sabina STAN

« MAKING UP PEOPLE » : CLASSIFICATIONS ÉTATIQUES, CATÉGORIES LOCALES ET GESTION DES IDENTITÉS DANS LA COLLECTIVISATION DES CAMPAGNES ROUMAINES

"MAKING UP PEOPLE" : STATE CLASSIFICATIONS, LOCAL CATEGORIES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF IDENTITIES IN THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF THE ROMANIAN COUNTRYSIDE

The analysis of the current transformations taking place in Eastern Europe is due to answer to two research imperatives : a better understanding of the functioning of socialism, and a better comprehension of the place the state occupies in the societies of these countries. While trying to answer this challenge, the article constitutes itself into an archaeological digging into the mechanisms of state building during the socialist period, by way of an analysis of the collectivisation process in Romania. By doing that, it hopes to throw a novel light on a particular, and crucial moment in the process of reciprocal construction of the state and the "people" in this region of the world, and thus on the "starting point" of one of the processes of reconfiguration of their relationship, that is, the decollectivisation.