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Preface

Lukas K. Pokorny

The present eighth volume continues the trend of each new volume in the *Religion in Austria* series being more comprehensive than the previous one. To illustrate this, some figures are in order:

Volume 1 (2012): 206pp. and 72,550 words

Volume 2 (2014): 292pp. and 102,311 words (+41.02%)

Volume 3 (2016): 316pp. and 118,728 words (+16.05%)

Volume 4 (2018): 357pp. and 123,667 words (+4.16%)

Volume 5 (2020): 422pp. and 154,782 words (+25.16%)

Volume 6 (2021): 532pp. and 193,351 words (+24.92%)

Volume 7 (2022): 666pp. and 244,398 words (+26.40%)

Volume 8 (2023): 703pp. and 260,888 words (+6.75%)

Needless to say, this growth has been accompanied by an increasing diversity of contributors and contributions. While the present volume retains the structure of Volume 7—the additional section announced at the end of the last volume’s Preface should appear in Volume 9 (2024)—three of the four sections have been expanded. The *Sources* section includes two contributions. One is the continuation (covering the years 1957–1960) of the annotated translation of the correspondence between two prominent figures of 1950s Euro-Buddhism, the Austrian Anton Kropatsch (1897–1971) and the Englishwoman A. A. G. Bennett (1892–1972). The other is an annotation with an introduction of missionary reports sent to the South Korean leadership between 1964 and 1969 by the founding head of the Unification Movement’s Austria branch, Paul Werner (1927–2008). Both contributions offer valuable source texts for the study of religions in Austria and their transnational networks.

The *Resources* section contains three contributions. “Religion in Austria: Master’s and Doctoral Theses Submitted at Austrian Universities 2022” lists twelve doctoral and seventy-two Master’s theses related to the broader study of religions that were submitted at Austrian universities in the past year. “Master’s and Doctoral Theses in Religious Studies at Austrian Universities, 2013–2022” lists a total of twenty-four doctoral and 151 Master’s theses submitted in Religious Studies programmes at the Universities of Graz, Salzburg, and Vienna between 2013 and 2022. Finally, “Religion in Austria: A

Bibliography of 2022 Scholarship” comprises bibliographical information on twenty-four monographs and edited volumes as well as 181 scholarly articles on the broader topic of religion in Austria and from a variety of disciplines published in 2022.

Eleven books are reviewed in the *Reviews* section by nine contributors. These are in alphabetical order: Lulie El-Ashry (Vienna); Eva Holder (Vienna); Yuval Katz-Wilfing (Vienna); Andreas Kowatsch (Vienna); Karsten Lehmann (Vienna/Krems); Dirk Schuster (Krems/Vienna); Lukas K. Pokorny (Vienna); Franz Winter (Graz); and Robert Wurzrainer (Vienna). Most of the reviews deal with more recent publications—2023 (1); 2021 (2); 2019 (1); 2018 (1); 2017 (2); 2016 (1); 2015 (1). The two older books reviewed are from 2006 and 2000.

The *Articles* section contains eight contributions by as many authors. Two contributions deal specifically with the *völkisch*/National Socialist milieu: Dirk Schuster’s “Collecting for the ‘Volk’: Franz Xaver Kießling, a *Völkisch* Anti-Semite and Collector” and Lucia Scherzberg’s (Saarbrücken) “National Socialist Priests in Austria: The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für den religiösen Frieden*, Its History, and Its Successor Organisation.” Scherzberg’s insight into Austria’s National Socialist Catholic priesthood is also one of three contributions focusing on aspects of Austro-Catholicism: Nicole M. Bauer’s (Graz) “Demons and Exorcists in Austria: An Ethnographic Study of Contemporary Roman Catholic Exorcism” and Isabelle Jonveaux’s (Lausanne/Graz) “Staging the Mass in Everyday Life: The Behaviour of Catholics at Online Masses during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The Catholic context also features prominently in Andreas Kowatsch’s “Judicial Review of Conversions as a Challenge for the Secular State.” The growing spectrum of free churches within Austro-Christianity is addressed by Frank Hinkelmann (Bonn) in his “The Association of Evangelical Churches in Austria. A Free-Church ‘Ecumenism’: Its Prehistory, Founding, and Further Development (1981–1997).” A particularly visible facet of Austro-Buddhism is the subject of my “Japanese Buddhism in Austria.” Lastly, Franz Winter and I have teamed up to present survey-based findings on “Religious Studies Scholars in Austria and the Issue of Religion: Approaches, Approximations, and Definitions.”

I would like to thank all the contributors to this volume, the external reviewers, the copy editor Robert Wurzrainer, Nickolas Roubekas, as well as Michael Ritter of Praesens Verlag for his unfailing professionalism. In particular, I would like to thank Hans Gerald Hödl, not only for his kind blurb, but also for the extremely pleasant decade (2012–2022) of his co-editorship. He continues to support the series as a member of the Editorial Board. Also

joining the Editorial Board of *Religion in Austria* this year is Karsten Lehmann, who brings along much welcome expertise in the sociology of religion, among many other areas. Volume 9 (2024) of the series is already in progress and promises to be another exciting collection. The present volume is dedicated to Werner Gabriel (1941–2023), who will be greatly missed.

Contributors

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