

## Hanke, Wanda Völkerkundliche Forschungen in Südamerika

Kulturgeschichtliche Forschungen Band II. Braunschweig:  
Albert Limbach Verlag, 1964. 195 pp., references, 101 figures  
and plates. DM 32.

Recenseado por Aryon D. Rodrigues

Wanda Hanke was an extraordinary woman who spent the last 25 years of her life visiting Indian groups in South America, from the Paraguayan Chaco to the upper Amazon. Although she was already over 60 years old and walking with the help of a cane (because of severe arthritis) when this reviewer saw her for the last time, it was amazing to see how enthusiastically she spoke about the peoples she had just visited and how vividly she planned new explorations into the most remote spots of tropical America. She went again and again, and died in 1958 at the age of 65 in the country of the Tukuna Indians on the Solimões, where Brazil borders with Peru and Colombia. Although she had an uncommon education, with doctorates in philosophy, medicine, and law, it appears that Wanda Hanke had no opportunity of studying either anthropology or linguistics. It is indeed a pity that a person so well gifted with both the physical and moral energy to endure more than 20 years of field work and who was acquainted with so many (about 40) tribal peoples was not equipped with anthropological and linguistic concepts and methods for organizing her observations and the invaluable data within her reach. Hanke's ethnographic as well as linguistic notes are in general asynchronous, superficial, and often quite naïve.

The book under review consists of five papers, edited by Georg Eckert and Herrmann Trimborn, to whom they were sent by Hanke between 1955 and 1958, and its publication is intended as homage to the memory of this "courageous woman." Three of the papers are mainly linguistic contributions:

“Scattered Indian villages in southeastern Mato Grosso” (pp. 9-33), comprising notes on the remnants of the Opaié (Ofayé), the remnants of some Guaraní groups, and a vocabulary of the Opaié language with about 700 items; “The language of the Dätuana” (including “The language of the Jupua”) (pp. 40-66), comprising about 800 Detuana words and nearly 200 Yupua words besides some Detuana songs; and “Tentative comparison of the Betoyan dialects Makuna and Čuna” (pp. 67-90), consisting essentially of a comparative list of about 500 items in Makuna and Čuna. The other two papers are: “Magic and medicine, charms for hunting, fertility, and love among the Tembekwá” (pp. 34-39) and “Drawing among the primitive peoples of South America” (pp. 91-191).

The ethnographic notes on the Opaié and Guaraní, including the Tembekwá, are very meager. More valuable is the vocabulary of Opaié, which includes many items not recorded either by Nimuendajú or by Gudschinsky, the linguists who have recorded this by now probably extinct language. Detuana, Yupua, Makuna, and Čuna are languages of the Tukano (earlier Betoya) family. Of Makuna and Čuna there were until now no published data.

The longest paper is that on “primitive” drawing in South America. Distinguishing between spontaneous and elicited drawings, it consists essentially of a collection of pencil drawings by Indians who in most cases were using pencil and paper for the first time in their lives. These nonspontaneous trial drawings, obtained from members of 16 tribes, are reproduced with commentaries and descriptions of the circumstances under which they were obtained.