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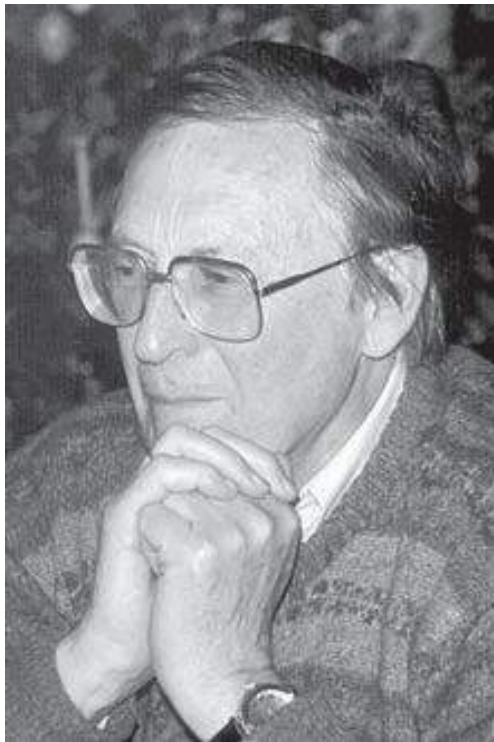
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GRIEVING FOR A GREAT FRIEND AND SCIENTIST

Dr. Werner Kästle died with 92 years



in the night of January 4-5, 2019. We knew each other for 48 years and published five scientific books together with thousands of hand drawn illustrations and independent chapters by Werner. Werner was a very modest but highly intelligent and always friendly person. He was married to Ruth Kästle and had three children, Eva, Bernhard and Norbert.

Werner Kästle was the pioneer in studies on reptile behaviour and wrote many publications on that topic.

Werner Kästle, born 1926 in Munich, kept reptiles and amphibians since his childhood. He studied biology, chemistry and geography at the Munich University from where he received his PhD after his return from a three years' captivity following World War II. He worked at a college of education in Munich from 1952 until his retirement in 1988. His field of herpetological work was the intraspecific communication of lizards, especially optical signals in iguanids, agamids and chameleons. One important aspect is the evolution of signal systems. Intense collaboration and common publications with H. H. Schleich (e.g. ultrastructures in reptile skins and eggshells, description of new species) date back for several decennia and have centred on Nepal since the early nineties. Observation and breeding of captive specimens offered new insights into the ethology of agamids. In this book (ed. SCHLEICH & KÄSTLE 2002, pp 1201) "*Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal*" he participated in the redaction, wrote some general chapters, also those on lizards with the exception of skinks, and made the marginal drawings for reptiles.

Another book on "*Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa*" (SCHLEICH, KÄSTLE & KABISCH, pp 630) was published in 1996. *Reptile Egg-Shells * SEM Atlas* (SCHLEICH & KÄSTLE, 1988,

pp 123) was the first common book by Werner and me. Later a separate volume *“Contributions to the Herpetology of South Asia (Nepal, India)”* had been edited by SCHLEICH & KÄSTLE in 1998 with 322 pages covering 18 articles. A latest book was *“Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal”* by KÄSTLE, RAI & SCHLEICH (2013, pp 609). Remarkably Werner never had been to Nepal but to Algeria in 1953 and many times to Mediterranean countries, but most sensitive understanding and knowledge to most important contributions for those mentioned books. Werner Kästle was honorary member of Arco-Nepal.

We all miss him very much.
Hermann Schleich & Arco-Nepal

Common published or edited literature

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KHAMBU'S WAY

crossroads in new lands

- **Khambu's Way * crossroads in new lands**

In December 2018, ARCO-Nepal published in English, the book by author Prof. Dr. Kaluram (Khambu) Rai, 'Mero Anusandhan yatra' (My research vignettes). It is a softbound book in DIN A 5 format, black-white with 70 photographs (from K.R. Rai & H.H. Schleich), two drawings, one map and one newspaper cutting on 570 pages. The book has been edited by H. Schleich & S. Geldeard.

Khambu's Way (ISBN 978-3-947497-02-7) is under full copyright by Arco-Nepal and distributed by ARCO-Spain, E-Tabernas/Almeria.

Orders can be sent to: arco.spain05@gmail.com or arco.nepal@gmail.com.

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This book is very far removed from being a factual research journey. It is a lively and human story of one man's determination to achieve his Ph.D. in the subject of Herpetology and will be enjoyed by a wide audience. This account of Khambu's research journey starts in his home country of Nepal. While covering almost 2000 kilometres, mostly on foot, Khambu's story draws us into the breath-taking beauty of Nepal, enabling the reader to appreciate its diversity, customs and culture of the Nepali people.

In proof reading this book, we (the editors) have tried not to tediously correct Dr. Rai's English but to maintain the spontaneity and oft times naivety of his descriptions, especially when in Europe for the first time where he experienced our "strange" Western food, culture, behaviour and way of life.

Dr. Khalu Ram Rai continues to make an impact today in his field of protection and conservation of herpetology in Nepal and some of his species, recorded for the first time in Nepal, are illustrated by Hermann Schleich.

The following is in the author's own words unedited:-

"When the Nepali first edition 'Mero Anusandhan yatra' was issued, I received hundredth of book reviews in local to national papers and magazines and also good wishes from readers. Mostly of my colleagues and readers asked who was Dr. Hermann and how he looks etc. After two or three years of that book release supervisor Prof. Dr. Hermann Schleich visited Nepal and came to my home place Bhadrapur to know my eye problem. But when he visited in 2015 in Nepal he was interested to ask me about that published Nepali book. Immediately I told him the main themes of the book in brief translating in English. This time he responded me positively and said that if I translate it in English from Nepali, he would edit it and publish on behalf of ARCO-Nepal. His reply spontaneously made me happy and I started to translate the Nepali book 'Mero Anusandhan Yatra (my research vignettes) into English. As a routine work, I ceaselessly translated it in day and night. After a continuous attempt of two years, I finished the translation in last December of 2017. When I submitted the first draft of to my supervisor Prof. Schleich then I felt the happiest moment. Because it was my long dream to dedicate this book to him now it was accomplished. I have written this book in transparent manner and nothing was hidden within my research documents. Now the world may see what kind of researches are going on in Nepal and also may verify my routes to continue the ongoing research work on herpetofauna of Nepal by coming generation (K.R. (Khambu) Rai).

This book, translated and re-edited now in English, already quite a famous book, is divided into four main parts and 26 chapters.

It is a very pleasant and enjoyable book.

Werner Kästle emailed on 25th December and wrote: "It is very interesting to read how our culture is seen by a Nepali person –what is important, what not? The reader will continuously be kept interested as the story goes on".

Werner Kästle is mentioned by the author in a separate chapter how Khambu, when visiting him, was received with great hospitality and encouraging help for identifying some of his species and taught by Werner for scientific illustrations.

- **A brief Visit to Turtle Conservation Program, Kasarah**

In December 2018, Tapil P.Rai visited the Turtle Conservation Program at Kasarah, Chitwan National Park, with students. It is very pleasing to observe the ARCO-Nepal's contribution included at the Gharial Conservation Breeding Center at Chitwan National Park.



Now, the turtle section has also been renovated and I heard about a new concept being implemented there. Bed Khadka Sir has converted two ponds without partition; one is natural without any interference and another one will be controlled by timely cleaning. He has also kept juvenile gharials in sympatry with terrapins. But unfortunately due to cold weather and cryptic nature of turtles, not a single one could be observed.



Entrance gates to the Breeding stations



Views of terrestrial enclosure and newly converted aquatic habitats, below.



Pond with interference or cleaning



Converted pond without interference



Information board about turtles



A balcony for viewing in turtle section

During the initial presentation Bed Sir also briefed about contribution of Prof. Schleich / ARCO-Nepal and TRCC of Budoholi which was very encouraging to students and me as well.



Discussion with Bed Sir (right) on site, and presentation by Assistant Conservation Officer of Chitwan National Park Mr. Bed Khadka.

*by Tapil Prakash Rai, 27th December, 2018
Lead Keeper and TRCC Representative, (ARCO-Nepal & SUMMEF)*

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