The Franz Bibfeldt Slide Show

[Slides are property of Martin E. Marty of the Franz Bibfeldt Foundation; please return. What I am writing here is not really a script but could provide background for someone who would prepare informal comments as the slides are shown. [35]

 Bifeldtiana. What follows is a photographic set of evidences of the world of Franz Bibfeldt, courtesy the Bibfeldt Foundation. This material is on display "today only;" it may never be seen again, chiefly because there will be no demand.

2. Bibfeldt is no stranger to the AAR/SBL. Last year he was even seen in the book display, as an "Ex Libris" exhibitor.

3. Through the years Bibfeldt attracted a great number of devotees, many of whom sent him autographed pictures. The current mayor, Eugene Sawyer, has not yet met Bibfeldt, but his greatest predecessor, Mayor Richard J. Daley, whose spirit welcomes AAR/SBL to Chicago, was a fan, as this authentic photograph testifies.

4. Bibfeldt travels. This is an evidence of his meandering: the marquee of a Cincinnati hotel. Among the Bibfeldtians pictured are historian Jerald C. Brauer, the late lawyer Leon Lechler of Cincinnati, and ethicist Joseph Fletcher, whose situation ethics very much matched Bibfeldt's style.

5. While the current mayor does not know Bibfeldt, the Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago, Joseph Bernardin, recognizes Bibfeldt's global appeal and very quietly and diffidently recognizes him, at least by initials, as an influence in Chicago. Bernardin was not consulted about welcoming you, but we assume that had he been, he would have welcomed you.

6. Bibfeldt was born at Sage-Hast by Groszenknetten, Niedersachsen, Oldenburg, Germany, and wanted to be an athlete. This is his boyhood Turnverein at Groszenknetten. He flunked nine-pins and Indian clubs, so there was nothing to do but leave the Turners and go into theology.

7. The print is small here, but this review was the first American notice in print of Bibfeldt, a review published in December, 1951. It notices his <u>The Relieved Paradox</u>. Fortunately, the print is too fine to read--otherwise its content could skew theological endeavors today by a renewed influence.

8. Another kindred soul of Bibfeldt was Vice President Spiro Agnew, who autographed the picture for him, but could not spell Bibfeldt, so he did not try.

9. Librarians of Congress and Presidents of the United States pay

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tribute and get in on the act: here are Daniel Boorstin and Jimmy Carter in action.

10. Response to a Bibfeldt lecture. The professor can take a joke, and added this to his own collection.

11. Annually the Foundation sponsors lectureships, some of which get national coverage. The winner of a student contest one year wrote and spoke on "The Pastoral Care of the Dead." <u>Time</u> missed its chance.

12. Hilda Bibfeldt and the Bibfeldtian feminists get equal time in any current Bibfeldt research. The professor was a chauvinist pig in his prime, and cherished this authentic autograph by Joan Collins, Playmate of the Year back when such people were still relevant. Bibfeldt remained relevant longer.

13. Bibfeldt's analogy of dialectics or dialectics of analogy is well displayed in this drawing. You may recall that when he heard that Kierkegaard had written <u>Either/Or</u> he wrote <u>Both/And</u> and when negative reviews came in he wrote a sequel <u>Either/Or And/Or</u> Both/And.

14. This year's lecturer, Robin Lovin, is delivering his third Bibfeldt lecturer; the earlier two have been reduced to print; here is an instance. Check the Religion Index for sources. 3

FB article

1 'm O.K. You're D.O.A. 15. The Yes and No theology of Bibfeldt can be represented many ways. It is also a part of the Bibfeldt coat of arms, showing the god Proteus on a weathervane, with the Spanish suscript, "I dance to the tune that is played." Everything can become anything else in this theology, as this drawing shows.

16. The excesses of Bibfeldt theology get drained off; a member of the Foundation sent this post card from the cathedral where Bibfeldt used to preach; this gargoyle is its own comment on the Bibfeldtian Schwulst.

17. Roman Pucinski, sometime alderperson, sometime Congressperson (as Bibfeldt would say) and father of Aurelia Pucinski, a new Chicago political celebrity, has long spoken for the Polish community in appreciation of our hero.

18. The late St. Louis artist Siegfried Reinhardt was preparing drawings of Bibfeldt for a Harper and Row publication; this is a sketch of Bibfeldt faking it as a hierarch at the Second Vatican Council. He was exposed.

19. Years ago when the AAR met in Atlanta, a Foundation member went to the trouble of getting the autograph of one of Bibfeldt's southern admirers, Lester Maddox, whose racism Bibfeldt abhorred, but whose fried chicken wings he adored.

4

20. Bibfeldt influence goes from coast to coast; here an epigram of his helps Pacific Lutheran University raise funds.

21. Former Senator Charles Percy, who offered two Foundation officers a chance to pray for Bibfeldt in the U.S. Senate any April First.

22. The Donnelley Family, long identified with one of the world's largest printing firms--its headquarters is near McCormick Inn, where some AAR/SBL conferees are staying--has endowed a number of Donnelley Chairs at The University of Chicago. The Bibfeldt people approached the family and the endowment and came off with this Donnelley Stool of Bibfeldt Studies, a Lehrstuhl recalling Bibfeldt's first translated book, <u>The Relieved Paradox</u>. The famed 'Yes' and 'No' motif is represented in a theology which tends to fall between two stools.

23. We found this most famous of modern cartoons in the Bibfeldt files. We have no idea why the professor cherishes it.

24. East meets West when Bibfeldt is concerned; here the late Chairman Mao addressed the always late Franz Bibfeldt.

25. The Bibfeldt Foundation thanks you for your interest. The End. 5

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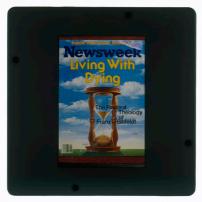
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