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Nota di contenuto	Introduction. The German language tradition of ethnography in Australia / Nicolas Peterson and Anna Kenny -- German language anthropology traditions around 1900: Their methodological relevance for ethnographers in Australia and beyond / Andre Gingrich -- Part I: First encounters. Clamor Schurmanns contribution to the ethnographic record for Eyre Peninsula, South Australia / Kim McCaul -- Pulcaracuranie: Losing and finding a cosmic centre with the help of J. G. Reuther and others / Rod Lucas and Deane Fergie -- Looking at some details of Reuthers work / Luise Hercus -- German Moravian missionaries on western Cape York Peninsula and their perception of the local Aboriginal people and languages / Corinna Erckenbrecht -- Part II: Impact of the Aranda. Early ethnographic work at the Hermannsburg Mission in Central Australia, 1877 1910 / Anna Kenny -- Sigmund Freud, Geza Roheim and the Strehlows: Oedipal tales from Central Australian anthropology / John Morton -- Of kinships and other things: T. G. H. Strehlow in Central Australia / Diane Austin-Broos -- Only the best is good enough for eternity: Revisiting the ethnography of T. G. H. Strehlow / Jason Gibson -- Part III: Widening the interest.

The Australianist work of Erhard Eylmann in comparative perspective / Francesca Merlan -- Herbert Basedow (1881 1933): Surgeon, geologist, naturalist and anthropologist / David Kaus -- Father Worms contribution to Australian Aboriginal anthropology / William B. McGregor -- Historicising culture: Father Ernst Worms and the German anthropological traditions / Regina Ganter -- Part IV: Academic anthropology. Doing research in the Kimberley and carrying ideological baggage: A personal journey / Erich Kolig -- Tracks and shadows: Some social effects of the 1938 Frobenius Expedition to the north west Kimberley / Anthony Redmond -- Carl Georg von Brandensteins legacy: The past in the present / Nick Thieberger -- The end of an era: Ronald Berndt and the German ethnographic tradition / Nicolas Peterson.

Sommario/riassunto

The contribution of German ethnography to Australian anthropological scholarship on Aboriginal societies and cultures has been limited, primarily because few people working in the field read German. But it has also been neglected because its humanistic concerns with language, religion and mythology contrasted with the mainstream British social anthropological tradition that prevailed in Australia until the late 1960s. The advent of native title claims, which require drawing on the earliest ethnography for any area, together with an increase in research on rock art of the Kimberley region, has stimulated interest in this German ethnography, as have some recent book translations. Even so, several major bodies of ethnography, such as the 13 volumes on the cultures of northeastern South Australia and the seven volumes on the Aranda of the Alice Springs region, remain inaccessible, along with many ethnographically rich articles and reports in mission archives. In 18 chapters, this book introduces and reviews the significance of this neglected work, much of it by missionaries who first wrote on Australian Aboriginal cultures in the 1840s. Almost all of these German speakers, in particular the missionaries, learnt an Aboriginal language in order to be able to document religious beliefs, mythology and songs as a first step to conversion. As a result, they produced an enormously valuable body of work that will greatly enrich regional ethnographies.
