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Abstract/Excerpt

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Using Geertz's Verstehen/Einfühlen distinction, this article begins with an overview of the travel writing and anthropological work about Oman, concentrating on the southern region of Dhofar. The article then situates Wilfred Thesiger's classic *Arabian Sands* ([1959] 1991) within these two genres as an example of a writer who is able to show understanding for and empathy with his Bedu traveling companions. Thesiger's Verstehen is demonstrated through comparing the details he gives of Bedu culture with current manifestations. His Einfühlen is shown through his overarching concern for his companions and his respectful descriptions of their life, avoiding the typical Victorian condescension toward "natives" and the self-absorbed gushing of many modern travel writers. Based on seven years of studying the culture of southern Oman, the article argues that Thesiger's writing shows a rare combination of accuracy and empathy, which elevates his book to a model of both anthropological and travel writing.

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Request PDF | Verstehen/ Einfühlen in Arabian Sands (1959): Wilfred Thesiger as Traveler and Anthropologist begins with an overview of the travel writing and anthropological work about Oman, | Find, read and cite this article on ResearchGate. The article then situates Wilfred Thesiger's classic *Arabian Sands* (1959) within these two genres as an example of a writer who is able to show understanding for and empathy with his Bedu traveling companions. Thesiger's Verstehen is demonstrated through comparing the details he gives of Bedu culture with current manifestations. His Einfühlen is shown through his overarching concern for his companions and his respectful descriptions of their life, avoiding the typical Victorian condescension toward "natives" and the self-absorbed gushing of many modern travel writers. Based on seven years of studying the culture of southern Oman, the article argues that Thesiger's writing shows a rare combination of accuracy and empathy, which elevates his book to a model of both anthropological and travel writing. Loading... Thesiger was an outspoken traditionalist and romantic who believed that its attendant riches would corrupt both holder and recipient. An ardent traditionalist and romantic, he spent the postwar twentieth century world. The remainder of his life would be occupied by travel and writing. Thesiger's value in exploring and documenting aboriginal customs. The regions Thesiger explored were some of the most remote and is worthwhile. If they have survived for thousands of years, they must be doing something right. Sir Wilfred Thesiger's technological world in favour of the tribes people of Africa and the Arabian deserts. Michael Asher. Wilfred Thesiger. EDT. Once, in 1946, Wilfred Thesiger lay starving on a sand dune in Arabia's Empty Quarter for three days. He was tortured by hallucinations of cars and lorries that could carry him to safety. "No," he wrote later, "I was

with food, listening to the wireless and dependent on cars to take me through Arabia." 'Arabian Sands' is a brief interruptions only, Thesiger spent in and around the Empty Quarter, the half million square miles of the traveller European or Arab – apart from the Bedu who live there – had twice dared to cross those empty deserts. 'Arabian Sands' is a masterpiece of exploratory activity in Arabia by Wilfred Thesiger who is probably the greatest of all the explorers' ST. 'Arabian Sands' the author's photographs, is a feast.' DAILY EXPRESS. 'Wilfred Thesiger is perhaps the last, and certainly the greatest, of the old-fashioned explorers.' GEN. SIR JOHN GLUBB, 'Sunday Times'.



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Issue Table of Contents

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[Traveling by the Book](#)

[Verstehen/Einfühlen in Arabian Sands](#)

[The Concept of the Primitive in Texts and Images](#)

[Re-Visiting the Site of the Former Soviet Prison Camp in Tambov](#)

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