

Gerald Durrell

Gerald ('Gerry') Malcolm Durrell (* 7. Januar 1925 in Jamshadpur, Indien; † 30. Januar 1995 auf Jersey) war ein britischer autodidaktischer Zoologe und Autor. Er ist der jüngste Bruder des mehrfach für den Literaturnobelpreis vorgeschlagenen Schriftstellers und Diplomaten Lawrence Durrell.

Biografie

Durrell wurde in Indien geboren, und es wird behauptet, sein erstes verständliches Wort sei "Zoo" gewesen. Er war das jüngste von vier Kindern, darunter sein älterer Bruder, der Schriftsteller Lawrence Durrell. Nach dem Tod des Vaters zog die Familie zunächst 1928 nach England, dann aber 1933 nach Korfu, um dem regnerischen England zu entfliehen. Durrell befasste sich gründlich mit der Tierwelt Korfus, wodurch sein späteres berufliches Interesse geweckt wurde. Seine humorige Autobiografie "Meine Familie und anderes Getier" befasst sich mit dieser Zeit; das Buch wurde 2005 von der Regisseurin Sheree Folkson verfilmt. 1939 siedelte die Familie unter dem Eindruck des beginnenden Zweiten Weltkrieges nach Bournemouth (England) um.

Nach einer Ausbildung zum Tierpfleger in Whipsnade (England) arbeitete Durrell als Tierfänger und unternahm auf der Suche nach seltenen Tieren mehrere Expeditionen. Diese Reisen führten nach Britisch-Kamerun (1947/48, 48/49, 56/57), Britisch-Guayana (1949/50), Argentinien und Paraguay (1953/54), Argentinien (1958/59), Sierra Leone (1965), Mexiko (1968, 79), Mauritius (1976, 77) und Madagaskar (1990); er fing dort Tiere für alle großen britischen Zoos. 1950 erkrankte Durrell an Malaria und begann während dieser Ruhezeit seine Tätigkeit für den Rundfunk. Er arbeitete an sieben Fernsehserien mit. Seine frühen Expeditionen wurden von der BBC begleitet und verfilmt. Seine Filme wurden in vierzig Ländern von 150 Millionen Zuschauern gesehen. Darüber hinaus ist er Autor von 37 Büchern über Tiere und Zoonhaltung. 1959 erfüllte er sich seinen Kindheitstraum und gründete auf der Kanalinsel Jersey einen eigenen Zoo, um bedrohte Tierarten vor dem Aussterben zu bewahren. Nach finanziellen Schwierigkeiten wurde der Zoo 1963 in eine Gesellschaft umgewandelt, den Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. 1979 heiratete Durrell Lee McGeorge. 1980 gründete er eine "Mini-Universität", das International Training Centre (ITC) auf Jersey, die bis heute 1.420 Studenten aus 121 Ländern in den Techniken zur Bewahrung von Tierarten ausbildete.



Gerald Durrell mit Lemur. Sitzbild von John Doubleday

Ehrungen, Auszeichnungen

- 1956 - Fellow of the International Institute of Arts and Letters
- 1974 - Fellow of the Institute of Biology - London
- 1976 - Diploma de Honor – Argentine Society for the Protection of Animals
- 1977 - LHD – Doctor of Humane Letters – Yale University
- 1981 - Offizier des Ordens der Goldenen Arche
- 1982 - O.B.E. – Order of the British Empire
- 1988 - Richard Hooper Day Medal – Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia
- 1988 - Dokortitel für sein Lebenswerk der Universität von Durham
- 1989 - Dokortitel für sein Lebenswerk von der Universität von Kent.

Schriften

1953 * *The overloaded Ark*. (dt.: *Tiere, Tänze, Trommeln: Auf Tierfang im Regenwald Kameruns*. Stuttgart: Franckh 1955)

1954 * *Three singles to adventure*. (dt.: "Grosses Herz für kleine Tiere") Tierfang in Adventure (British Guiana)

1954 * *The Bafut Beagles*. (dt.: *Die Spürhunde des grossen Fon: Auf Kleintierfang in Kamerun*. Wien: Ullstein 1957)

bei ro ro ro unter dem Titel "Zoo unterm Zeltdach" erschienen 1954 * *The new Noah*. (dt.: "Ein Noah von heute") Eine Sammlung von Geschichten für Kinder über Gerry's Reisen nach Kamerun, Guiana and Paraguay.

1956 * *The Drunken Forest*. (dt.: "Der trunkene Wald")

1956 * *My Family and other animals*. (dt.: *Meine Familie und anderes Getier*. Berlin; Frankfurt; Wien: Ullstein 1958)

1959 * *Encounters with animals*. (dt.: *Tiere ganz privat*. Zürich: Sanssouci 1974 ISBN 3-7254-0276-0)

1960 * *A Zoo in my luggage*. (dt.: *Ein Koffer voller Tiere: Ich fange meinen eigenen Zoo*. Berlin; Frankfurt/M.; Wien: Ullstein 1962)

1961 * *Island Zoo*.

1961 * *Look at Zoos*.

1962 * *The whispering Land*. (dt.: *Das flüsternde Land*. Zürich: Sanssouci 1964)

bei ro ro ro unter dem Titel "Die goldene Herde" erschienen 1963 * *My favourite Animal Stories*.

1964 * *Menagerie Manor*. (dt.: "Der Zoo auf der Insel" Die frühen Jahre von Durrell's Jersey Hauptquartier und die Gründung des Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

1966 * *Two in the Bush*. (dt.: *Rendez-vous mit Tieren*. Zürich: Sanssouci 1975 ISBN 3-7254-0287-6) Ein Besuch von Neuseeland, Australien und Malaysia mit der BBC

1968 * *The Donkey Rustlers*. Eine Kindergeschichte

(dt.: "Das Inselgeheimnis") 1968 * *Rosy is my relative*. (dt.: *Eine Verwandte namens Rosy: Eine fast wahre Geschichte*. Hamburg: Rowohlt 1969)

1969 * *Birds, beasts and relatives*. (dt.: *Vögel, Viecher und Verwandte*. Reinbek: Rowohlt 1971 ISBN 3-498-01220-7)

1971 * *Fillet of Plaice*. Kurzgeschichten

(dt.: "Ein Schildkrötentransport und andere heitere Geschichten) 1972 * *Catch me a colobus*. (dt.: *Fang mir einen Colobus! - Mr. Zoo & Co.: Komisches hinter Gittern*. Reinbek: Rowohlt 1973 ISBN 3-498-01221-5)

1973 * *Beasts in my Belfry*. (dt.: "Nichts als Tiere im Kopf" Erlebnisse als Tierwärterlehrling in Whipsnade.

1975 * *The Talking Parcel*. Eine Kindergeschichte (dt.: *Das geheimnisvolle Paket* UK: Collins, 1974)

1976 * *The Stationary Ark*. (dt.: "Die Tiere in meiner Arche")

1977 * *Golden Bats and pink Pigeons*. (dt.: "Ein Himmel voll rosa Tauben" Eine Abrechnung der beiden Mauritiusexpeditionen.

- 1978 * *Garden of the Gods*. (dt.: "Im Garten der Götter")
- 1980 * *The Picnic and suchlike Pandemonium*. Kurzgeschichten
- 1981 * *The mockery bird*. (dt.: *Der Spottvogel*. Reinbek: Rowohlt 1982 ISBN 3-498-01243-6)
- 1982 * *The amateur naturalist*. Coautor mit Lee Durrell (dt.: *Gerald Durrells Naturführer*. München: Christian 1983 ISBN 3-88472-083-X)
- 1982 * *Ark on the Move*. Reisebericht über Madagaskar und Mauritius
- 1984 * *Howto shoot an Amateur Naturalist*.
- 1986 * *Durrell in Russia*. Coautor mit Lee Durrell; Fotoband über die Reservate der UdSSR
- 1987 * *The fantastic flying journey*. Kindergeschichten
- 1989 * *The fantastic dinosaur adventure*. Kindergeschichten
- 1990 * *The ark's anniversary*. (dt.: *Das Fest der Tiere: die Geschichte meines Zoos*. Reinbek: Rowohlt 1992 ISBN 3-499-13035-1)
- 1990 * *Keeper*.
- 1991 * *Marrying off Mother*. Kurzgeschichten
- 1991 * *Toby the tortoise*. Kindergeschichten
- 1992 * *The aye aye and I*.

Fernsehen

- 1962 *Two in the Bush* (BBC) achteilige Serie
- 1966 *Catch me a Colobus* sechs Filme über die Expeditionen in Sierra Leone
- 1966 *A Bull called Marius* ein Film über die Camargue der BBC
- 1974 *The stationary Ark* über die Arbeit des Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (von Pat Ferns, Primetime TV, Toronto).
- 1980 *The edge of Extinction* (BBC) Dokumentarfilm über Mexiko und Jersey
- 1981 *Ark on the Move* dreizehnteilige Serie über das Tierleben in Mauritius und Madagaskar (von Pat Ferns, Primetime TV, Toronto.)
- 1983 *The Amateur Naturalist* (von Pat Ferns, Primetime TV, Toronto)
- 1986 *Durrell in Russia*
- 1987 *My family and other animals* (BBC), Dauer 4:17 h; kürzere Fassung: *My family and other animals* (BBC), Dauer 1:28 h; deutsche Fassung: *Wilde Zeiten auf der Insel* (mit deutschen Untertiteln)
- 1987 *Ourselves and other animals* dreizehnteilige Serie (von Pat Ferns, Primetime TV, Toronto. Screened by Channel 4)
- 1991 *To the Island of the Aye-Aye* Dokumentarfilm über die Madagaskarexpedition (von Channel Television, Jersey)

Weblinks

- Literatur von und über Gerald Durrell ^[1] im Katalog der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust ^[2]

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- [1] <https://portal.d-nb.de/opac.htm?query=Woe%3D118722549&method=simpleSearch>
- [2] <http://www.durrellwildlife.org/>
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