Recent Books on Anthropology and Archaeology - April 2010

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Doors to the Unknown: The Story of Sentani in the Jayapura Regency of

Papua

/ Anto Dwiastoro

Indonesia: (s:n), 2009

97p.; 25cm.

ISBN-13: 9786029504804 (HB)

\$ 60.00

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- Gender, Ritual and Social Formation in West Papua: A Configurational

Analysis Comparing Kamoro and Asmat / Jan Pouwer

Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2010

x. 300p.; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789067183253

\$ 60.00

This study, based on a lifelong involvement with New Guinea, compares the

culture of the Kamoro (18,000 people) with that of their eastern neighbours,

the Asmat (40,000, both living on the south coast of West Papua, Indonesia.

The comparison, showing substantial differences as well as striking similarities, contributes to a deeper understanding of both cultures.

Part I looks at Kamoro society and culture through the window of its ritual

cycle, framed by gender. Part II widens the view, offering in a comparative

fashion a more detailed analysis of the socio-political and

cosmo-mythological setting of the Kamoro and the Asmat rituals. These are

closely linked with their social formations: matrilineally oriented for the

Kamoro, patrilineally for the Asmat.

Next is a systematic comparison of the rituals. Kamoro culture revolves

around cosmological connections, ritual and play, whereas the Asmat central

focus is on warfare and headhunting. Because of this difference in

cultural

orientation, similar, even identical, ritual acts and myths differ in meaning. The comparison includes a cross-cultural, structural analysis of relevant myths.

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Love and Dread in Cambodia: Weddings, Births, and Ritual Harm under

the

Khmer Rouge / Peg LeVine Singapore: NUS Press, 2010

xx. 219p.; 23cm

Includes bibliographical references and index

ISBN-13: 9789971694722

1. Cambodia History 1975-1979

- 2. Victims of state-sponsored terrorism Mental health Cambodia
- 3. Posttraumatic stress disorder Cambodia
- 4. Marriage customs and rites Cambodia Psychological aspects
- 5. Birth customs Cambodia Psychological aspects
- 6. Rites and ceremonies Cambodia Psychological aspects

\$ 28.00

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Cambodians and their Doctors: A Medical Anthropology of Colonial and

Post-Colonial Cambodia / Jan Ovesen & Ing-Britt Trankell

Copenhagen, Denmark: NIAS Press, 2010

xv. 301p.; 23cm.

ISBN-13: 9788776940584

- 1. Public health Anthropological aspects Cambodia
- 2. Medicine Cambodia French influences
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