

## Recent Books on Anthropology and Archaeology - Jan 2011

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Tabon Cave Complex: Lipuun Point, Quezon, Palawan: Guide to the Natural and Cultural Resources / Angel P. Bautista

Manila: National Museum, 2004

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The Stranger-Kings of Sikka / E. Douglas Lewis

Leiden : KITLV Press, 2011

xxviii, 434p.

9789067183284

Series: Verhandelingen 257

\$ 65.00

Texts translated by Oscar Pareira Mandalangi and E. Douglas Lewis

The stranger-kings of Sikka is the first monographic study of an origin myth and history of an indigenous eastern Indonesian state and the first contemporary ethnography of the Ata Sikka of Flores. The book will be of interest to anthropologists, ethnologists of Austronesia, historians and political scientists whose interests include Southeast Asia. During the 1920s, in the regency of Sikka on the island of Flores, D. D. Pareira Kondi and A. Boer Pareira, two notable men among the first literate Sikkaneese, began writing about the history and culture of their people. Among their many surviving manuscripts are two long works on the origin of the rajas who ruled Sikka until the end of the rajadom in the 1950s.

The author of this book uncovered the manuscripts in 1994 and found among them versions of the myth of origin of the Sikkaneese rajas, an epic tale of immigrant-kings that was lost to living memory and as oral tradition by the 1970s. Drawing on Boer's and Kondi's texts and his own field research in the regency of Sikka, Lewis presents an abridged English translation of the origin myth and constructs a history of the Sikkaneese rajas and the organization of the society they ruled.

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Headhunters from the swamps: The Marind Anim of New Guinea as seen by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, 1905-1925 / Raymond Corbey

Leiden : KITLV Press, 2010

138 pp

illustr. and photographs

ISBN: 978 90 6718 359 8

\$ 30.00

In 1905, the Tilburg Missionaries of the Sacred Heart established their first mission post among the Marind Anim on the southwest coast of New Guinea. These Dutch missionaries were to witness the swift and dramatic demise of an ancient cultural tradition. They recorded its intricate cosmology, complex initiation ceremonies, spectacular art and intensive headhunting in writing and photographs.

"They are veritable human beings, sensible beings, with a delightful language, unwritten literature, and an appreciation for all that is good and beautiful," one missionary reported. "How low, how unfathomably low these people here have stooped, [...] disgusting, [...] animals are more estimable," another wrote. Dismay and fascination, suppression and research went hand in hand.

The author was granted permission to publish the remarkable photographs of the Sacred Heart congregation's archive. With its amply documented photographs, Headhunters from the swamps is a fascinating resource for anyone with an interest in the history and culture of New Guinea.

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