

Recent Books on Papua New Guinea – Feb 2022

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Art

Raja Ampat Ritual Art : Spirit Priests and Ancestor Cults in New Guinea's Far West / Raymond Corbey

Leiden, The Netherlands: C. Zwartenkot Art Books, 2017
176p. ; Illustrations (Chiefly Color), Maps, Portraits ; 29cm.

Includes Bibliographical References

9789054500186

\$ 125.00 / HB

1140gm.

During the past 100 years the traditional ritual art related to ancestor cults, spirit beliefs and headhunting has withered in the sparsely populated Raja Ampat archipelago. Setting out to establish an inventory of the 'mon' spirit figures, 'korwars' and secret priests' drawings, this book delves into the exploits of naturalists, explorers, colonial administrators and, in particular, missionaries since the beginning of the 19th century. The social and cosmological background of the spirit and ancestor figurines from the archipelago is discussed extensively, with a wealth of fascinating details and new insights. In the process it is shown how the demise and the exodus of the traditional art resulted from complex interactions between indigenous agency, conversion, cargo cult activity, modernization and, last but not least, interventions by administrators. The abundantly illustrated book includes a number of stunning, sacred-secret drawings depicting the spirit world, devised by indigenous priests to serve them in their rituals. Acquired during the 1930s, these drawings were long believed to be lost but have recently been rediscovered.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=791973>

KORWAR: Northwest New Guinea Ritual Art According to Missionary Sources
/ Raymond Corbey

Leiden, The Netherlands: C. Zwartenkot Art Books, 2019

396p.

Includes Bibliography

9789054500223

\$ 225.00/ HB

2118gm,

Protestant missionaries have provided the earliest and most detailed sources regarding the ritual art of the Papuan peoples of the Geelvink Bay. While converting these missionaries collected, but they were also involved in the destruction of countless items. 'Korwar. Northwest New Guinea Ritual Art according to missionary sources' chronicles these events and brings these sources to bear on circa 300 ritual objects and their itineraries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=791974>
