

Recent Anthropology and Archaeology - August 2022

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Culture and Cognition in Reconstructing The Past: Essays in History, Culture and Archaeology / K.P. Rao and M.N. Rajesh (ed)

Sharada Publishing House, Delhi 2022

xxxii, 244p.; ill. 29 cm.

9789383221356

\$ 135.00 / HB

1380 gm.

The present volume has a range of papers drawn from both the conventional and cutting edge areas on aspects pertaining to archaeology, culture and cognition. Breaking away from the idea that material goods are just remnants of the past, many papers in this volume try to understand the life-world of these goods and how they played a part in the cognitive development of the people. Burial mounds and other excavation sites focus on a range of materials like ornaments, tools, structures, etc. which are invested with multiple meanings that go beyond just the practical usage. Further, some of these practices like hunting, pottery, burial practices are specific to a region and culture and at the same time have been practised by almost all the pre-literate societies and this opens the doors for interrogation at both the immediate as well as larger context and to answer the questions of history in a global context.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=822544>

Lakshmi Bearer of Riches : Indian Gold Coinage after the Tenth Century / John S. Deyell

IIRNS Publications LLP, Maharashtra 2022

xii, ill. 322p.; 24 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789392280023

\$ 75.00 / HB

980 gm.

After an absence of several hundred years, die-struck gold coins began to re-appear in North India in the eleventh century. following the introduction of punch-marked gold in South India in the tenth. All these issues had one point of unity: the figure of goddess Lakshmi, seated on a lotus (in the north) or her name, 'Sri' (in the south). They became the dominant gold coins of most Rajput kingdoms. even being adopted by the early Turkish invaders.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=803072>

Metal Statuettes from Pisidia and its Surroundings in Burdur Museum / Huseyin Metin

Bilgin Kultur Sanat Sti. Ltd., Turkey 2022

xii, 140p.

9786257799447

\$ 85.00 / null

400 gm.

In this book, metal figurines found in Burdur Museum are introduced. The vast majority of the statuettes are bronze. Besides, there are silver, gold, lead and copper works. Find places have been added to the inventory of some figurines. However, since they came to the museum by purchasing, the find places of the majority of them are not exactly clear. With the work done, it was tried to be explained that the statuettes were captured from the Pisidia region and its surroundings. Figurines from the Pisidia Region were found from the ancient cities of Cremna, Ceraitai, Hadriani. Among the cities close to Pisidia are only finds from Cibyra.

However, it should be noted that there are works that may originate from Pamphylia, Lydia, Phrygia, even if there are individual examples. The statuettes have a wide date range from the Late Bronze Age to recently. However, most of them belong to the Roman Period. In this study, 7 groups of statuettes were classified according to their periods. The 8th section consists of examining the false figurines. This book contains detailed descriptions, dimensions, views from different directions, analysis of the 66 statuettes and suggestions about where they might have been found. This book, which provides acceptable chronology and presents all the figurines in a holistic order, covers the first metal figurine work of the Pisidia Region.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808493>

BYZAS 26 – Understanding Transformation: Exploring the Black Sea Region and Northern Central Anatolia in Antiquity / Emine Sokmen and Andreas Schachner(Eds)

Ege Yayinlari, Turkey 2021

xx, 552p.

9786059680226

\$ 150.00 / null

1850 gm.

Based on the colloquium held in Çorum in 2018, this book provides answers to these questions. In addition to landscape and settlement patterns, there are settlements, housing and engineering structures, human remains, tombs and, lastly, most importantly, objects within a very wide range of subjects. Such a study is only possible with cooperation and an interdisciplinary approach.

First, this book shows the potential that reflects the need for further exploration of the central Black Sea region and northern Central Anatolia during the Hellenistic-Roman Period. Differences are evident here compared to the Aegean and southern coasts of Anatolia, but more detailed analyzes will be possible in the future on the basis of more extensive data. A similar pattern applies to understanding the relationship between rural areas and urban centers such as Ankyra (Ankara).

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808492>

Teos: Inscriptions, Cults and Urban Fabric / Musa Kadioglu (Translator) Selcuk Somersan

Turkiye Is Bankasi Kultur Yayinlari, Turkey 2021

442p.

Includes Bibliography

9786254057472

\$ 195.00 / HB

2150 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808490>

Taiwan Maritime Landscape from Neolithic to Early Modern Times / Paola Calanca, Liu Yi-Chang & Frank Muyard

Ecole francaise d'Extreme-Orient, Paris, France 2022

392p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

ISSN: 1269-8067 ; 9782855392721

\$ 100.00 / null

1192 gm.

Taiwan Maritime Landscapes examines the maritime history and prehistory of Taiwan, with particular attention paid to the often neglected pre-17th century periods. It expands our understanding of the island's past and its nautical environment, and highlights the persistence of Taiwan's relationships with its neighbors, first through the maritime activities of Austronesian peoples, then around the 2nd millennium AD by way of the Minnan sailors. Supported by a multidisciplinary approach, the works presented herein showcase recent advances in archaeological and historical research on these issues. It documents the natural maritime and climatic environment of Taiwan, its first Neolithic communities, their diversification up to the 1st millennium AD, and the integration of the island into Chinese and European maritime networks. It illustrates and explores the island societies' cultural and commercial connections with populations and polities across the South and East China Seas as well as the nautical knowledge underpinning these relations. The articles presented in this book offer new insights and avenues for Asian maritime history research.

Taiwan Maritime Landscapes revient sur l'histoire et la préhistoire maritimes de Taïwan, en se focalisant sur les périodes antérieures au XVIIe siècle, souvent ignorées par les chercheurs. L'ouvrage ouvre de nouvelles perspectives sur le passé de l'île et son environnement nautique en mettant, notamment, en évidence la permanence des relations de Taïwan avec ses voisins, à travers, d'abord, les activités des peuples austronésiens puis celles des marins Minnan depuis les alentours du IIe millénaire. Pluridisciplinaires, les contributions présentent les avancées récentes de la recherche archéologique et historique sur ces questions : elles examinent l'environnement naturel – maritime et climatique – de Taïwan, les premières communautés néolithiques de l'île, leur diversification jusqu'au Ier millénaire de notre ère puis l'intégration de l'île dans les réseaux maritimes chinois et européens. Les auteurs analysent en particulier les liens, culturels et commerciaux, entretenus par les sociétés insulaires avec les populations et les entités politiques des mers de Chine du Sud et de l'Est et les connaissances nautiques nécessaires à l'établissement et à la poursuite de telles relations.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808473>

Indigenous Archaeology in the Philippines: Decolonizing Ifugao History / Stephen Acabado & Marlon M. Martin

Ateneo de Naga University Press, Philippines 2022

292p.

Includes Index.

9786214720231

\$ 40.00 / null

450 gm.

This book highlights how collaborative archaeology and knowledge co-production among the Ifugao, an Indigenous group in the Philippines, contested (and continue to contest) enduring colonial tropes. Stephen B. Acabado and Marlon M. Martin explain how the Ifugao made decisions that benefited them, including formulating strategies by which they took part in the colonial enterprise, exploiting the colonial economic opportunities to strengthen their sociopolitical organization, and co-opting the new economic system. The archaeological record shows that the Ifugao successfully resisted the Spanish conquest and later accommodated American empire building. This book illustrates how descendant communities can take control of their history and heritage through active collaboration with archaeologists. Drawing on the Philippine Cordillera experiences, the authors demonstrate how changing historical narratives help empower peoples who are traditionally ignored in national histories.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825509>

Early Theravadin Cambodia: Perspectives from Art and Archaeology / Hiram Woodward (et al.) (Ed) Ashley Thompson

NUS press, Singapore 2022

xxx, 314p.

Includes Index

9789813251496

\$ 56.00 / HB

1500 gm.

One of the outstanding questions of Southeast Asian history is the nature and timing of major cultural and political shifts in the territory that was to become Cambodia, starting in the 13th century. What explains the shift in religious doctrine, different language uses (Pāli over Sanskrit, Khmer as a literary language), the radical transformation in architecture and sculptural production? How was the spread of Theravāda Buddhism related to regional political reconfigurations? What exactly was it we rather blindly label 'Theravāda Buddhism'? Do the esoteric Buddhist traditions the region still harbours relate to this transitional period? What of the exoteric at this time? And how is 'Theravāda Buddhism' entangled with the identity shifts that over the next four hundred years gave rise to the Buddhist state now called Cambodia?

Editor Ashley Thompson has brought together the foremost scholars of premodern Cambodian art and archaeology to reflect on the relevant material evidence to probe these questions - and to push them further in exploring larger issues of Buddhist history, regional exchange networks and ethno-political identities across mainland Southeast Asia. The book will be a crucial reference for historians of Southeast Asia, and its insights into religious change will make it important reading for scholars of broader Buddhist Studies. Fully illustrated in colour, the book will appeal to those with a serious interest in the Buddhism and Buddhist art of mainland Southeast Asia.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816621>

Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage / Arun Ghose

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xvi, 170p.; ill. 24 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788195009855

\$ 48.75 / HB

610 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813561>

Inscriptions of the Minor Ruling Dynasties of Odisha (Circa 8th-12th Century CE) / Subrata Kumar Acharya

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xvi, 464p.; ill. 26 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789392556074

\$ 137.50 / HB

1570 gm.

The present work is a handy volume of all the available inscriptions so far known to us of the several minor ruling dynasties ruling in different sub-regions of early medieval Odisha roughly from the 8th to the 12th century CE. It has two sections: Section I: Introduction and Section II: Texts and Abstracts. In Section I, an analysis of the copper plate inscriptions of twenty minor ruling families have been included. The features of the copper plates and the royal seals attached to them have been narrated, and it also contained the script, language, and orthography of the inscribed texts. The genealogy and chronology of the ruling houses, the locality they held and the land grants they issued have been examined.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813575>

The Vishnukundis and Their Times (An Epigraphical Study) / S. Sankaranarayanan

Agam Kalam Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xxiii, 278p.; 27 cm.

9789392556135

\$ 80.00 / HB

1050 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813574>

An Ethno-Archaeological View of Indian Terracottas (A Comparative Study of the Present and Past Terracotta Traditions of Gangetic Plains) / Vidula Jayaswal, Kalyan Krishna

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xiv, 167p.; ill. 24 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789392556128

\$ 61.25 / HB

620 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813579>

Dating the Rock Art of Central India / S.S. Gupta

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xviii, 242p.; ill. 25 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789392556142

\$ 73.75 / HB

860 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813578>

Ganga as Divine Origin / Kamal Shankar Srivastava

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xiv, 198p.; ill. 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788195009800

\$ 37.50 / HB

550 gm.

This book attempts to explain Ganga about not just a river, but the heavenly stream brought to the earth by the persistent efforts of many princes of Sagar's family, generation after generation still at least one of them succeeded to coaxing her to come down not only to the Earth, but to proceed further to the netherworld to purify the ashes of his ancestors, so that they could be assured absol...

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813571>

Aspects of Ancient Indian Numismatics / Prashant Srivastava

Agam Kala Prakashan, Delhi 2022

xxxix, 392p.; ill. 23 cm.

9789392556067

\$ 56.25 / HB

830 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=813572>

Prehistoric Foundations of Bharata Part 1 & 2 / A. Sundara (ed)

The Mythic Society, Bengaluru 2021

895p.; ill. 29 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788195498000

\$ 100.00 / HB

3230 gm.

This Book in two parts brings together a variety of information related to prehistory of Bharata with contributions of different reputed scholars specialising in their fields. The First part introduces the perceptions of the remote past in Bharata and, later, covers the prehistoric period from the Mesolithic in its various dimensions, such as the physiographic climatic, floral and faunal environment, early inhabitants, aspects of terminology and tool technology, history of prehistoric research, and detailed discussions on Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=803325>

It's coming from the times in front of us : country, kin and the Dugong hunter song line / John Bradley with Yanyuwa families

Australian Scholarly Publishing, Australia 2022

viii, 308 pages : illustrations, maps ; 23 cm

9781922454966

\$ 99.99 / null

500 gm.

The song line of the Dugong Hunters embodies Yanyuwa knowledge of the sea and the islands of Yanyuwa country, in Australia's Northern Territory. If one knows, it is possible to look out on Yanyuwa country and see the Dugong Hunters, the White-Bellied Sea Eagle, and the Tiger Shark--for the song is flowing, running, moving. In Yanyuwa understanding, intelligence of Lawful places is embedded in country and carried by threads of a song that speaks of change and continuity and is still intensely alive. When Indigenous peoples' ways of knowing are examined using conventional Western methods, knowledge is too often reduced to raw data, followed by narrow technical discussions of form and style. Stories become mere information. In this book, John Bradley entreats the reader to come to the words the Dugong Hunters' song line with empathy, to understand that there can be other ways of knowing...

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=822579>

Tradition and Formation : Studies on Cordillera Indigenous Culture - Second Edition / June Prill-Brett (Ed) Delfin Tolentino, Jr.

Cordillera Studies Center, University of the Philippines Baguio, Baguio City, Philippines 2019

xxviii, 324p.

9789719272052

\$ 40.00 / null

550 gm.

Tradition and Transformation gathers in one volume some of June Prill-Brett's most important works on the indigenous societies of the Northern Luzon highlands. Written over a period of some 25 years, these works deal with Cordillera indigenous political institutions, local concepts of territorial boundaries, common property regimes, agricultural practices, customary law governing the use of natural resources, gender relations, "tribal" war, old burial practices and indigenous rituals. The anthology ends with an ethnohistory of the city of Baguio which narrates the events leading to the establishment of a colonial hill station in the Benguet highlands and the subsequent displacement of the native Ibaloy. As the book's title suggests, traditions may persist but must eventually submit to change—indigenous political institutions may still be in place but in altered forms; indigenous knowledge on natural resource management continues to have some sway but its authority is continually challenged by new values; rituals are still enacted but with modified aspects of performance. What emerges from Prill-Brett's work is a picture of rapidly changing traditional societies as the peoples of the Northern Luzon Cordillera deal with the challenges posed by competing social, cultural, political, economic and rural systems.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808286>

Mina: The Ruling Tribe of Rajasthan - Socio-Biological Appraisal / S.H.M. Rizvi

B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2022

xi, 180p.; 22 cm.
Bibliography Includes Index.
9788170184478
\$ 26.25 / HB
400 gm.

Mina, the largest tribe of Rajasthan, is little known in spite of the area's wide popularity for geopolitical reasons. The Minas are basically an agricultural community. They occupy one of the most fertile areas of Rajasthan. History reveals that the tribal people who ruled over fertile strips of arid Rajasthan were deprived of their land by invading groups. In spite of constant invasions, the Minas did not succumb to the relentless invasions of alien forces; they retained their individuality by confining themselves to interior areas. They thrived amidst all odds and the bio-cultural equation responsible for the survival of this community has been studied by the author from the anthropological perspective. He revives the accepted theory that the existence of man is directly related to his bio-cultural heritage.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825209>

Indian Archaeology: Some New Perspectives / G.K. Lama
B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2022

xiv, 170p.; ill. 27 cm.
Includes Bibliography.

9789391123659

\$ 73.75 / HB

900 gm.

Present book covers not only a great time-span but also every area of Indian archaeology. The author has tried his best to cover every region of India and throw light on the recent achievements acquired by the archaeologists. The book throws light on various aspects of Harappan culture, Megalithic culture, and Iron Age etc. The author has tried to present his observations on various works done in Indian archaeology in recent years. To give a comprehensive look to the book the author has tried to give authentic and latest information available in that specific area.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825220>

Rituals of Ethnicity : Thangmi Identities between Nepal and India / Sara Shneiderman

Himal Books (for Social Science Baha), Kathmandu, Nepal 2022

xx, 308p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789937119689

\$ 40.00 / null

520 gm.

Rituals of Ethnicity is a transnational study of the relationships between mobility, ethnicity and ritual action. Through an ethnography of the Thangmi, a marginalized community who migrate between Himalaya border zones of Nepal, India and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, Shneiderman offers a new explanation for the persistence of enduring ethnic identities today despite the increasing realities of mobile, hybrid lives. The first comprehensive ethnography of the Thangmi, the book is framed by the Maoist-state civil conflict in Nepal and the movement for a separate state of Gorkhaland in India. Shneiderman builds upon the specificity of Thangmi experience to tell a larger story about the complexities of ethnic consciousness: the challenges of belonging and citizen under condition of mobility, the desire to both lay claim to and remain apart from the civil society of multiple states, and the paradox of self-identification as a group with culture traditions in need of both preservation and development. An entirely unique and stunning ethnography. Shneiderman finds herself assisting the Thangmi's drive to manifest their distinctiveness and seek recognition. She manages a high-wire performance herself: one full of compassion acute theoretical insight, exemplary balance, and respect for the sacredness of the quest-doing as much credit to ethnography as a craft as to the Thangmi as a people. Few have been as fortunate in their ethnographer as the Thangmi. - James C. Scott, Yale University

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=823597>

The first astronomers : how indigenous elders read the stars / Duane Hamacher ; with elders and knowledge holders, Ghillar Michael Anderson, John Barsa, David Bosun, Ron Day, Segar Passi, Alo Tapim

Allen and Unwin, Australia 2022

xiv, 290 pages, 16 unnumbered pages of plates : illustrations (chiefly colour) ; 24 cm.

9781760877200

\$ 44.99 / null

415 gm.

The First Astronomers is the first book to reveal the rich knowledge of the stars and the planets held by First Peoples around the world. Our eyes have been drawn away from the skies to our screens. We no longer look to the stars to forecast the weather, predict the seasons or plant our gardens. Most of us cannot even see the Milky Way. But First Nations Elders around the world still maintain this knowledge, and there is much we can learn from them. These Elders are expert observers of the stars. They teach that everything on the land is reflected in the sky, and everything in the sky is reflected on the land. How does this work, and how can we better understand our place in the universe? Guided by six First Nations Elders, Duane Hamacher takes us on a journey across space and time to reveal the wisdom of the first astronomers. These living systems of knowledge challenge conventional ideas about the nature of science and the longevity of oral tradition. Indigenous science is dynamic, adapting to changes in the skies and on Earth, pointing the way for a world facing the profound disruptions of climate change.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816847>

Altay Communities : Religion and Belief Rituals / Ilhan Sahin (et al.)

Istanbul Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odalari Birligi (ISTESOB), Turkey 2017

296p.

9789757914457

\$ 75.00 / null

550 gm.

The Altai Communities Symposium, which is held every two years and has become a tradition, was held this time on 20-22 July 2015 in Antalya under the roof of Akdeniz University with the participation of around 150 Altayist academics. The subject of the symposium was language, history, religion and belief rituals in Altai folk communities. It was necessary for a large number of scientists to participate in the symposium, to present papers on different subjects and issues, and to prepare the papers in three separate books on language, history and religion and belief rituals. In this context, this book includes 24 articles about the religion and belief rituals of Altai folk communities presented at the symposium and submitted to the symposium secretariat. An important part of these articles are in Altaic languages and dialects.

In the context of these issues, the Altai Communities Symposium, which is held every two years and which has become a tradition henceforth, was conducted with the participation of about 150 Altaiist academicians at Akdeniz University in Antalya on 20-22 July 2015. The theme of the symposium was focused on the language, literature, history and religion and belief rituals of the Altai peoples and communities. The participation in the symposium of so many scholars and the variety of the papers they presented, in terms of topics and issues, required that three separate books be prepared for publication on language, history and religion and belief rituals.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=826140>

Why Museum and Why Not Museum?: Perspective of a Museologist on Museum and Cultural Heritage / A.K. Das

B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi 2022

xiv, 316p.; ill. 27 cm.

Includes Bibliography.

9789391123666

\$ 112.50 / HB

1270 gm.

This book entitled - 'Why Museum and why not museum: Perspective of a Museologist on Museums and Cultural Heritage' is a fusion of assorted articles dealing with Museum and Cultural Heritage as an interspersing whole. It consists of six interrelated chapters beginning with museum as public institution and Museology as academic discipline supplemented by multiple other cognate heritage issues.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825263>

Jamu Lifestyle: The Indonesian Herbal Wellness Tradition / Metta Murdaya

Afterhours Book, Jakarta, Indonesia 2021

256 pages

9786026990631

\$ 90.00 / HB

1200 gm.

Jamu is the herbal-medicine tradition of the Indonesian archipelago. Born from disparate influences brought by traders to this crossroads of Asian commerce, over the centuries jamu has developed into a sophisticated suite of nutritional supplements incorporated into cuisine, beauty rituals, and healing agents, all proven effective by empirical research. But jamu is more than brightly colored powders and tonics. Jamu Lifestyle is your gateway to entering a vibrant community devoted to self-care; a joyous and transformational world of wellness.

In the jamu tradition joy, community engagement, and beauty are considered essential to wellness. That means beauty rituals, community gatherings, and sensory engagement are all part of self-care and should be practiced regularly—not doled out occasionally as earned luxuries.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825869>

KOPI: Indonesian Coffee Craft and Culture / Andi Haswidi

Bekraf & Afterhours Books, Jakarta, Indonesia

255 pages

9786026990303

\$ 120.00 / HB

1120 gm.

The consumption of coffee, or kopi in Indonesian, is so deep-rooted in the local culture that not even war could interfere. To most Indonesians, however, the phrase specialty coffee is still a foreign concept... also despite the fact that Indonesia is the fourth-largest coffee supplier to the global market. The times, however, are changing. A new generation of coffee entrepreneurs is emerging, inspired by the so-called third-wave coffee trend that swept the developed countries.

This book aims to capture the dramatic changes in Indonesia's coffee industry, while at the same time paying homage to centuries-old traditions in the way Indonesians farm and consume coffee. From the first chapter that summarizes the official history of how coffee first arrived in the Indonesian archipelago to chapters about Indonesia's contemporary coffee culture—its pioneers, early adopters, and enthusiasts—to the final chapter which attempts to bring a sense of reality into the growing enthusiasm for local coffees by highlighting some of the challenges that continue to haunt farmers, business owners, and consumers

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825868>

Descendants of Ramogi – The Nilotes of Africa : Luo Roots, Culture, Customs and Traditions / Sibuur Omeno Sibuur

Sibuur Omeno Sibuur, Nairobi, Kenya 2017

260p.

9789966085399

\$ 45.00 / null

350 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816503>

Some Traditions of the Akamba of Kenya / Celia Nyamweru

Celia Nyamweru, Kenya 2021

260p.

9798753641663

\$ 50.00 / null

350 gm.

Written to appeal to a wide audience, this book presents both a historical and an updated picture of some important elements of Kamba culture that have been described as 'supernatural' or even 'witchcraft.' These are traditional practices and beliefs that some people know little about, while others consider them to be evil. However, for many Akamba, both in towns and in the rural areas, these beliefs are part of the reality of modern life.

Kĩkamba has many words for them, while in English, they can be described as 'oaths,' 'ordeals,' 'vows' and 'protective charms.' The author quotes from interviews with Akamba from rural Ukambani, as well as urban residents; men and women, young and old, Christians and followers of traditional religion. She compares what she learned from them with material from published sources going back to 1860, to show that many traditional beliefs survive to the present day.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816502>

A Complex Polity : Generations Initiation and Territory Among the Old Meru of Kenya / Anne-Marie Peatrik , Richard Crabtree (et al.)

Twaweza Communications, Nairobi, Kenya 2020

496p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789966128041

\$ 90.00 / null

820 gm.

Weaving together ethnography and history, this book offers an in-depth analysis of the pre-colonial polity of the Meru of Kenya and its radical transformations from 1908 through the 1950s. It addresses the manifold issues of initiation and the politics of belonging, unravels the intertwined life courses of men and women, and disentangles the web of family life and the handover of power across political generations. Restoring two well-known instances of Meru politics to their rightful place--the enigmatic mûgwe and the famous njûûri ncheke--the book also offers a fresh reading of the controversial story of Mbwaa. It sheds light on the crisis of the 1930s affecting male and female initiations, and establishes a link with the demographic transformations and the radical shift that occurred during the 1950s. A Complex Polity renews the issue of the historicity of political generation-set systems in Meru, as well as elsewhere in Kenya and eastern Africa. More broadly, the work aims to promote comparative anthropology to enhance knowledge of African pre-colonial democracies and polities, and a deeper understanding of social and cultural change in the longue durée, linking precolonial and postcolonial Africa.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816501>

The Traditions, Culture and Beliefs of the Agikuyu/Unduire Wa Ruriri Rwa Agikuyu (Dual Book) / Duncan Nderitu Ndegwa, TrusteeoftheAceera – Githigisub-clan
Duncan Nderitu Ndegwa, Kenya 2021

1v.

9789914408072

\$ 35.00 / null

280 gm.

The people of the continent of Africa are a great multitude blest by their creator with a diversity of spiritual, mental, social, and cultural backgrounds. Even with their diversity, the African is very similar to another no matter what part of the earth they find themselves in. This similarity in physique, belief, and spirituality that is experienced from the North to the South of Africa must therefore be interrogated.

This book does not bring an overbearing of thoughts and feelings into what I believe. It is in fact written at an opportune time when Africans are curious to know who they are and where they came from. In my thoughts as expressed in this book and supported by various other African scholars and teachers of African spirituality, I have noted the importance of the Ancient civilization of Khemet which is arguably the source of all Africanism.

In this civilization, the black person had self-rule, knew how to read and write, initiated arithmetic and different people had mastered arts like construction, animal and food husbandry and illustrative representation of speech and ideas. Moreover, sciences like astrology were practiced and Africans knew how to tell the weather and seasons through observation of constellations. Worship of deities was also strongly practiced and no one grew without knowing of the essence of God in their lives.

It is in ancient Khemet (Now Egypt) that scholars from all over the world would go to learn mathematics and the use of language for the advancement of their cities. In short, the world would not have known a lot of what is now called civilization of any sort (including spiritual knowledge) without the presence of Khemet thus the presence of the black person. I am therefore opening a way for further interrogation to be done by other well-meaning authors to ensure that our future generations become more self-aware and knowledgeable about who they are and what their ancestry stood for.

In my view, people that do not know about their past or remain ignorant about their background will remain slaves of the people that choose to tell their story. The African narrative must be told from an African point of view to ensure that the truth of the African people is advanced beyond the colloquial lies of the so-called "western civilization" which has taken place at the expense of Africa as a people. I begin by telling this truth and request to be joined in telling our younger generations henceforth that the melanin in their skin and body is God-given and is more than just skin color, it is long life, it is strength, it is agility, it is adaptation and many more. You are African and you are superior.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816500>

Masi : Cloth of the Vanua / Jara Hulkenberg
Pacific Studies Press, Fiji 2022

228p.
Includes Bibliography
9789821011334
\$ 45.00 / null
400 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816993>

A Prehistoric People : The Central Kikuyu, Before 1970 / Samuel Mwituria Maina
Frajopa Printers and Publishers Mall, Nairobi, Kenya 2021
xii, 767p.
9966718850
\$ 150.00 / null
1400 gm.

The central Gĩkũyũ occupy Mũrang'a County, which is in the central part of Kenya. At various times in history, the central kikuyu territory has been known as Ithanga, Mũkũrwe-inĩ, Gĩkuyu, Kĩrĩnyaga, Metumi, Fort Hall and finally Mũrang'a. They are the original Gĩkũyũ and direct descendants of Gĩkũyũ and Mũmbi.

The country of the central Gĩkũyũ, whose system of tribal organisation will be described in this book, lies between the southern Gĩkũyũ of Kiambu (Kabete) and the northern Gĩkũyũ of nyĩrĩ (Gaki) all three lying in the central part of Kenya. Mũrang'a is divided into six administrative sub-counties: Kandara, Gatanga, Kĩharũ, kangĩma, Kĩgumo and Maragwa. The population, according to the 2019 census is (1,056,640) one million, fifty-six hundred, six hundred and forty. The central Gĩkũyũ people are agriculturists, today keeping a few flocks of sheep and goats and cattle. They are also ardent businessmen.

The cultural and historical traditions of the central Gĩkũyũ people have been verbally handed down from generation to generation. These traditions are quite distinct from the other two of the north and south. In writing this book, I sought to bring out this distinction to establish the difference with the southern Gĩkũyũ as was aptly captured by Louis Leakey in his treatise titled "southern kikuyu before 1903". Probably the only and most comprehensive book on Gĩkũyũ culture, Leakey candidly dwelt on the southern Kikuyu and confesses to not having had much contact with what he wrongly summed up as northern kikuyu.

In that said north, there exists two distinct kikuyu cultural groupings that have never been studied to establish this glaring distinction between the nyĩrĩ and mũrang'a groupings.

From inception, the central Gĩkũyũ carried forth their information and history through memory. In the book "a prehistoric people: the central Gĩkũyũ before 1970", effort was made to collect relevant information from sometimes very meagre sources to try to correct the misconception that the kikuyu are a homogenous people practicing a common culture.

As a central Gĩkũyũ myself, having been born and grown up there, it is clear after interaction with the other two, that the original Gĩkũyũ still exists in mũrang'a (fig 15) as close to as it was during Gĩkũyũ and Mũmbi era. It is from these original Gĩkũyũ that the other two, the southern and northern, developed after dispersal from Mũrang'a.

Thaaaaai-to the members of the central Gĩkũyũ kĩama, mwaki wa rũgongo rũa kĩranga, in which I stand as mũthuri wa mbũri igĩrĩ, my comrades-in-arms of the past, present, and future. In this work as in all my other activities, their co-operation, courage, and sacrifice in the service of the central Gĩkũyũ people have been the inspiration and the sustaining power.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816499>

Stone Masters: Power Encounters in Mainland Southeast Asia / Holly Hugh (ed)
NUS Press, Singapore 2022
xx, 328p.
Includes Index
9789813251700
\$ 36.00 / null
550 gm.

Stones and those who speak for and to them are an important focus of animist religious practice in Southeast Asia, sometimes integrated into world religions, and sometimes not. Recent study of animism sees animist ritual not as a metaphor for 'a community' or commonly held values, but as a way of forming and maintaining relationships with occult presences understood to be very real. City pillars, statues, megaliths, termite mounds, mountains, rocks found in forests, stones that have been moved to shrines, all these make their appearance in this book, as do the territorial cults which can form around them. The contributors extend and deepen the recent exciting literature on animism to form a new analytical perspective on these cults across mainland Southeast Asia. And they do so in intriguing ways. First, contributors play off the insights of the under-appreciated French scholar Paul Mus, who centered his ideas of religious change in Southeast Asia around notions of the power intrinsic to territory. Second, contributors look at relations between spirits and the state, a connection not usually developed in the literature on religion and the state or the literature on animism. And thirdly, this is not simply a collection of exemplary ethnographies, but a deeply comparative volume that develops its ideas through a meshwork of regional entanglements, parallels and differences, before entering into a dialogue with debates on power, mastery and the social theory of animism globally. As the ritual thanking of traditional guardians of a place is becoming more common in many societies, the lessons of the stone masters of mainland Southeast Asia make compelling reading, and open up new perspectives on religion, and ideas of territoriality and belonging.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816637>

Social Structure and Ethnicity in Indian Tribes / Namita Pandit

Venus Publications, New Delhi 2022

vii, 264p.; 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789390412006

\$ 42.50 / HB

670 gm.

India offers astounding variety in virtually every aspect of social life. Diversities of ethnic, linguistic, regional, economic, religious, class, and caste groups crosscut Indian society, which is also permeated with immense urban-rural differences and gender distinctions. Distinctions based on kinship, wealth and power among some tribal villages are as sharp as we find among the non-tribal villages.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825103>

Anthropological Studies of Indian Tribes / Jatin Ram Virk

Venus Publications, New Delhi 2022

vii, 280p.; 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788194765622

\$ 47.50 / HB

700 gm.

Adivasi is the Collective term for the Indian Subcontinent, who are considered indigenous to places within India wherein they live, either as foragers or as tribalistic sedentary communities. They comprise a substantial minority population of India, making up 8.6% of India's Population, or 104.2 million people, according to the 2011 census.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825105>

Tribes Situation in Northeast India / Ram Das Gupta

Venus Publications, New Delhi 2022

vii, 286p.; 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789390412075

\$ 47.50 / HB

720 gm.

Northeast India is the easternmost region of India representing both a geographic and political administrative division of the country. It Comprises eight states- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The Northeastern part of India is one of the most culturally diverse regions of the world.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825107>

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