

New Publications on South and East Asia

Jörg Gengnagel, Ute Hüsken, Srilata Raman (Ed.)

Words and Deeds

Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia

(Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1)
2005. 299 pages, pb. ISBN 3-447-05152-3. Ca. US \$ 58,-

Words and Deeds is a collection of articles on rituals in South Asia with a special focus on their texts and context. The volume presupposes that a comprehensive definition of "ritual" does not exist. Instead, the papers in it avoid essentialist definitions, allowing for a possible polythetic definition of the concept to emerge. Papers in this volume include those on Initiation, Pre-Natal Rites, Religious Processions, Royal Consecration, Rituals which mark the commencement of ritual, Rituals of devotion and Vedic sacrifice as well as contributions which address the broader theoretical issues of engaging in the study of ritual texts and ritual practice, both from the etic and the emic perspective.

Niels Gutschow, Axel Michaels

Handling Death

The Dynamics of Death Rituals and Ancestor Rituals Among the Newars of Bhaktapur, Nepal

With Contributions by Johanna Buss and Nutan Sharma and a Film on DVD by Christian Bau
(Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 3)
2005. 216 pages, 140 ill., 1 DVD, pb
ISBN 3-447-05160-4. Ca. US \$ 82,-

The first part of the book focusses to a specific setting, the ancient city of Bhaktapur and its calendric rituals of death and renewal. An introduction to the urban fabric with its cremation places, routes of death processions, places of spirits and ancestor deities is followed by a presentation of specialists involved in the death and ancestor rituals – illustrated by 28 maps. The second part presents a detailed description of the union of the deceased with his forefathers, a ritual which is also documented on a DVD. In addition, local handbooks and manuals used by the Brahmin priest during this ritual are edited and translated.

K. Alexander Adelaar

Salako or Badameà

Sketch Grammar, Texts and Lexicon of a Kanayatn Dialect in West Borneo

With the assistance of Pak Vitus Kaslem
(Frankfurter Forschungen zu Südostasien 2)
2005. VIII, 328 pages, 1 map, hc
ISBN 3-447-05102-7. Ca. US \$ 94,-

Salako, or bahasa Badameà as it is often called, is spoken in the northwestern tip of Borneo on both sides of the Malaysian-Indonesian border running through this area. It is a dialect of Kanayatn (Kendayan), a major Dayak language and one of the principal languages of West Kalimantan Province (Indonesian Borneo).

The present volume contains a short grammatical description of Salako as well as a lexicon and a body of texts with translation (consisting of folk stories and fairly detailed accounts of local traditions).

Peter Borschberg (Ed.)

Iberians in the Singapore-Melaka Area and Adjacent Regions (16th to 18th Century)

(South China and Maritime Asia 14)
2004. XI, 192 pages, 3 maps, hc
ISBN 3-447-05107-8. Ca. US \$ 70,-

This collection of essays places the Straits of Singapore and Melaka and their surrounding regions in a larger pattern of world trade and international diplomacy between of approximately 1500–1800. The contributions contained in this volume address a range of interdisciplinary issues pertaining to the presence and expansion of Portuguese and Spanish influence across the region. The authors draw on a wide range of source material in Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and Chinese, making some of them accessible to an English language readership for the first time.

Claudine Salmon, Roderich Ptak (Ed./Hg.)

Zheng He

Images & Perceptions / Bilder & Wahrnehmungen

(South China and Maritime Asia 15)
2005. 176 pages, hc. ISBN 3-447-05114-0. Ca. US \$ 70,-

The year 2005 is marked by the 600th anniversary of Zheng He's first voyage to the Indian Ocean, which began in 1405. Zheng He's fleets reached various destinations around the Arabian Peninsula and along the African coast. Major countries and ports, from Mogadishu in the west to Champa in the east, would then submit tribute to the imperial court in Nanjing, thereby subordinating themselves to the Ming empire. This is reported in countless Chinese records. Events around Zheng He have always fascinated historians as well as writers, artists and even politicians. This gave rise to many legends and stories, often with political and religious implications. These in turn can be related to the circumstances of their own time. The present book looks at such images, especially in selected literary works, and with regard to their Islamic dimensions.

Angela Schottenhammer (Ed.)

Trade and Transfer Across the East Asian 'Mediterranean'

(East Asian Economic and Socio-Cultural Studies.
East Asian Maritime History 1)
2005. Ca. XVIII, 343 pages, 26 ill., hc
ISBN 3-447-05113-2. Ca. US \$ 82,-

The publication is a collection of studies discussing trade and exchange relations across the East China Sea in the time period between c. 1400 and 1840. It introduces and analyses characteristics of trade and exchange, of economic and personal networks including knowledge transfer between East Asian countries, the importance of which has for a long time been underestimated or misinterpreted. The authors want to show that from the 15th to the early 19th century East Asia was far from being a group of more or less isolated states, but was characterised by multifarious contacts and connections. The countries or regions investigated include China, Japan, Korea, the Ryūkyū Islands and Tsushima.

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