

ABSTRACTS

The Festivities of the Goddess Mariyamman in Southern India

MANUEL MORENO

MARIYAMMAN IS A HINDU GODDESS who is very popular in South India. From very early times she has been associated with small pox and other similar diseases. Every year the elaborate ceremonies celebrated in honor of Mariyamman attract a great deal of popular participation. This study, based on personal observations of the festivities by the author in the city Palani in the years 1980 and 1981, attempts to describe and analyze, from a cultural perspective, the thermodynamic aspects of the ritual of the goddess.

Peasantry and National State in Japan, Mexico and Russia (1860-1940)

MICHIKO TANAKA

THIS ESSAY COMPARES THE PROCESS OF FORMATION of the national states in Japan, Mexico, and Russia within the general framework of a comparison of the socio-economic transformation in each starting from 1860. Particular attention is focused on the agricultural policies of the different states and their interaction with the specific features of the peasant society and its traditions of protest present in each country.

The Interventions of the Great Powers in Central Africa

YARISSE ZOCTIZOUM

THIS ESSAY PRESENTS AN ANALYSIS of the interventions of the European powers, particularly France, in Central Africa. The process of intervention

is discussed in the context of the following topics: direct military interventions, interventions by means of military cooperation agreements, interventions by means of the sale of armaments, and the political and economic reasons for the interventions.

The Babylonian Curative Arts: Sources for Their Study

JULIO CÉSAR PANGAS

THE BABYLONIAN CURATIVE ARTS can be studied from a variety of sources, especially literary ones, whose interpretation requires knowledge of cuneiform, Akkadian and Sumerian. The "magical" texts of ancient Mesopotamia, which form an important part of this literature, have been particularly well studied. This essay gives a detailed survey of the sources that are especially linked with the more empirical aspects of Babylonian medicine, without neglecting the necessary references to magical and religious sources as well.

The Palindrome Outside of the Occident: The Chinese and Japanese Traditions

RUSSELL MAETH CH.

THE CONCEPT OF "PALINDROME" as recently defined in the *Diccionario de Retórica y Poética* (México, D. F., 1985) is amplified in light of Chinese and Japanese practice. In all, one heptasyllabic *chüeh-chü* (by Su Shih (1036-1101)) and three anonymous *haiku*—all palindromic—are analyzed. Similar patterns in Korean and Vietnamese are hypothesized as probable.