



Echoes of Magic: A Study of Seasonal Festivals Through the Ages.

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family unit is not discounted in favour of the community. Collective groupings can begin as early as three months. Six to eight children share playpens in nurseries and social and physical skills are efficiently encouraged by 'upbringers' (one for every four babies). The 'upbringer's' role is later taken over by the teacher, whose status in the community is high and with whom the children seem to develop relations of affection and respect. Great stress is laid on communal work, competition between groups, and discipline regulated by the group itself. At all times the children's collective is an agent of adult society. Russian sociologists, however, are quoted on the dangers to individual responsibility in such a situation.

The second half of the book discusses the social and historical causes of the poverty of child-adult relationships in the U.S. Finally, action is suggested. Here the ideas strike one as well-intentioned but naive. Thus 'participation in service to others' (p. 150) is suggested as well as 'local initiative and concern' (p. 165). The author seems faintly surprised that the Soviet Union should not only have assimilated so much knowledge about child-rearing, but diligently turned theories into practice. The author suggests Americans do likewise, but not to the detriment of individualistic development. What he has omitted is a consideration of the political superstructure which allows these principles of child-rearing to be largely successful, in other words the socialist goal beyond the group. He does not consider whether America can really change its child-rearing patterns in isolation, or whether it will need a political, social, and economic revolution to cure the present malaise.

G. E. MACFARLANE

MEEBELO, HENRY S. *Reaction to colonialism: a prelude to the politics of independence in northern Zambia, 1893-1939*; foreword by His Excellency Dr Kenneth D. Kaunda. xviii, 304 pp., map, bibliogr. Manchester: Univ. Press for the Institute of African Studies, Univ. of Zambia, 1971. £1.20

We are in Dr Meebelo's debt for getting us out of the bustle of the 'line of rail', the Copperbelt or areas of intense agriculture in this useful political history of Zambia's Northern Province. Apparent bustle attracts scholars and given the patchy nature of our knowledge of Africa this has led to the dangerous situation where atypical excitements are assumed to be the norm. As Meebelo shows, just because there are not a dozen monographs on an area this does not mean that nothing happened there.

The first eighty pages deal with the people of the Province on the eve of European in-

ursion. Meebelo is cautious here and depends almost entirely on European material, both official and missionary, and more recent secondary sources. One feels here the lack of the African voice. The author tells us he spent a month in 1967 attempting to gather oral evidence but concludes that his informants 'except for those of them who were literate' gave far too generalised accounts. Andrew Roberts's sustained enquiry into Bemba oral traditions seems not to have encountered such reverses and one can only regret that Meebelo's finances did not allow him to press his enquiries further.

The rest of the volume takes us through the colonial period. The early analysis is somewhat weakened by a modish concern with 'resistance' which undermines a concerted attempt to get at the underlying social, economic and political structures whose interrelationships with the colonial structure need not be resistant to be interesting. Here again the official nature of the sources makes one a little uneasy. A long chapter on the Watch Tower takes rather too seriously the 'yellow-perilism' of the administrators who had heard about Kamwana or Chilembwe. One must await the publication of Sholto Cross's work to see if Meebelo's general conclusions can go unchallenged.

The last two chapters—on the politics of traditional authorities between the Wars and the Native Welfare associations and the involvement of the Northern Province in modern politics—are again somewhat cramped by the nature of the sources used but are clear and well-argued.

In all Meebelo has made a brave beginning. One's objections are to the limitations of source material thrust upon him by no choice of his own. But sympathy with the reasons does not amount to praise. The politicality of Political Officers must be recognised by a historian above all and far too often for comfort in this volume we are presented with analyses of complex political situations for which we only have one kind of evidence. It certainly would have added to the value of the book if Meebelo had been rather more adventurous in his epilogue and had drawn out more comparison with other situations. But a start has to be made somewhere and we are in the author's debt for this sally into regional history in Zambia.

RICHARD RATHBONE

BURLAND, C. A. *Echoes of magic: a study of seasonal festivals through the ages*. iv, 234 pp., illus., bibliogr. London: Peter Davies, 1972. £3.50

This is a curious book and one wonders for whom it is intended. The first page is full of the generalisations which typify the book:

'for the early Stone Age humans the world was very much a Garden of Eden', 'once there was no time, at least nobody bothered to take note of it'. The Celts were 'emotional, unscientific, barbarous, and great artists and fine human beings. . . . The men were brave and let their animal complex have joy in the splendour of their equipment and their long flowing hair . . . but since they were so much children of the nature gods, they probably enjoyed life very much more than most of us' (pp. 14-15). And so on, page after page.

The simplicity of both style and content, the attachment to adjectives like 'nice' and 'pretty', and the constant talk of 'ancient times' so as not to confuse with dates, makes one feel that the book was written for children. Yet Mr Burland's preoccupation with sexual romps (though archly described) seems designed for adult consumption. This leaves the Average Reader, who knows little of the subject and will not know how he is being misled by talk of 'cultural waves' and the 'dark sisterhood' of witches. But for anyone who wants to learn about folklore and its part in the thought of past societies this is a trivial and misleading account. Such a reader would be well advised to go back to Gomme, or Andrew Lang where, even if the premisses are false, the facts are presented in strong and supple prose. There is no work of anthropology cited in the short bibliographical note and the whole book is written as if Malinowski and Evans-Pritchard had never existed.

ALAN MACFARLANE

JENKINS, J. GERAINT (ed.). *The wool textile industry in Great Britain*. xvi, 309 pp., illus., plates, maps, tables, bibliogr. London, Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1972. £10

This well-produced volume originated in the Leeds (1967) meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, when the main theme of Section H (Anthropology) was the Wool Textile Industry in Great Britain. The Section's Committee decided to publish the papers there delivered, adding to them, to complete the picture, studies by other scholars who had not taken part in the Leeds meeting. The Recorder of Section H, himself a contributor, was invited to edit the volume. There are seventeen chapters, three on the history of the industry from prehistoric to modern times, nine technical chapters which include studies of the wools of Britain, the development of carding, combing, spinning, dyeing, weaving and finishing, together with discussions of the modern carding machine and of milling machinery. The final five chapters are regional studies of the industry in Yorkshire, the west of England,

East Anglia, Scotland and Wales. There is a comprehensive bibliography, and an index. The authors are all specialists in their respective fields. The text figures are admirably drawn and reproduced; the half-tone plates are satisfactory, though a few (e.g. 7.1-5 and 17.1) are from photographic prints too darkly produced.

The map (p. 283) of the distribution of the place-name *pandy* ('fulling-house') in Wales and the text reference to it are somewhat misleading in that English-speaking areas such as parts of south Pembrokeshire and the Gower peninsula (shown blank) could not be expected to describe their fulling-mills in the Welsh language, and it is difficult to justify the statement that the map 'suggests the Welsh origin of the process'—a process widespread throughout many countries.

This is a volume which no student of the textile industry can afford to overlook. It should remain a standard work on the subject.

IORWERTH C. PEATE

SCHAFFER, H. R. *The growth of sociability* (Penguin science of behaviour). 199 pp., illus., bibliogr. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1971. 50p

This is a summary of recent research into the behaviour of infants up to the age of two years. There seem to be three main reasons why such studies have grown in number. Developments in recording equipment now make it possible to study minute variations; thus (p. 163) one may analyse movie films frame by frame to watch parent-child interaction. The work on computers has provided models of learning and thinking which give investigators confidence in interpreting their material. Finally, the development of studies of animal behaviour has provided many comparative findings and helped to refine research techniques.

The book aims to explain why a child is attracted to human beings; how he/she learns to distinguish between people; and how enduring bonds with other humans occur. Behaviourist explanations in terms of stimulus and response are rejected. For example, the hypothesis that the infant grows to love the person who feeds it is not necessarily true; often attachment is to another human being. Indeed, most of the findings have relevance in the current debate concerning behaviourism and tend to lend support to Chomsky's views on 'deep structure'. But the approach is far from Freudian, and we are told that 'birth trauma, breast or bottle feeding, type of toilet training, swaddling practices—whatever their effects at the time, the lasting imprint of such events has not been demonstrated' (p. 16).

The individual findings are often fascinating and of practical use. Anxieties about separation