

**Communicating between Cultures. An Introduction to Intercultural Communication** (Franz-Josef Eilers). – Intercultural communication means the sharing of information and knowledge, of sentiments and experiences by people from different cultures. Communicating between cultures means the sharing and mutual understanding of different cultural backgrounds, preconditions and conditions of people linked or to be linked together.

The consideration of this study should help to develop a special awareness in the reader (1) to realize the importance of intercultural communication in general; (2) to get better insight into certain preconditions and needs to be seen and possibly executed in intercultural communication; (3) to also show this intercultural communication as an important need for Christian Churches to be able to really dialogue within and between cultures and thus make the Gospel known in cultures where this has not been done up till now; (4) generally to prepare the ground for better respect and understanding between people and their cultures in a time where mankind is growing together into one family in a shrinking world.

The book is divided into three sections. After the consideration of the basic elements of culture communication and their interrelation, several variables are studied contributing to intercultural communication, such as non-verbal communication, linguistic considerations, social structures, values and perceptions as well as the role and function of communication in intercultural dialogue, the means related to this and the new concept of ethnocommunication. Finally the importance and relevance of intercultural communication to the Church are considered.

"Communication Between Cultures" was originally published as a textbook for the Gregorian University in Rome. This revised and enlarged edition brings some of the literature and new insights up to the latest standards. The chapter on Church and intercultural communication is completely rewritten and a new chapter added on ethnocommunication. The section on non-verbal communication is completely reorganized and several other themes which are important for intercultural communication have been added, for example, basic considerations on cultural shock and on ethnocentrism and ethnorelativism. – (Manila: Divine Word Publications, 1992. ISBN 971-510-046-5. 182 pp., fig., tab., illus.)

**An Introduction to Evans-Pritchard** (John W. Burton). – This introduction draws attention anew to an exceptionally perceptive and literate anthropologist, a man who lived during a very important moment in world history. He was among the earliest "professional" ethnographers to study African cultures, and many of the stock terms and concepts that comprise a part of anthropological concern are richly addressed in Evans-Pritchard's work. His writings consider diverse topics, from bridewealth, witchcraft, sacrifice, political structure, and segmentary organization to the problems of interpretation, translation, and rationality. His published work also indicates that he was a keen observer of material culture.

His prose is the mirror of his analytic brilliance. Three of his major monographs, "Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic among the Azande," "The Nuer," and "Nuer Religion," have long been recognized as classic studies.

The author focuses on the way in which Evans-Pritchard's ethnographic writings, prefaced by an earlier training in history, generated new concerns and directions in contemporary anthropology. Evans-Pritchard's contributions to the development of modern anthropology are not unlike a bridge spanning the empiricism that inspired the social sciences, in the 1920s and 1930s the writings of Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown, and the more current manner of human comparison that lies at the heart of "interpretive" anthropology.

The audience imagined by the author in synthesizing this overview is a body of undergraduate or early graduate students, whose sense of the scope and diversity of the discipline is possibly stronger in general than particular knowledge. He suggests some of the ways in which Evans-Pritchard's work continues to resound in contemporary issues. – ([Studia Instituti Anthropos, 45] Fribourg: University Press Fribourg Switzerland, 1992. ISBN 3-7278-0786-5. 177 pp. Price: sfr 35.–)

**Initiation and Religion. A Case Study from the Wosera of Papua New Guinea** (Roger Schroeder). – It is generally acknowledged that initiation plays an important role in the religious, cultural, and social life of societies and individuals. The thesis of this particular work is to focus explicitly on the Wosera male initiation rites with the purpose of describing and analyzing their religious significance.

Any appreciation of the meaning of Wosera initiation must necessarily be seen within their integrated worldview. Such an approach is applied throughout this thesis. This is done in arriving at a more inclusive definition and understanding of "religion" and what is "religious" significance. Furthermore, the Wosera male initiation rites themselves are situated within the wider social, cultural, historical, economic, and religious contexts. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of art, symbols, ritual, and myth as keys for uncovering meaning, and the author reflects always the present situation of tremendous social change and modern village life.

The book offers a description of the Wosera male initiation rites from various perspectives. Beginning with a general background of the wider religious, cultural, and ritual context of Melanesia, and a detailed description of the Wosera male initiation, the author analyzes its religious and cultural meaning. From understanding the meaning of traditional initiation, he shifts to the stage of dialogue, integration, and inculturation with the present-day situation of Christianity. While this thesis is focused on a particular case study, the general methodology, results, and reflections also have some pertinence for other situations, especially in Melanesia. – ([Studia Instituti Anthropos, 46] Fribourg: University Press Fribourg Switzerland, 1992. ISBN 3-7278-0787-3. 326 pp., maps, fig. Price: sfr 55.–)