

Sua in Somié. Aspects of Mambila Religion (David Zeitlyn). – This work is an analysis of Mambila religion based on fieldwork in Somié village, Cameroon. An ethnographic and historical introduction to the Mambila is followed by an account of their religious concepts. It is argued that, despite their adherence to Christianity (and to Islam), traditional practices continue to be of great importance in everyday life.

In order to examine traditional practice, descriptions are given of the masquerades and the different oath-taking rites. Translated transcripts of the different forms of the *sua*-oath form the empirical core of the book. The transcripts illustrate the way that Mambila experience and understand the meaning of *sua*. Finally, problems are examined which are inherent in the analysis of non-literate societies lacking a reflective tradition, and in particular, societies lacking precise, structured religious concepts. These problems have important implications which are discussed in the final discussion of the relationship between religion, politics, and "symbolic power." – ([Collectanea Instituti Anthropos, 41] Sankt Augustin: Academia Verlag, 1994. ISBN 3-88345-375-7. 260 pp.)

Rock Art Studies: New Approaches – Symposium 1A of the 1995 International Rock Art Congress Pinerolo-Torino, Italy, 30 August – 8 September. – The symposium will concentrate on taking a fresh look at studying prehistoric imagery. Creating new analytical models taking the discipline into the 21st century will involve a significant rejuvenation of analytical methodology and epistemological rigour.

Among the topics likely to be covered in this symposium are technological studies and physiochemical analyses; the identification of various types of residues (for instance, binders, proteins, lipids, extenders, etc., in rock paints, organic inclusions in mineral accretions over petroglyphs); software of image analysis and manipulation; nano-stratigraphy of paints; new developments in direct dating of rock art; microscopic study and "internal analysis" of tool marks in rock art and portable art; discrimination of anthropic and non-anthropoc marks on rock and portable objects, and relevant ethology; replication studies; erosion and micro-erosion studies; relationships between phylogenic and ontogenic development of logic and symbolism; the psychology of iconicity and its decipherment; concepts of type and typicalness in prehistoric art, symbolism, and psychology; distinction between mental and artistic representations; the application of taphonomic logic at both technical and epistemic levels; epistemology in the formulation of theories and in the interpretation of palaeoart; valid applications of statistics in the discipline; sound utilization of universals in palaeoart studies; and other experimental approaches. Contributions are invited from many disciplines, rang-

ing from palaeobotany to mathematics, biology to geography, to assist palaeoart specialists in establishing comprehensive new approaches for the rigorous study of prehistoric art. An initial aim of the symposium is to discuss and compare the potentials of new approaches.

To facilitate constructive dialogue among those wishing to partake in these new developments, the participation of cultural anthropologists, psychologists, linguists, neurophysiologists, epistemologists, and semioticians is strongly encouraged. Methods of reasoning relevant to the discipline will be elucidated, and the areas of possible collaboration with other disciplines defined. In the past, the study of palaeoart has become unduly isolated among the disciplines concerned with human antiquity. However, common objectives should facilitate common approaches. Innovative work usually results from interdisciplinary collaboration in a scientific community. It is the objective of this symposium to reinforce this tradition and to develop future approaches in all facets of the discipline.

The role of this symposium will not merely be that of a theoretical forum, hypothesizing about future directions. An integral component will be an exhibition of specialized scientific equipment and technologies which are envisaged to play a role in the new research directions in palaeoart studies. Currently available techniques are to be demonstrated wherever possible, and practical applications of theoretical models and methods encouraged. Mindful that delegates have to travel far to attend an international conference, and that they need to secure the greatest possible advantage in terms of practical information, the organizers are determined to provide, with the help of specialized manufacturers of equipment, the technological environment that is needed to translate the proposed theoretical models into practical research realities.

The proceedings of this symposium are to be published soon after the congress and they are expected to become a blueprint for the future development of the discipline.

Call for papers:

Papers from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Australia can be submitted to

Robert G. Bednarik
Australian Rock Art Research Association
P.O. Box 216
Caulfield South, Vic 3162
Australia.

Papers from Europe, including Russia, can be submitted to

Francesco d'Errico
Department of Archaeology
Downing Street
CB2 3DZ Cambridge
U.K.