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Articles

Shih-Wei Hsu

- The Use of Figurative Language Concerning
the Death of the King 201–209

This paper aims to research the use of figurative expressions concerning the death of the king in the Pyramid Texts, biographic texts and literary texts. The death of a king was always a taboo subject and was usually expressed in euphemistic forms. The term “ascent to heaven” is the most important expression for describing the demise of the king. This term is expressed through the use of figurative language, which can come from the natural, animal and divine worlds. Examples and references of figurative expressions concerning the death of the king will be listed and discussed.

Keywords: Death of the king – figurative language – Pyramid Texts – biography
– ascension to heaven

Stefan Nowicki

- Menu of the Gods. Mesopotamian Supernatural Powers
and Their Nourishment, with Reference
to Selected Literary Sources 211–224

The aim of this article is to identify and interpret selected literary sources which address the components of the divine diet and its development, as well as the eating habits of Mesopotamian goddesses and gods. From the preserved texts it is clear that nourishment was an equally crucial issue for the well-being of both the Mesopotamian gods and every man and women. Moreover, apart from some exceptions, the divine diet was similar or even identical to that of humans. It differed in the quality of the ingredients or the actual dishes and, sometimes, also in relation to the quantity of food that was prepared. Because of these similarities, evidence of the development of the divine cuisine, which can be found within literary tradition, can potentially be interpreted as reflecting the social history of the human diet.

Keywords: ancient Mesopotamia – ancient diet – ancient food
– Mesopotamian literature – Mesopotamian mythology

Robert D. Miller

Tracking the Dragon across the Ancient Near East 225–245

Calvert Watkins definitively illustrated the connections between the Vedic slaying of the dragon *Vṛtra* by the thunder-god Indra and the storm-god dragon-slaying myths of the both ancient Iran (*Aži Dahāka*) and Indo-European Hittites (*Illuyanka*). But there are actually two Hittite dragon-slaying myths – the other, Hurrian in origin, concerning the storm god *Teshub* – and the relationship between the two remains unclear. The Hurrian-Hittite myth clearly underlies the Canaanite storm-god dragon slaying, but the connection of the latter to an independent Semitic dragon-slaying myth is also unclear. Is there a separate Semitic myth at all, or does the dissemination of these mythological motifs all go back to Indo-European Hittites and Indo-Europeans among the Hurrians? And if there is a Semitic myth, did it disseminate from the Levant southeastward to Mesopotamia with the spread of the Amorites in the early 2nd millennium or was there an originally-Sumerian dragon-slaying myth already in Southern Mesopotamia? And what are we to do when specific motifs of the earliest Mesopotamian form reappear in the late Iranian *Shahname*? This essay tracks the dragon across the ancient Near East, as similar myths fed into each other, their elements interweaving and combining in new forms.

Keywords: Stormgod – Indra – *Vṛtra* – *Trita* – *Viśvarūpa* – *Thraetaona* – *Fereydūn*
 – *Zahhāk* – *Tarhuna* – *Illuyanka* – *Teshub* – *Ullikummi* – *Ḫedammu* – *Baal*
 – *Yamm* – *Haddad* – *Enuma Elish* – *Tiamat* – *Marduk*

Rafael Herzstein

Un Apostolat en Orient : la France et la Compagnie de Jésus
auprès de la communauté Maronite 247–262

The origin of the Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, or U.S.J., dates back to the Seminar of Ghazir founded by the Jesuit Fathers in 1843. The College of Ghazir, established with the intention of training the local Maronite clergy, was transferred to Beirut in 1875. This center for higher studies was named Saint-Joseph University. Pope Leo XIII, in his audience of February 25, 1881, confers the title of pontifical University on the U.S.J.

The present article deals with the historical context of the U.S.J., the first great French-speaking Jesuit institution in the area which, at the time, bore the name of “Syria.” We studied the historical context for the creation of the Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, located in a province of the Ottoman Empire coveted by the future mandatory power, France.

This paper intends to show that after decades of conflict, Catholics and republicans in the empire ultimately buried many of their disagreements by embracing a notion of French civilization that melded both Catholic and republican ideals. Focusing on the much-neglected intersection of politics, religion, and imperialism, it offers a new understanding of both the nature of French culture and politics at the *fin de siècle*, as well as the power of the colonial experience to reshape European’s most profound beliefs.

Keywords: University-Levant (Lebanon-Syria) – history – France – Jesuits
 – Maronites – French Colonialism.

Suvabrata Sarkar

In Pursuit of *Laxmi*: Entrepreneurship, Industry
and Technology in Colonial Bengal 263–295

There is an abundance of literature on the history of industrialization in India. This has engaged the attention of scholars for long and even today has a huge audience. It has been generally recognized that the colonial government consciously and deliberately adopted policies that had deleterious effects on the economy and industry of the subject country. Along with such exploitation paradigm, there are few issues which need to be investigated in the interest of a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of economic change during the British rule. The attitude adopted by the Indian promoters of industry for the selection of technology for their industrial ventures is one of such issues. Were they self-sufficient in the realm of production technologies or the borrowers of such technologies from the west? Can one locate Bengali entrepreneurship in the engineering industry? How did the Bengali entrepreneurs situate modern technical knowledge in the project of establishing large-scale industries? For example, Prafulla Chandra Ray, the great chemist, endeavoured to make his science directly relevant to the immediate needs of the society. He started the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. (1892) which sought to put scientific knowledge to immediate industrial use. Taking into account two case-studies, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee and Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray, the article investigates the perceptions and response of the Bengali entrepreneurs towards modern technology and their role in transforming the industrial life of Bengal.

Keywords: Technology – education – entrepreneurship – industry – colonialism – Bengal

Giulia Baccini

Narrative Variation and Motif Adaptation in Ancient Anecdotal
Lore: A Perspective on the Bird-gift Story in Early and Early
Medieval Chinese Sources 297–315

This article examines a string of stories collected from different kinds of sources: the *Hanshi waizhuan* 韓詩外傳 (2nd century BC), the *Shuiyuan* 說苑 (late-first century BC), the *Lu Lianzi* 魯連子 (? third century BC), the *Shiji* 史記 (first century BC), the *Yinwenzi* 尹文子 (fourth century BC), and the *Xiaolin* 笑林 (third century AD). It aims to illustrate how a single story, defined as a *tale-type*, was adapted in six similar versions and how specific variations in its narrative served to convey different political or rhetorical agendas. In particular, this study aims to highlight how stories which were part of the traditional anecdotal lore and, in historical texts and works of the Masters, were used to substantiate an argument, once changed their reading context, could change their reading paradigm and become entertaining pieces of literature.

Keywords: narrative variations – collection of anecdotes – *tale-type*
– Early Medieval Chinese literature

Marco Fumian

New Social Classes, Old Visions of Hierarchy: the Novel
Chronicles of Du Lala's Promotions as an Example of Middle
Class Virtue in the Chinese "Socialist Market" 317–335

This article focuses on the reading of the popular Chinese novel *Chronicles of Du Lala's Promotions*, a bestseller published in 2007 and soon followed by numerous spin-offs, to observe how the novel constructs its vision of social hierarchy in the context of the emerging market economy and of the new social stratification brought about by the capitalist division of labour. The article argues that this vision of social hierarchy, although formulated in response to the new capitalist reconfiguration of the Chinese society, draws upon and is structured by a pre-existing traditional understanding of social hierarchy, one which is steeped both in the Confucian and the Maoist constructions of the social order. In particular, after having compared the ideal social structures painted by the Confucian and Maoist doctrines and by the current Chinese government, the article illustrates how the novel, reverberating the current governmental ideology, presents the middle class as a sort of moral elite entitled to enjoy privileged status thanks to its meritorious achievements in the market.

Keywords: Chinese middle class – Chinese mass culture – socialist market economy
– social hierarchy – deterritorialization – reterritorialization – Du Lala

Miriam Löwensteinová and Yu Sunbee

Yi Munyŏl's New Mythology of Kim Pyŏngyŏn. The *Siin* 337–358

The present article examines some aspects of Yi Munyŏl's novel *Siin* (The Poet, 1991) that could be comprehended as a new biography of the vagabond poet Kim Pyŏngyŏn (金炳淵, 1807–1863, better known as Kim Rip/Sakkat 金笠, 김삿갓), or as an author's reconstruction and re-evaluation of the phases of his poetry. Rejecting all the legendary based biographies that were created during the 20th century, it could also serve as a new mythology. In the first part, the article summarizes the possible historical and legendary sources that Yi Munyŏl could use, relation between the "veritable" and "fictitious" plot texture, the affinity between Kim Sakkat and Yi Munyŏl and the common features of their experience. This text also notices the possible message of the novel, the themes that appeared in it and author's interventions in the text. In the second part attention is given to dealing with the historical background, settings, to the protagonists of the novel, the spatio-temporal categories, the plot essayistic structure etc.

Keywords: Kim Sakkat/Kim Rip/Kim Pyŏngyŏn – Yi Munyŏl – mythology
– biography, historical novel – theme, characters, time and space, positionality
– Taiwanese indigenous fiction

Petra Karlová

The Emergence of Japanese Ethnology: A Case Study
of the Ethnologist Matsumoto Nobuhiro
in the Period 1919–23 359–379

This paper attempts to clarify the emergence of Matsumoto Nobuhiro as an ethnologist in the period 1919–23. Matsumoto Nobuhiro (1897–1981) was an ethnologist who is known as a pioneer in Southeast Asian studies and the Japanese mythology in Japan. Previous researches have already pointed out the influence of Yanagita Kunio and of the French School of Sociology on Matsumoto's academic work from the late 1920s. However, they did not examine Matsumoto's research in the early 1920s when Matsumoto started studying ethnology. The clarification of the formation of Matsumoto's ethnology in this period can contribute to the understanding of emergence and formation of ethnology in Japan. Based on the analysis of Matsumoto's writing in the period 1919–23, this paper explains that Matsumoto became ethnologist because he joined the discussion on the human origins under influence of Evolutionism. It argues that he researched primitive culture of various peoples in order to clarify the origins of the Japanese and Chinese culture. Further, the paper shows that Matsumoto became ethnologist due to studying Western ethnology under the guidance of ethno-psychologist Kawai Teiichi and folklorist Yanagita Kunio, and it mentions also influence of Matsumoto's teachers of Chinese history on the formation of Matsumoto's ethnology. Therefore, the paper demonstrates that the Japanese ethnology emerged from the discussion on the human origins under influence of Evolutionism by importing Western ethnological theories in close relation with the Japanese folklore studies and history.

Keywords: Japanese ethnology – evolutionist ethnology – Matsumoto Nobuhiro
– primitive culture

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Michael Loewe

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