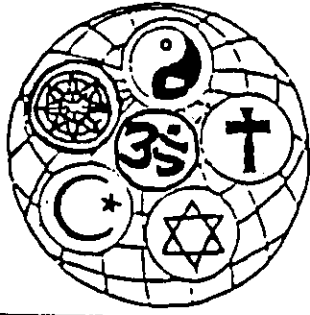


# Geography of Religions



## & Belief Systems

Volume 14 #2 Fall 1992

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**EDITOR'S NOTE** I'm Back! Korea is a beautiful country and a treasure trove of potential fieldwork for geographers of religion. All of my free time was spent hiking Korea's mountains for the pleasure of viewing and learning more about her distinctive Buddhist temples. If you are looking for a new direction for your research or just a new area to study, I strongly recommend Korea. In addition, cultural geography enjoys a recognized position in Korea's geography departments. Many of Korea's geographers studied overseas, and in fact, I was thrilled to find LSU alumni amongst our Korean colleagues. We enjoyed an LSU-style fieldtrip through Kangweon-do, the northeastern province of South Korea. More than thirty cultural and historical geographers from all over South Korea came to break geographical bread with me. LSU graduate Chan Lee, who is president of the Association of Korean Cultural and Historical Geographers, and his former student Ock Han Suk, organized the trip. The Korean trained geographers were joined by four LSU people as well as UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, U. of Minnesota and U. of Michigan (E. Lansing) graduates. The Korean geographers were so hospitable and they deserve much thanks.

In addition to visiting Korea, I was able to spend six weeks in Japan doing nothing less than visiting temples and shrines on Kyushu, Shikoku (especially the 88 sacred places of Kobo Daishi) and Honshu. I must take a moment here to thank Tadashi Nakagawa of the University of Tsukuba (another LSU grad) for his hospitality and arrangements. Mention must be made of Tadashi's achievements. Recently he completed fieldwork on cemeteries in Japan funded by a million yen grant. Congratulations Tadashi! Of course, my return trip to the mainland would not have been complete if I hadn't had a stopover in Hawaii. There I visited several heiau, traditional Hawaiian sacred places, and I found a lovely, Korean Buddhist temple at the headwaters of the Wai'oma'o valley in northeastern Honolulu.

Now that I have returned to the States, my life has slipped back into the humdrum activities of the office. So cheer me up!! Send me notes and intentions of your upcoming projects for the next newsletter. I am looking forward to them.

A final note. Please do not forget to check the GORABS specialty group membership box when you re-up with the AAG. Encourage colleagues and students to join us. Presently, we have 73 registered members. Some of our most devoted supporters over the years are not on the list. Make sure you are on the list this year! More importantly, we have new members, some of whom supported early GORABS efforts, and I personally would like to extend my warmest welcome to them.

**NEW GORABS MEMBERS** Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!!!! Our new members come to us from a variety of backgrounds and places. Many of you are associated with universities, but a fair number hail from public schools, private businesses, government offices and non-geographic departments (such as architecture). Your diversity in professional experience will broaden the scope of GORABS work. Thank you for joining our ranks. We look forward to your contributions.

Chandra Balachandran	North Dakota State University
Douglas Basinger	San Francisco State University
Lisa D. Breck	Wayne State University
Reuben Brooks	Tennessee State University
Sharon Brooks	UC Berkeley
Larry Brown	University of Missouri, Co.
Thomas Broxson	CSU, Fullerton
John Coffman	University of Houston
Zora Colakovic	Syracuse University
John Crissinger	Ambassador College
Alice Dawson	University of North Carolina, CH
Lavindra DeSilva	University of Kentucky
Daniel Dory	St. Germaine-la Raviere, France
Paula Dye	Dunedin, Florida
Richard Eaton	Pennsylvania State University
Lee Faro	Portland State University
Elizabeth Rea Furlong	University of New Orleans
Marilyn Gardner	New Alternatives Inc., Chicago
Rachelle Grein	Boca Raton, Florida
Nancy Hanks	University of Oklahoma
Reinhard Henkel	Universitat Heidelberg, Germany
Roger Henrie	Central Michigan University
Douglas Herman	University of Hawaii
Robert Hilt	Pittsburg State University
Richard Hough	San Francisco State University
Gregory Jeane	Samford University
Allen Ladd	Marine Corps University
David Ley	University of British Columbia
Jonathan Lu	University of Northern Iowa
Jeffrey Dean Maddux	Delta State University
Daniel Maher	University of Wisconsin, Md.
Winston Mullen	Western Washington University
Han-Suk Ock	Kangweon National University, Korea
Michael Ondris	Natrona County Public Schools, WY
Josee Penot-Demetry	J P & Associates, NE
James Saad	Wayne County Community College, MI
John Scott	California State University
David Seamon	Kansas State University
Jonathan Smith	University of Oregon
Carolyn Spatta	CSU, Hayward
Karla Streharsky	University of Akron
Michael Tripp	University of Victoria, BC
Edwin Weiss, Jr.	Northern Kentucky University
Claudia Whittington	University of Texas
Jerrie Williams	University of Kentucky
Holly Youngbear-Tibbetts	University of Wisconsin, Md.

**OLD GORABS MEMBERS** Well, we really are not all that old, but those of us on this list have been meeting and sharing our interests in GORABS over the years. Some of the members on this list are not formal GORABS members yet, but I am sure you will be in the near future. If you are not an AAG member and you live in a developing country, then look in the back of this newsletter for a form that will assist you in becoming a member of GORABS without formally joining the AAG. I present this list to our readership as a way to re-acquaint ourselves with each other and to introduce you to our new members. In this way we will all get to know who's who (so to speak). Please let me know if I have missed anyone.

Henry Aay	Calvin College
Hussein A. Amery	McMaster University, Ontario
Alice Andrews	George Mason University
Ben Bennion	Humboldt State University
Surinder Bhardwaj	Kent State University
Bruce Bigelow	Butler University
Michael Bonine	University of Arizona
Harold Brodsky	University of Maryland
Stanley Brown	University of Kentucky
William Brown	Prairie View A&M University
John Caldwell	Louisiana Tech University
Anita Caplan	CIES, Washington D.C.
Daniel Cole	Smithsonian Institute
Daniel Clayton	University of British Columbia
Adrian Cooper	Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
Clifford Craig	Utah State University
Bruce Crew	University of Wisconsin, Me.
Claude Curran	Southern Oregon State College
Janel Curry-Roper	Central College
James Darlington	Brandon University, Manitoba
Satish Davgun	Bemidji State University
Carl DiFrancesco	Lakewood, CO
Jonathon Durr	Kent State University
Ramze ElZahrany	Kent State University
Chad Emmett	Brigham Young University
Gregory Faiers	Louisiana State University
Linda Fischer	Richard Bland College
R. L. Gerlach	Southwest Missouri State University
Allan Gleason	Willowdale, Ontario
Reginald Golledge	UC, Santa Barbara
D. Brooks Green	University of Central Arkansas
L. Guay	Universite Laval, Quebec
Mark Hafen	Moore/Bowers Inc., Tampa-FL
Peter Halvorson	University of Connecticut
Thomas Hannon	Slippery Rock University
Kusha Haraksingh	University of the West Indies, Trinidad
Susan Hardwick	CSU, Chico
Charles Heatwole	Hunter College, CUNY
A. Hecht	Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario
Mohammad Hemmasi	University of North Dakota
Daniel Hiebert	University of British Columbia
William Himel	Louisiana State University

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Joe Hobbs	University of Missouri, Co.
Cynthia Hollander	Perry, OK
O. H. Horst	Western Michigan University
Abdel Ibrahim	Kent State University
Richard Jackson	Brigham Young University
Jerzy Jemiolo	Ball State University
Terry Jordan	University of Texas
Jeanne Kay	University of Waterloo
Michael Kelsey	Kent State University
A. Khan	University of District of Columbia
Masoud Kheirabadi	Lewis & Clark College
Lily Kong	National University of Singapore
James Kus	CSU, Fresno
Richard Lewis	Kent State University
Neal Lineback	Appalachian State University
J. Dennis Lord	University of North Carolina, Ce.
Hubert Lorlen	Mantachie, MS
Claudia Lowe	Diamond Bar, CA
Surendra Mathur	Alabama A&M University
James Mills	University of Minnesota
Tadashi Nakagawa	University of Tsukuba, Japan
Linda Neff	Alexandria, VA
William Noble	University of Missouri, Co.
Mary Lee Nolan	Oregon State University
Jim Norwine	Texas A&I University
Masayasu Oda	Komazawa University, Japan
Anne Osterreith	Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
John Paterson	University of Waikato, New Zealand
Jane Powley	Wilmington, DE
Carolyn V. Prorok	Slippery Rock University
Robert Reed	UC, Berkeley
Miles Richardson	Louisiana State University
Gisbert Rinschede	Universitat Regensburg, Germany
F. A. Savard	Universite Laval, Quebec
Harry J. Schaleman	University of South Florida
Claudia Schuchardt-Ryder	Shippensburg University
Joseph Schwartzberg	University of Minnesota
D. K. Singh	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar India
Rana P. B. Singh	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi India
Gail Sechrist	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Anindita Sen	University of Akron
Gregory Stein	Buffalo State College
Robert Stoddard	University of Nebraska, Ln.
Dewey Stowers	University of South Florida
Roger Stump	SUNY, Albany
Philip Suckling	University of Northern Iowa
Hiroshi Tanaka	University of Lethbridge, Alberta
Suprabha Tripathi	University of Akron
Thomas Tweed	University of Miami
Janet Valenza	University of Texas
Robert Voeks	CSU, Fullerton
Barbara Weightman	CSU, Fullerton
Elizabeth Whitaker	Knoxville, TN
Chand Wije	Kent State University



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**FOCUS ON:** Lily Kong, National University of Singapore

In each newsletter, I would like to introduce a few of our members in terms of their training and work in GORABS. Please send me a copy of your C.V. and I will focus on you next time.

Lily's full address is as follows:

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 0511; Telephone: 7756666, Telex: NUSPER RS-51111, FAX: 65-7773091, and E-MAIL: (Bitnet) geokongl@nusvm.

Lily completed her BA with honors at the National University of Singapore in 1986. She remained at NUS to complete her MA in geography in 1988, but then she travelled to the UK where she took her PhD at University College, London with Peter Jackson in 1991. Her dissertation title was: The Sacred and the Secular: Contemporary Meanings and Values for Religious Buildings in Singapore. Lily's current research interests are religion and women's 'place', urban conservation and heritage issues, and conceptions of nature and nature conservation in urban areas.

Lily's publications and presentations related to GORABS include:

Kong, L. (forthcoming) "Ideological hegemony and the political symbolism of religious buildings in Singapore," Environment and Planning Development: Society and Space.

----- 1992 "Negotiating conceptions of 'sacred space': a case study of religious buildings in Singapore," paper presented at the IGC, Washington D. C.

----- 1992 "The sacred and the secular: exploring contemporary meanings and values for religious buildings in Singapore," Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science, 20(1), pp. 18-42.

----- 1990 "Geography and religion: trends and prospects," Progress in Human Geography, 14(3), pp. 355-71.

**ATLANTA AAG IN 1993** GORABS has several interesting sessions planned for Atlanta. Please come to the conference and join us. We always plan an evening out on the town; sampling the local cuisine and generally noting religious elements of the landscape on our way to dinner (if we aren't too engrossed in our conversations). Look in the program for our business meeting and place it high on your agenda. We need your ideas and enthusiasm. One of the issues that I would like to raise at the meeting is the expansion of the newsletter to a bi-monthly format. First, information relating to our specialty group is increasing. Secondly, and more importantly, I would like the members of the group to share more of their work with other members. Give this idea consideration, then, for the next meeting. As for our programs in Atlanta, the following description should appear in the January AAG Newsletter. We hope to see you there!



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Panel Discussion on Theoretical Issues in GORABS: Surinder Bhardwaj,  
Chair and Panel Members: Gisbert Rinschede, Robert Reed, Richard  
Jackson, Carolyn V. Prorok, Robert Stoddard and Lee Faro

First Session: GORABS I: The Western World  
Organizer: Carolyn V. Prorok  
Chair: Carolyn V. Prorok

Gisbert Rinschede Geographical Aspects of Religious  
Broadcasting in the United States

Allan Gleason "Churching" the City; Recent Trends in  
Toronto

Richard Jackson & Secular Pilgrimage in England  
Lloyd E. Hudman

Mary Lee Nolan Discussant

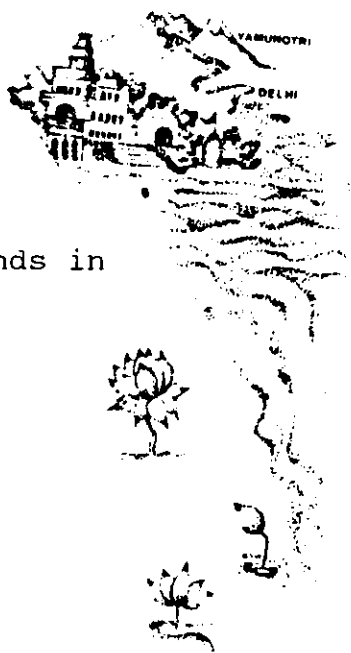
Second Session: GORABS II: The Eastern World  
Organizer: Carolyn V. Prorok  
Chair: Gisbert Rinschede

Surinder M. Bhardwaj Some Spatial Aspects of Religious  
Composition in Punjab Since 1947

Robert Stoddard Muslim Pilgrimages: Marabouts in the  
Maghreb

Carolyn V. Prorok Dae Wang San Sin or Worshipping Mountains in  
Korean Culture

Mohammad Hemmasi Discussant



**GORABS FEATURE ESSAY AND FEATURE MAP(S)** Ock Han-Suk, from the  
Department of Geography at the Kangweon National University in  
Chuncheon S. Korea, submitted the following essay on "Korean Ancestor  
Worship and P'ungsu Chiri: The case of the Chuncheon Park Clan."  
Chiri is the term for 'geography' in Korean, and it is also used in  
conjunction with the term P'ungsu which means wind and water.  
Combined, the term P'ungsu Chiri is Korea's system of geomancy; a  
system that has indigineous roots, but which also reflects the strong  
influence of China's culture in Korea over the centuries. Professor  
Ock would welcome any correspondance with geographers interested in  
this subject. His address is The Department of Geography, College of  
Education, Kangweon National University, Chuncheon, Kangweon-do, 200-  
701, S. Korea. Fax #: 81-361-51-9556 (indicate name & dept)

P'ungsu Chiri, otherwise known as Feng-sui in China, is a traditional philosophy in Korea. P'ungsu philosophy originated within ancient Korean culture, although it was first recorded in China. It is intermingled with various Oriental philosophies such as Taoism, Buddhism and Ancestor Worship. The principle of P'ungsu has been adapted to establishing residences of both the living and the dead within natural contexts, especially that of the mountain. Koreans wish to bury their ancestors in the Myungdang (the best place), which is a primary P'ungsu concept. They perform a sacrificial rite for the ancestors in front of the tomb, and Koreans believe ancestors will thus bless them with good fortune. As a result, the royal family and peerage utilized P'ungsu philosophy to promote the prosperity of the nation and their own clan. In other words, the ruling classes only accepted P'ungsu philosophy as a belief system that authenticated and guaranteed their own prosperity, which is symbolized by power and wealth.

There are many clans that originated in the various counties of Korea. Most of them had power and wealth and they became the ruling class. Original clans with surnames representing the paternal lineage can be grouped chiefly into various clan levels, for instance, tosong clans (first ruling group), mangsong clans (first ruling group that eventually disappeared), and soksong clans (a ruling group that immigrated into the county of Chuncheon from other counties of Korea). There were many clans residing in Chuncheon, one of the administrative centers in central Korea (Figure 1). The Chuncheon clan named Park is the only one of the tosong clans which can be found in historical documents, and it represented two kinds of social status: governmental officials and provincial secretaries of the Koryo dynasty. During the Yi dynasty their local and national power declined, but their lineage continued to grow and prosper. The Park clan and geomancers believe that this was caused by the P'ungsu site for the ancestors. The tomb of the Park clan's founder (Park Hang/1227-1281) was located on a mountain that symbolized the nest of a swallow (Figure 2).

Basic to P'ungsu is the notion that many mountains possess special qualities and are thus, Jinsan, or guardian mountains. To be a guardian mountain the mountain should have Koog, which is a complex of specific, symbolic characteristics. All guardian mountains can be classified into five general categories which are called; water, metal, fire, soil, and tree (or wood). These categories are further distinguished by sub-types, each of which have varying kinds of auspicious qualities. In the case of the Chuncheon Park clan, the clan leader was buried on a mountain that exhibited the swallow nest subtype of the tree mountain. It also had the characteristic of a porch (such as that exhibited in a Korean folk house), in that it was ringed by lower hills in a special configuration (for power and protection) (Figure 3). This pattern is significant in terms of the multi-purpose nature of the "front room" or porch of a Korean house (Figure 4). Porches are used not only as the main entrance to the home, but also to serve guests and as an area for lower class people waiting to be received by the owner of the home. Swallows are noted for making their nests under the roof of Korean homes, and more importantly, the porch configuration presents a symbolic entrance to the tomb. Finally,

outwards, and off in the distance are a series of lower hills that are distinguished by the plain (or otherwise level) area around them. This section symbolized space for the provision of worms to feed the swallows, just as the fields of rice feed the family (Table 1 & Figures 5-6: The geomancer-at left-is standing at the tomb and the lower hills and plain are in the distance. This view from the tomb is central to the geomancer's interpretation of the site).

The complex of various features described above is the mountain's Koog. To bury one's ancestors on a mountain with a Koog such as this one is auspicious indeed, in that this mountain would ensure future prosperity. The swallow nest type is auspicious because it symbolized a live earth, and a live earth is prosperous earth.

The theoretical system of P'ungsu is to intuit the interaction between people and the living earth, or nature. So, even though the swallow nest mountain of Park Hang's tomb guarded the wealth and prosperity of his descendants, its lofty heights in relation to the small stream that fronted it would restrict, or otherwise inhibit, the full realization of that prosperity. In accordance with this P'ungsu Koog, the Park clan flourished by dividing into 24 groups and migrating to other districts, while other clans declined in number of descendants (Figure 1). The exact cause of the decline of these other tosang clans is not known because information about them can not be found in historical documents. A geomancer's interpretation of this situation would be that the Park clan reflected the mountain of their ancestor's tomb; just as a swallow lays many eggs. The other clans must not have had such an auspicious mountain in that their names and lineage are now forgotten. On the other hand, the Park clan eventually declined in prestige and political power, thus revealing the limitations of the site.

P'ungsu philosophy occupies a large portion of Korean traditional thought, and it reflects a personal history of Korean social relationships. In as much as it also reflects the relationship between Koreans and their mountainous landscape, it deserves greater attention by cultural geographers.

#### Selected Bibliography

Lee, Mong Il 1991 The Development Process and Changing Characteristic of Korean P'ungsu Chiri Thought, Seoul: Myung Publishing Co.

Ock, Han Suk 1987 "Immigration of Clans in Korea Before the Late Chosun Dynasty," Journal of Geography, 14, Seoul National University.

안녕히 계세요



St Andrew



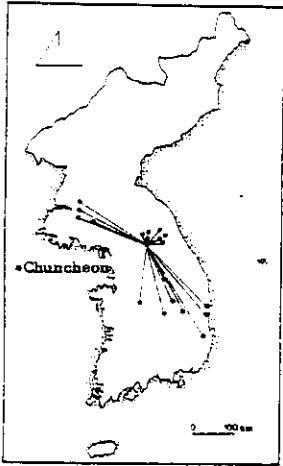


Figure 1

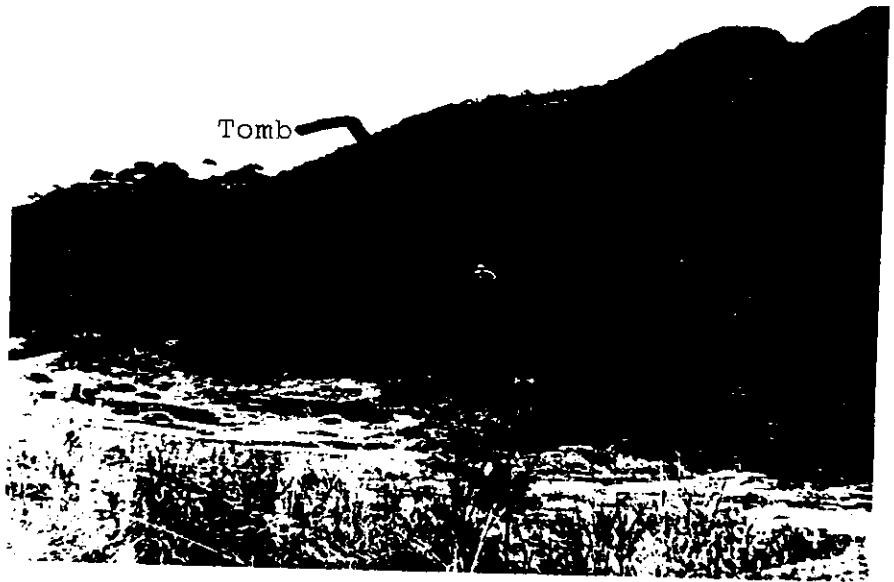


Figure 2

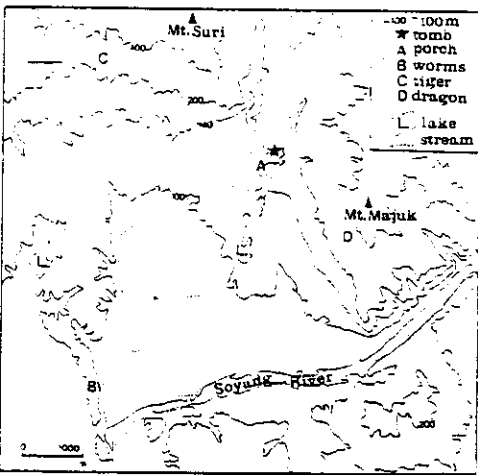


Figure 3



Figure 4

TABLE 1: Relationships between people and mountains in P'ungsu Chiri (Korea).

Human	House Entrance Room	Home	Crop Fields
Swallow	Nest porch	Nest	Worms
P'ungsu	Forward Hills	Tomb	Maintenance

Figure 5

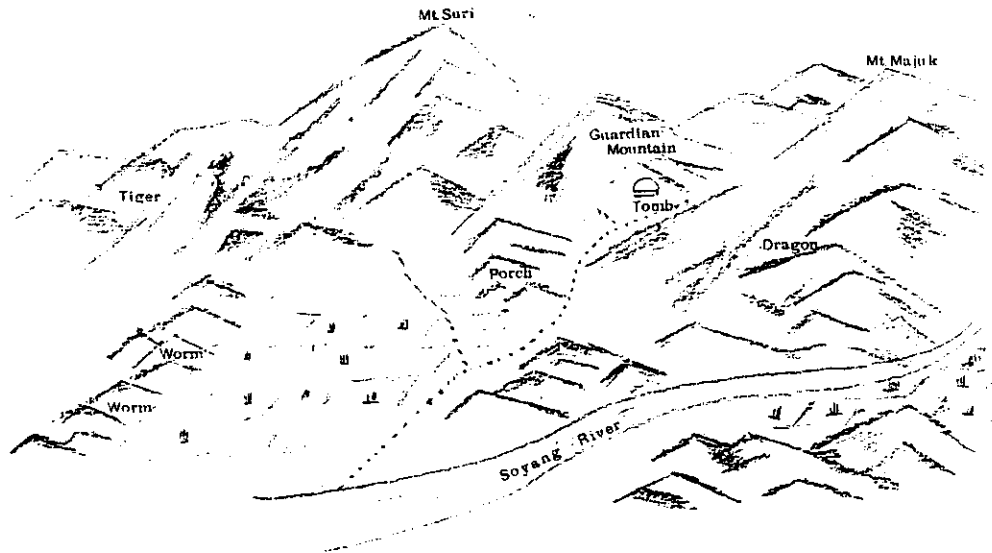


Figure 6



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rana P.B. Singh of Banaras Hindu University announces that the Tara Book Agency in Varanasi is presenting the 4th publication in its Varanasi-Studies Foundation: Cultural Traditions of India Series. It is entitled PANCAKROŚĪ YĀTRĀ, VĀRĀNASĪ: Sacred Journey, Ecology of Place, and Faithscape, by R. P. B. Singh. You may inquire about it through the Tara Book Agency, Kamachha, Varanasi, UP 221010, India.

At the jointly sponsored meetings of the NCGE and CLAG (the National Council for Geographic Education and the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic during September of 1992, the following paper was presented by Robert A. Voeks, "Leaves for the Gods: African Plant Classification in the New World."

At the IGC (International Geographical Congress) of the IGU in Washington D.C. during August of 1992, a number of papers and sessions were organized on GORABS themes. They include:

### SYMBOLIC GEOGRAPHY: CONCEPTS OF SACRED SPACE

- Gastone Imbrighi, "Les lieux sacres dans le paysage terrestre."  
Angelo Turco, "Projecting Harmony: Mythical Thought and Territoriality in the Ivory Coast."  
William J. Gribb "Symbolism of Place and Changing Jurisdiction: The Taos Pueblo's Struggle for Blue Lake."  
Lily L. Kong "The Sacred and the Secular: Symbolic Meanings and values of Religious Buildings in Singapore."  
Li Cejin "The Influence of Tibetan Buddhism on Social Development."

### BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY AND THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

- Jonathan J. Lu "Geography of the bible and Its Research Frontiers."  
Abraham Akkerman "Towers, Gates, and Open Spaces in Cities of the Old Testament."  
William A. Dando "The Diffusion of Lutheranism in America."  
Gwyn Rowley "Temple Mount: Its Centrality in Judaeo-Christian and Islamic Spatial Conceptualizations and Conflicts."  
Israel Roll "Roman Roads in the Provincia Judaea: A Regional Communication Network in the Roman Empire."

### Other papers include:

- Hasi Das "Mayapur: The Sacred Place of International Fame."  
Brenda S. A. Yeoh "'Sacred' Spaces in a Colonial City: Conflicts over the Chinese Burial Grounds in Singapore."  
Surinder Bhardwaj "Harmony and Conflict in the Holy Landscape,"  
John D. Porteous "Transcendental Experience in Wilderness."  
Arun P. Singh "Religious Sites of the Himalaya and their Socio-cultural Impact on Tourism."  
Pradyumna Karan "Regional Ethnic and Religious Separatist or Autonomy Movements in the Indian Subcontinent."  
Reinhard Henkel "Christian Missions and Churches as Agents Meeting Human Needs, Wants, and Rights in Africa: The Example of Zambia."  
Gisbert Rinschede "Catholic Pilgrimage Centers in Quebec."



Please complete this form if you are not a geographer or if you are a geographer that does not live in the United States. In this way you can become a member of record in the Association of American Geographers Specialty Group named GORABS without also being a member of the AAG itself. Dues are \$5 for professionals and \$1 for students. If you reside in a developing country the dues fee is waived, however, we still request that you fill out this form for our records. If you are already a member of the AAG, you should simply check the GORABS line in the specialty group section. You should not fill out this form. Please send this form to Carolyn V. Prorok, Department of Geography, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock PA, 16057-1326; Fax: (412) 738-2098 and phone #(412) 738-2384. Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (family name first please)

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ (school, company etc)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (mailing address for  
 \_\_\_\_\_ GORABS)

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ (include country code)

Fax#: \_\_\_\_\_ "

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list research interests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Thank you.