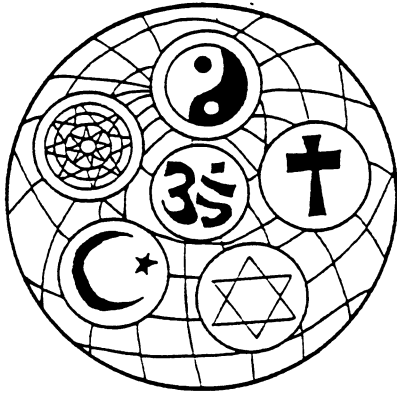


Geography of Religions & Belief Systems



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The AAG meeting in Boston is just around the corner. You will find a wealth of presentations on GORABS topics. These are highlighted in this issue. As in previous issues, I encourage members to submit their essays and reviews for future publications. I need your contributions to prepare the summer and fall issues this year. If you have a map or graphic associated with your submission, please make sure it is of publishable quality from the outset and note the format of the newsletter for its dimensions. You can contact me if you have any questions.

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GORABS Review Corner

SACRED MOUNTAINS: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Meanings by Adrian Cooper (Floris Books) and an accompanying CD with music inspired by the book. Review by C. V. Prorok

In *Sacred Mountains*, Cooper has brought together the poetry, magic and physical power of the mountains that have inspired millions of people for millennia. The concept of "sacred mountains" in religious studies has been around for a long time, but Cooper brings a fresh and humanistic perspective to the subject. He does this by delving into the poetry and symbolism of ancient cultures worldwide while at the same time recording individual experiences of mountains among contemporary (and common) people. Thus, the strength of the text, which sparingly informs the reader of the physical dimensions and histories of specific mountains or mountain systems, relies heavily on the juxtaposition of scriptural references (from many different religions) and ancient and contemporary poetry dedicated to mountains and mountain symbolism, with short, but rich, passages on the role of mountains in the spiritual lives of 144 travellers, mountain climbers, and scientists. An example of the rich juxtapositions that draw forward Cooper's thesis that there remains, in our

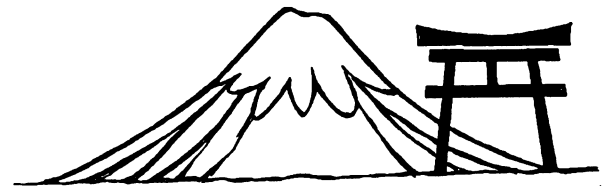
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lily Kong announces the publication of her article: *Women in a Catholic World: A Case Study of Singapore*, in *Asian Profile*, December 1997, Vol. 26:6:473-489.

A conference in Kansas City, Missouri (April 2-5, 1998) will focus on the anthropology of religion. It is the joint ARS-CSAS Meeting. Contact scaldwel@s.imap.itd.umich.edu (Sarah Caldwell) for more information.

GORABS REVIEW

Continued from Page 1

postmodern and depersonalized world, "... a genuine and persistent thirst for the spiritual, for a sense of awe and wonder and for an encounter with mysteries beyond the attention of technology and rational science" (10), are found below:

High rises the Eastern Peak
Soaring up to the blue sky.
Among the rocks -- -- an empty hollow,
Secret, still, mysterious!
Uncarved, and unhewn,
Screened by nature with a roof of clouds.

Tao-yun

Mountains!
You pierce the blue sky,
Without blunting your peaks.
But for your support,
Heaven would fall.

Mao Ze Dong

Such poetry introduces each chapter, in this case the chapter on China, and contextualizes the short passages by the individuals who had reason to visit, climb or study the mountains of that region. For example:

... and when you spend time in places like T'ai Shan which are dedicated to Taoist teaching, it falls into place ... For me, T'ai Shan can be thought about at many different levels. It can be seen as just a big rock. It's also a sanctuary. It can be a barrier to struggle over. It can be a public place, or a private one too ... Many, many aspects of the mountain which mirror real life.

Waylon

To put it simply, I was so pre-occupied with the logistics of our (archaeological) expedition that I was missing the main value of the mountain, the main reason why Hsuan-tsang felt the way he did, and the reason why the tribes people feel the way they do. You've got to accept the mystery of the place and you've got to put aside your anxieties, and accept all the sounds and sights and smells and feelings of being there. That's all you need. No fear. Just accept. It's that simple. But often the simplest things are the hardest to achieve!

Alfred

Cooper allows his informants to speak often in this book, and he keeps his contribution to short passages that link people of the past to people in the present, and to pithy analyses of the multitude of circumstances and experiences--while diverse--that bind all of us together in our experience of the extraordinary; whether secular or religious, whether Christian, Jewish, Taoist, Hindu or Buddhist or indigenous, and whether we recognize the spiritual as a collective or individual pursuit.

Maybe my life is meant to be more solitary. And I can remember the first time that thought came to me, I was drinking a beaker of orange squash, and staring out over that amazing landscape, and realizing that I had a huge grin of contentment right across my face! So for me, Ararat will always represent that lesson ... and the more I go back there, the more it's become important to my understanding of who I am, and where I'm going.

Jade

Cooper divided *Sacred Mountains* into thirteen chapters that include an introduction and conclusion, and then a focus on eleven regions famous for their mountains. They include: North America, Latin America, Australasia, Japan, Himalayas, China, South and Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Throughout, do not expect a perspective of theorizing the human experience of mountains; instead, *Sacred Mountains* is a quiet journey to famous, and not so famous, mountains where great thinkers, extraordinary poets, and common travellers share their spiritual experiences of, and thus make sacred, those magnificent eruptions of rock we call mountains.

Contributing to the textual experience are over fifty lush, color photographs of mountains that have inspired many people for millennia. The music CD, which shares the book's name, is written, produced and performed by the group "Fetch," who are based in Great Britain. It is a pleasant auditory journey into *Sacred Places, Pinnacles, Earthly Paradise, and Mountains of the Moon*, to name a few of the fifteen selections.

PENNSYLVANIA GEOGRAPHER
ISSUES READY

A substantial number of worthy submissions to the *Pennsylvania Geographer* for the GORABS special issue has resulted in two special editions of the journal to be published this fall and next spring. A selection of topics for the fall issue range from ecospirituality, the Jewish environmental movement, Navajo landscapes of healing to the role of religious structures in the settlement history of Indianapolis.

Several of the papers in the second issue include an analysis of a Hindu sacred city, a history of the mythical locations of Noah's ark, and Native American perceptions of the sacred in the natural world. Those of you who are not dues paying members of the Pennsylvania Geographical Society can still purchase one or both of these issues from the general editors. Each issue (Fall 1997 and Spring 1998) is \$10. Add \$2.50 each for overseas postage. Make your check or postal money order out to *The Pennsylvania Geographical Society*. Order now as supplies will be limited. Send your check/money order to Bill Kory, Editor PG, Department of Social Sciences-Geography, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904 or email him for more information: koryupj@vms.cis.pitt.edu Fax: 814-269-7255

AAG Annual Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts

March 25-29, 1998

The following listing of papers is provided for your convenience. Note, that unless otherwise indicated, presentations are not necessarily in the same session. You must look up each venue in your Conference Program.

Thursday, March 26

- 7:45 am G. O Tuathail, Virginia Tech
Jesuit Statesmanship: The Case of Edmund Walsh
- 8:10 am N. Zaretsky, Dartmouth College
Negotiating Identity, Transcending Boundaries: The Transnational Community of Soviet Jewish Immigrants in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn
- 8:50 am S. Matchak, Salem State College
Saint's Feasts and Neighborhood Geography
- 10:10 am B. Graham, University of Ulster, P. Shirlow, Queen's University Belfast
The Imagining of Place: Representation and Identity in Protestant Ulster
- 8:00am-10:50am-- POSTER SESSION I
J.E. Mapes, State University College-Geneseo
Educational Differences in Catholic and Islamic Developing Countries
T.A. Phelps, State University College-Geneseo
The Flowers of Thy Meadow: A Cross-Cultural Study of Religion and Parenting

LINKING GEOGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY TO THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE (Sponsored by Bible Specialty Group)

- 11:30 am G. Wajntraub, Israeli Map Collectors Society
Mapping the Dispersion of the Sons of Noah
- 11:50 am E. Wajntraub, Israeli Map Collectors Society, G. Wajntraub, Israeli Map Collectors Society
The Mapping of the Holy Land and the Bible
- 12:10 pm L.A. Boenigk, Indiana State University
Mapping Urban Land Use Change in Jerusalem
- 12:30 pm L.G. Brown, University of Missouri
Prodigal Geography
- 12:50 pm J.R. Mather, University of Delaware
The Winds of Galilee
- 12:30 pm C. Dwyer, University College London
Contested Spaces: Mosque Building and the Cultural Politics of Multiculturalism
- 1:30pm-2:30pm
Geography of Religion and Belief Systems Specialty Group Business Meeting

GEOGRAPHY IN JUDAIC STUDIES

- (Sponsored by American Ethnic Geography Specialty Group)
- 4:45 pm N.G. Jacobs, Ohio State University
On the Interaction of Jewish and Non-Jewish Geography: Ashkenaz and the Baltic Rim

- 5:05 pm P.P. Geiger, University Federale de Rio de Janeiro
Historical Experiences of the Jewish Diaspora and Geographic Thought
- 5:15 pm S.E. Silverman, Prince George's Community College
Independent Jewish High School Fraternity: The Example of Sigma Alpha Rho
- 5:45 pm I.M. Sheskin, University of Miami
The Jewish Community of Howard County

Friday, March 27

- 8:10 am M. Richardson, Louisiana State University
The Gift of Presence: The Act of Leaving Artifacts at Shrines, Memorials and other Tragedies

POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES IN NATIVE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

- (Sponsored by American Indians and Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Groups)
- 7:30 am D.L. McDonald, Stephen F. Austin State University
Institutional Factors Affecting the Native American Church, 1890's-1990's
- 7:50 am G.R. Dobbs, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
The Powwow in North Carolina: pan-Indian Culture and the Making of Indian Space
- 8:10 am K.G. Brealey, University of British Columbia
Contested Sovereignties: First Nations vs the Queen in British Columbia
- 8:30 am E. Hogan Fouberg, Mary Washington College
Governing Tribes: The Roles of Tribal Territory and Sovereignty

PILGRIMAGE ACTIVITY AND SENSE OF PLACE AND METAPHOR

- 9:30 am L. Jeng, Temple University
Landscape Metaphors of the Underworld and Afterworlds
- 9:50 am A.E. Mulder, University of Colorado-Boulder
Living History: Place, Identity, and the Re-Enactment of the 1847 Mormon Trek
- 10:10 am A.L. Mance, Kent State University
A Study of Pilgrimage to the May 4 Site and Memorial on the Campus of Kent State University
- 10:30 am M. Hawkins, Louisiana State University
The Plantation Pilgrimage: Interpreting Landscapes of Slavery in Louisiana
- 11:50 am A.M. Hayford, University of Regina
Liminalities: Religion and the (Re)Construction of Community
- 2:45 pm A. Benedict, University of Akron
Religious Landscape Formation in a Latin American Migrant Community

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AAG MEETING

Continued from Page 3

- 3:05 pm T.A. Lee, Syracuse University
Are They God's Frozen People? The Political and Social Landscapes of Protestant Belfast
- 3:45 pm A.K. Howard, University of Wisconsin-Madison
American Cemeteries, American Towns
- 4:05 pm M.L. Comeaux, Arizona State University
European Antecedents to French Louisiana Cemetery Practices

GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION (Sponsored by Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group)

- 4:45 pm E. Yorgason, University of Iowa
The Transformation of Mormon Regional Citizenship
- 5:05 pm R.H. Jackson, Brigham Young University
Religion and Migration: Polynesian Immigrants in Utah
- 5:25 pm K.E. Braden, Seattle Pacific University
Christian Views and Wilderness Conservation
- 5:45 pm C.F. Emmett, Brigham Young University
Nationalism Among Christian Palestinians
- 6:05 pm B.R. Crew, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Israel-Palestine: Religious-Political Meeting Point Between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Saturday, March 28

- 9:30 am J.T. Mitchell, University of South Carolina
Hazards, Religion and Place: Prayer and Peril in South Carolina
- 9:30 am J.M. Jacobs, University of Melbourne
Uncanny Cities: Aboriginal Sacredness, Modernity, and the Postcolonial Urban
- SATELLITEREVELATIONS: NEW VIEWS OF THE HOLD LAND** (Sponsored by Bible, Remote Sensing, and Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Groups) 1:15-2:55 pm
- 3:35 pm K. Forbes-Boyte, Emporia State University
The Politicizing of Religion: Law, Sacred Space, and Indian Oppression

GEOGRAPHY AND RELIGION

- 5:15 pm C.S. Campbell, Youngstown State University
Spatial Attributes of Sacred Places
- 5:35 pm G. Towers and J.T. Manzo, Concord College
The Geography of Miracles
- 5:55 pm B.A. Weightman, California State Univ-Fullerton
Religion in Transnational Context: Faith, Economics, and Politics in Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region.

Sunday, March 29

- 7:30 D. Kelli, East Carolina University
Geography of Identity: Muslim Women in the Rural South



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