

BOOK REVIEWS

WALRAVENS, Hartmut, ZIMMER, Thomas. *Richard Wilhelm (1873-1930), Missionar in China und Vermittler Chinesischen Geistesguts. Schriftenverzeichnis, Katalog seiner chinesischen Bibliothek, Briefe von Heinrich Hackmann, Briefe von Ku Hung-ming*. ed. Roman Malek. Collectanea Serica, Institut Monumenta Serica, Monograph Series LX. Sankt Augustin: Steyler Verlag, 2008. 316 p. ISBN 978-3-8050-0553-1.

This bibliographical guide provides an exhaustive overview and spotlight on the life-long sinological work of one of Germany's and the world's greatest sinologists and scholars of the first half of the 20th century, Protestant missionary Richard Wilhelm. Just after this German missionary came to China for the first time in 1899, he began to discover and open up for the European audience some of the most significant works of the classic Chinese philosophical and cultural heritage, first by his articles, then by his translations and sinological commentaries and research. Thus he became known in the history of Western sinology as the *Marco Polo* of the inner world of China, and more than any other he was responsible for opening up to the West the vast spiritual heritage of China. For example, he introduced the most interesting classical Chinese Book, *I Ching*, as well as classical Chinese philosophy to the, for his time, a very important School of Wisdom in Germany, of which the most excellent student was Carl Jung.

In the inaugural biographical study (pages 13-59) of this book, the author Thomas Zimmer with an exemplary German thoroughness analyses and traces Wilhelm's lifelong sinological activities, dividing them into seven important creative stages: (I) October 1920-January 1922; (II) 1922-1924; (III) autumn 1924; (IV) 1925-1926; (V) 1927-1928; (IV) 1929-early 1930; (VII) the postmortem period of cultural importance and the role of Wilhelm's contributions on the discussions of Europe's cultural elite about China and about its cultural heritage; followed by an outstanding bibliography of all Wilhelm's sinological literary remains by the head editor Hartmut Walravens.

Within its exhaustive bibliography, Walravens' contribution offers in its first chapter: **a)** a list of all Wilhelm's works on China and on its cultural heritage, as well as the bibliography of all his significant translations from Chinese, published not only between the years 1899 and 1930 but also the postmortem editions until the year 2005 (including the works that by the time when this publication was finished, were only planned to be published), together with pictures of all the covers of the first editions of his translations and monographs (pp. 61-159); **b)** a thorough list of Wilhelm's 66 newspaper articles and lectures, from the first, published on January 20th, 1921

in *Schwäbischer Merkur* until the last, published May 25th, 1929 in *Germania* yearbook (pp. 160-163); **c**) a detailed bibliography of all works about this significant sinologist published in Germany between 1906 and 2005 (pp. 164-172); **d**) an alphabetical register of all quoted literature concerning Wilhelm, (pp. 189-194); **e**) an alphabetical list of all periodicals, including their volume numbers, in which these contributions were published (pp. 195-196); **f**) a name register of all authors of the published literature on Richard Wilhelm (pp. 197-198); and **g**) a list of appendices of his works, found in a broad spectrum of different archival resources (pp. 199-200).

The second chapter maps the very valuable collection of original Chinese works that Richard Wilhelm gathered during his life for his library, now archived in the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in Munich. It provides a detailed catalogue of their Chinese authors and their Chinese titles in Chinese symbols and their German transcriptions, including the number of volumes of particular works, year of publishing, and the names of their Chinese publishers (pp. 201-237). This catalogue is followed by the European alphabetical register of Chinese authors of these books in their German transcriptions, including the serial number of their registration in Wilhelm's Chinese library (pp. 238-241). Finally, there is an alphabetical register of detailed Chinese names of these books in their German transcriptions, again, including the serial number of each of these books, as they are registered in Wilhelm's Chinese library (pp. 242-254).

The third and final chapter of this book concerns the publication of two precious collections of letters from Wilhelm's inheritance. The first one contains 20 letters addressed to Wilhelm by his friend, another German Protestant missionary in China, Heinrich Hackmann (1864-1935). The collection dates from October 7th, 1910 to January 2nd, 1928. Heinrich Hackmann was not only a good friend of Wilhelm, but in May 1900, in his mission house in Shanghai, he married Wilhelm with the love of his life, Salome Blumhardt. Salome remained Wilhelm's partner for the rest of his life and was a great help not only in his missionary work but also in his sinological efforts. The second collection of letters concerns the correspondence of a significant Chinese Neo-Confucian philosopher from the turn of the 19th and 20th century, Ku Chungming (1857-1928) with this great German sinologist. Ku Chungming was an ambidextrously large-minded man who could "understand European and American culture very well and, with his acuminous spirit safely identified many of its sharp edges (for example, the cult of materialism pushing away spirituality; militarism etc.)"¹. It was for such thoughtful opinions that Ku Chungming earned the acceptance of several great public personalities, such as R. Thakur, M. Gandhi, L. N. Tolstoj or R. Rolland. When Ku Chungming returned to China, after more than 11 years of study in Europe and learning several European languages, he held a high official post with the imperial court in Beijing at the level of foreign secretary. After the collapse of the monarchy, he was a professor at Beijing University and it is from that period, shortly before the monarchy's fall until the beginning of the Great War in 1914 that his correspondence with Richard Wilhelm is dated. Unfortunately, only Ku Chungming's letters were preserved in Wilhelm's archive. They are published in this book for the first time.

¹ HIDVÉGHYOVÁ, E. Ku Chung-Ming and his Role in the History of Thinking, In *Filozofia*, 2000, vol. 55, no. 1, p. 47.

The vastness of Wilhelm's sinological heritage detailed in this book is marvelous and truly unique. It should serve as an example for all similar efforts to process the archived heritage of other great sinological figures.

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GUTSCHOW, Niels, Michaels, Axel. *Growing up. Hindu and Buddhist Initiation Rituals among Newar Children in Bhaktapur (Nepal)*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2008. 307 p. ISBN 978-3-447-05752-3. With a film on DVD by Christian Bau.

The present book is the sixth volume in the series *Ethno-Indology, Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals* which started to be issued in 2005. At the same time it is the second part of a trilogy of studies of life-cycle rituals among the ethnic community of Newars of Bhaktapur in Nepal by Niels Gutschow and Axel Michaels, the first part of the trilogy being the volume *Handling Death* (published in 2005) and the last part (not yet published) focusing on marriage rituals.

The book is divided into four main sections preceded by the Foreword and the Introduction and followed by Appendices (including mantras used in the handbooks and the survey of Newar rituals of passage with their Newari (Sanskrit) names and the times suitable for their performing) as well as References (including a glossary of relevant Newari terms).

The field research by N. Gutschow and A. Michaels described in this book is restricted to a relatively small location and concentrates mainly on the study of life-cycle rituals performed in a few sample families; therefore, the authors have been able to present a very detailed analysis of historical development of the location, a strict definition of territory as well as social topography. They offer a detailed picture of Newars as “a cluster of sub-castes that gains its specific identity mainly by its locality and the Newari language” (p. 22). A hierarchy of castes and sub-castes of Bhaktapur is shown in the table on page 23. Due space is devoted to the hierarchy of ritual specialists, that is, priests, assistant priests, and helpers: potters, painters, relatives and lineage members and their role in the major life-cycle rituals. The authors repeatedly (in slight variations) point out to the fact that the life-cycle rituals are to be seen “not as a singular event in the life of an individual but as a process that connects the various steps in the life of a certain man or woman as well as the members of various social groups in order to maintain or create the identity or purity of a social group” (p. 31). These as well as some other questions are discussed in the first section of the book named “Bhaktapur – The City and its Ritual Specialists”.

The second and the largest part of the book, named “The Rituals”, is devoted to very detailed and comprehensive descriptions of specific aspects of some life-cycle rituals. They include pregnancy and birth rituals, the first feeding of solid food *Macā jākva* or *Annaprāśana*, the birthday ritual, the first shaving of a boy's head; *Busā khāyegu* (*cūḍākaraṇa*), the boy's Hindu and Buddhist initiation with the loincloth; *Kaytāpūjā* or *Mekhalābandhana*, the boy's Buddhist monastic initiation; *Bāre chuyegu* (*pravrajyā*),