

Although a lot of studies have been written about Lu Xun, the author presents us with a new approach to Lu Xun's work and offers a fresh and interesting perspective on the topic of Lu Xun's writings. On the example of the queue, she presents the different attitudes of people towards the topic. In doing so, one can imagine the whole atmosphere of Chinese society, maybe even its spirit, in looking at one small difference of one person and the attitudes toward this. Motifs of violence and memory were often used in Lu Xun's writings. It can be said that violence is a typical feature of modern Chinese literature, which reflects a violent period in the country. Memory is something which is typical for Chinese culture; this we can see in China's long history of recollecting the past, at least from the period of Confucius. Pointing out the very typical features of Chinese society, the author shows us her deep understanding of Lu Xun's life and much more. Besides this, I feel it is useful that author addressed her study also to readers outside of Sinologist circles. She explained this in the first chapter, where she has repeated all the well-known facts about Lu Xun; this is also obvious in the limited use of Chinese characters: she used as few as is possible in this study. I believe this study will increase the number of potential readers, and in my opinion it is really worth reading.

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BUKOVÁ, Martina, KRUPA, Viktor, ELSCHKEK, Oskár. *Austrália a Oceánia. Tradícia – kultúra – hudba. Tradičná kultúra kontinentov*. [Australia and Oceania. Tradition – Culture – Music. The Traditional Culture of Continents.] Bratislava: ASCO Art & Science, 2010. 294 p. ISBN 978-80-88820-46-8.

In 2010 the ASCO Art & Science publishing house released a monograph written by Martina Bucková, Viktor Krupa and Oskár Elschek focusing on the traditional cultures of the peoples of the continents of Australia and Oceania as a part of its "Traditional Culture of Continents" series. This is one of few publications from this part of the world informing readers about unique Austronesian cultures.

Viktor Krupa, a linguist and specialist on Austronesia, is the author of a number of works discussing selected issues from the region of Oceania including *Polynézia/Polynesians* (Bratislava 1988), *Legendy a mýty Polynésie – Polynéska kosmogonie/Legends and Myths of Polynesia – Polynesian cosmogony* (Bratislava 1997) and others; these books were written for scholars as well as the general public. Martina Bucková comes from the younger generation of scholars in Austronesian studies and focuses on the traditional cultures, religious concepts and mythology of Oceania and Australia; her works in this field to date include the books *Nábožensko-mytologická diferenciácia Polynézie – Variácie spoločného dedičstva* [The Religious and Mythological Differentiation of Polynesia – variations of a common heritage] (Trnava, 2007); *Māui: Polynesian Culture Hero – Variations of Themes in Māui's Mythological Cycle in East and West Polynesia* (Bratislava, 2012) and other works. The third author of the book under review is Oskár Elschek, a foremost Slovak ethnomusicologist and the author of many scholarly publications on ethnic music.

It is worth noting that the traditional cultures and religions of Australia have not been dealt with in an in-depth manner to date in a Slovak publication and that the book under review represents the first Slovak attempt to map the history and culture of Australia in book form. Publications to date dealing with Australia's indigenous peoples have without exception been published in translation.

The authors have divided the present book into three parts: the first of these deals with Australia and is authored by Bucková. The second part focuses on Oceania and is further divided into chapters on Polynesia (written by Bucková), Micronesia (written by Krupa) and Melanesia (also written by Krupa). The last part of the book is entitled "Piesne, hudba, hudobné nástroje a tance Austrálie a Océánie" ("Songs, Music, Instruments and Dances of Australia and Oceania") and was written by Elschek.

The book part on Australia has the character of an ethnological work as do the other parts. In her introduction, Bucková informs the reader about the history of Australia, and gradually presents information on the discovery of Australia by Europeans in the 17th and 18th centuries and the emergence of the first colonies. After this historical introduction there is a description of indigenous society, the expansion of tribes over the continent, and the sophisticated way of dividing up society upon the basis of separate tribes, kinsfolk, and "marital classes", which excluded the possibility of marriage between blood relatives. This is followed by detailed sections on material culture describing traditional dwellings and methods of their construction, weapons, vessels, clothing and ornamentation. One section deals with Australian art, which is considered to be one of the oldest forms of art in the world. The oldest drawings date back 40 thousand years and are typically stylised images of figures symbolising mythological scenes painted on rock walls. The subsequent section deals with family rituals such as childbirth, rites of passage (which were highly important and sacred), marriage and rituals concerning death and funerals. A particular section is dedicated to the religious imagination of indigenous Australians and their typical forms of totemism. The author also focuses on mythology and magic, which in indigenous society played an exceptionally important role. The author concludes the section dealing with Australia with a section on the extremely negative effects of colonisation. The brutal treatment of the indigenous people by the colonisers and settlers resulted in the genocide of the indigenous inhabitants. Even though this dark period in Australian history has finished, its results are indeed grim. According to the 2006 census, only 2.5 % of Australia's inhabitants were of indigenous descent (including those of mixed ethnicity).

The second part of the book focuses on Oceania and is divided into three geographical areas: Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. Bucková is the author of the chapter on Polynesia and structures this chapter in a similar way to the preceding part of the book; she systematically discusses the region's history from the discovery and settlement of Polynesia and focuses on the Polynesians' material culture, social organisation and traditional religious beliefs. Dr. Bucková concludes the chapter on Polynesia with a discussion of the characteristics of Polynesian ethnicities.

Prof. Krupa is the author of the following two chapters dealing with Micronesia and Melanesia. The composition of the chapters written by Krupa is similar to those written by Bucková. In the chapter on Melanesia, Krupa primarily focuses on the specific

cultural aspects of different archipelagos, and thus the chapter contains sections on Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Irian Jaya and other places. Both chapters conclude with a description of the characteristic features of the ethnicities living in Micronesia and Melanesia.

The book finishes with a section dedicated to expressions of traditional music from the region in which prof. Elschek discusses the different parts of the region and the differentiation in music, chants and musical instruments in detail. While this information on the traditional music of individual areas could have been put directly into those parts of the book dealing with the respective cultures, the creation of a separate book part dealing with music was seen as the most effective solution given that that the book has three authors.

The publication under review has 300 pages and is richly illustrated with maps, pen and ink drawings and etchings which supplement the text. Given the specialised nature of the book, the reliability of the information and the accessible way the information is presented, the book is suitable for the academic community as well as students of ethnology and other disciplines who are interested in these non-European cultures, which remain relatively unknown to Slovaks.

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