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## INDONESIA

TARO GOH. *Sumba Bibliography*. With a Foreword by James J. Fox. An Occasional Paper of the Department of Anthropology, The Australian National University. Canberra: Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, 1991. xii+96 pages. Map, plate. Paper, US\$15.00 (surface mail), US\$20.00 (air mail); ISBN 0-7315-1217-0.

On 7 October 1988 I received a letter in Japan from Goh Taro, posted from the island of Sumba in southeastern Indonesia. Dated 29 September, the letter was apparently sent from his sickbed; on 14 October, just two weeks later, the 30-year-old Goh died at the Christian Hospital of Lindimara in Waingapu, where he had been moved from the site of his research. A collection of writings in his memory by twenty-two colleagues, starting with the eulogy delivered at his memorial service by James J. Fox, was published on 25 August 1989. As Fox mentions in his foreword, Goh counted among his friends and acquaintances some of the foremost modern scholars on eastern Indonesia, such as Janet Hoskins and Joel Knipers. Much was expected of Goh's own fieldwork, given his diligence, his keen powers of observation, and his superb command of languages.

Goh originally intended to investigate the domain of Karera on the southeast coast of Sumba, but later shifted his attention to the Kapunduk region. Underlying

this shift was the influence of the American anthropologist Marie Jeanne Adams, who was engaged in research in the Kapunduk region during the 1960's. Moved by Adams' humility, her earnest request that he study Kapunduk, and her promises to turn over to him the data she had accumulated, Goh decided to do what he could to further her work.

The present *Sumba Bibliography*, published in honor of him by his friends, mentors, and colleagues, should be a great boon to researchers in the field of Indonesian studies. It presents all of the materials assembled by Goh until the time of his death in 1988 (including 50 anonymously published pieces), plus a supplement listing works published subsequent to that time. Also included are 20 publications and 36 undated pieces by Oembu Hina Kapita, a student of the late Professor Onvlee from the Mangili region of Sumba.

The people of the region where Goh was doing his research referred to him as "Umbu Jangga Mangu." This, in the local language, means "one of noble character." The *Sumba Bibliography* represents, in the words of James Fox, "a small way by which we can express the recognition of our loss."

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#### CENTRAL ASIA

SAGASTER, KLAUS and HELMUT EIMER, editors. *Religion and Lay Symbolism in the Altaic World and Other Papers*. Proceedings of the 27th Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference, Walberberg, Germany, June 12-17, 1984. Asiatische Forschungen Band 105. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1989. xvii+450 pages. Cloth DM 198.—; ISBN 3-447-02775-4; ISSN 0571-320X.

The thirty-nine essays contained in this volume, arranged alphabetically by author, represent part of the contributions made on the occasion of the 27th PIAC. Although about fifteen of the essays deal with purely linguistic questions, others are related to the main theme of the conference, "Religious and Lay Symbolism in the Altaic World," and range in content from mythic motifs and symbols through folklore and folk customs to shamanism.

The important part played by the bow and arrow in the history of the Central Asian nomadic warriors is well known. The most important of the fingers for handling these weapons was of course the thumb. It is significant, in this connection, that the symbolic meaning accorded to the thumb has been brought to light by the master of Mongolian studies, Walther Heissig. Equally interesting is Sławoj Szykiewicz's study on the symbolism pertaining to the kinship system of the western Mongols, more particularly, the tibial bone of the sheep. Szykiewicz attempts to clarify the tibial bone in Mongolian culture as a symbol of patrilineal descent. Tang Chi concentrates on the T'u-chüeh based on Chinese documents, throwing light on the symbolism of color, number, material objects such as the bow and arrow, and finally the wolf. Concerning the color symbolism, Gabriella Schubert unfolds a brilliant discussion with reference to the Turks and Southern Slavs in the Balkan.

Among the most fascinating essays directly related to epics and folktales is Giam-piero Bellingeri's "Le voyage 'païen' d'Artuñi à la recherche d'Efromiya," which con-