

## BOOK REVIEWS

### GENERAL

CAILLOIS, ROGER. *The Mystery Novel*. Transl. Roberto Yahni and A. W. Sadler. Bronxville, N. Y.: The Laughing Buddha Press, 1984. 49 pages.

In this little booklet the Laughing Buddha Press respectfully presents Roger Caillois' introduction to the mystery novel. Throughout the booklet interesting observations sparkle and enkindle interest in this critically neglected genre. The essay is in three parts. The first describes the evolution of detective fiction in contrast to the novel. Detective fiction follows a set of self-imposed rules, starts with an effect and works back to the cause, and appeals to the intellect. The second and third parts show how the mystery novel becomes a game and how, even though it tends to exclude passion, it depends upon drama to maintain reader involvement. In the end it is not so far removed from the novel after all.

After this pleasant aperitif, one is ready for the more meaty *Detective Fiction* edited by Robin W. Winks. Both books remind us that mystery novels are also indicators of a particular culture, providing glimpses into the on-going mystery of the human being.

### REFERENCE CITED:

ROBIN, W. Winks, ed.

1980 *Detective fiction*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

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### JAPAN

BOCK, FELICIA G., translated and annotated. *Classical Learning and Taoist Practices in Early Japan. With Translation of Books XVI and XX of the Engi-Shiki*. Occasional Paper No. 17. Tempe: Center for Asian Studies, Arizona State University, 1985. 102 pages. Paper US\$8.00. ISBN 0-939252-13-9.

The *Engi-shiki* is a compendium of Japanese governmental procedures compiled during the Engi era (901-922). So little material is available in Western languages for the study of early Japan that all reliable translations from the *Engi-shiki* are welcome, and Dr. Bock is a scholar with considerable experience translating such material.

The present volume is organized around translations of two chapters of the *Engi-shiki*. Those chapters focus upon the government offices devoted to certain elements of Chinese civilization which the early Japanese government had found reason to appropriate—"the Bureau of Higher Learning" (*daigaku-ryō* 大學寮) and "the Yin-