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Abstracts

edited by Dorothy L. Zinn

Tiziana Lorenzetti
The Condition of Women in Tibet

The Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1949-1950 destroyed the traditional context of Tibetan society and culture. Furthermore, as result of this illegal occupation, more than a million Tibetans have since died and many have been forced to seek political refuge in India. This paper first analyzes the condition of women in traditional Tibet, especially with regard to some peculiar socio-economic customs, and then compares this situation to the current one in contemporary Tibet under Chinese rule. The result is quite shocking: not only have Tibetan women been deprived of their freedom, but they have also lost a number of religious, political and social rights they had previously enjoyed for centuries in their country. Moreover, the Chinese authorities force sterilizations and abortions upon them in order to achieve demographic targets with political ends. In spite of all this, the Tibetan community in exile – and particularly the Tibetan Women’s Association – is committed to preserving the identity and traditional culture of the Tibetan people.

Domenica Borriello
Foundational Legends of Campania: Precious “Documents” of Oral and Visual Communication

With various lines of interpretation, this article presents foundational legends from the region of Campania, focusing particular attention on tales devoted to the Virgin Mary. The Author explores the documentary value of the sacred legends connected to festive rituals, their use as a source – if only as a complement to other areas of investigation – and their various modalities, highlighting closely connected aspects of oral and symbolic communication. She also underlines the importance of re-elaboration and adaptation that satisfy not only the criteria for forming the legends, but also as the different needs of their users and the local socio-cultural contexts, so that the same holy character can be attributed various roles and characteristics that are reinvented or shaped according to new events and necessities. Despite their elaborate thematic variety, Marian legends of the coastal area and the interior – to a greater extent than hagiographic ones – consistently bear an internal logic identified by the Author, who proposes a structured “reading”. The essay concludes by examining the ways in which the foundational legends are visually transposed according to typological categories proposed here: prints, holy pictures, majolica

tiles and other products translate moments of the legend's narration into images. The Author considers processes of permanence, change and hybridization in the iconographic stereotypes that visually represent one or more legends in time.

Sabina Cuneo

Festive "Tammorre": The Madonna delle Galline in Pagani

Nicola Scaldaferrì

Musical Devotions

Through a suggestive sequence of photographs, Sabina Cuneo offers an efficacious representation of the religious festivity of the Madonna delle Galline [Our Lady of the Hens] in Pagani. Nicola Scaldaferrì emphasizes the role of musical performance as worship in the Pagani devotion, and he situates its music and dance within a wider circuit of Marian feast-days in Southern Italy. The photographic images capture the modes of participation in this event. The various performers photographed by Sabina Cuneo – performers of *canti a ffigliola*, *tammorre*, *triccabbalacche*, *putipù* and *castagnette* – evoke this feast-day's distinctive soundscape, and they make the photographic sequence into a synesthesia through which it is possible to see the sounds that animate the streets of Pagani from Friday *albis* to Monday at dawn.

Annamaria Fantauzzi

The Ethnographic Notebooks of Ernesto de Martino: A Philological Reading With Reference to the 1952 Expedition

During the 1950s, Ernesto de Martino was the first ethnologist to organize and conduct ethnographic journeys in Lucania, applying survey and research methods which were clearly innovative compared to the academic tradition of that time. This novel approach bore particular consequences, both economically and in terms of the interlocutors (parties, press, associations) that sustained his initiative and the field research. The ethnologist personally coordinated the selection of experts to compose his interdisciplinary team, as well as the planning of the itinerary, timing and methodology of this research, and he was constantly supported in this endeavour by his partner Vittoria de Palma. The analysis of the ethnographic notebooks of both de Martino and de Palma (following the scientific reconstruction produced by C. Gallini and her collaborators), the consultation of published and unpublished documents contained in the Archivio Ernesto de Martino, and a comparison with de Martino's works on Southern Italy, all allow us to evaluate the process of writing that starting from the first field notes, through the collation and selection of the collected documents, led to the ethnographic monograph. This article thus examines the entire process of organization and execution of the ethnographic expedition, conducted from September to October 1952, while also considering the preliminary inspections and investigations that took place before that period. Through a philological-semiotic evaluation of the ethnographic notebooks, this article reflects on the relationship that de Martino established with his field site and with his informants, analyzing the critical notion of "ethnographic authority", which early on was called into question several times in his field notes and in the first reports published upon his return from the expedition.

Giuseppe Bonomo
Sicilian Folk Spells

This piece is the introduction to *Gli scongiuri del popolo siciliano* (1953) [*Sicilian Folk Spells*], one of the most famous and important works by Giuseppe Bonomo, a Sicilian folklorist who passed away at the end of 2006. The Author introduces us to the complex phenomenology of spells, exploring not only their texts, but also the various practices and gestures that accompany them and which must remain secret, at the risk of jeopardizing their efficacy. As “secrets” of the folk, these spells have a remote origin; according to the Author, they testify to the proximity of magic and religion, as proven by the terms *'razioni* [oration] or *prièra* [prayer], as they are indicated by Sicilians and others as well. Bonomo clarifies analogies and differences between prayer and spells, and he analyzes the complex form of the prayer-spell. In particular, he examines the narrative nucleus or *historiola*, highlighting its ethnographic value and aesthetic power through a method that utilizes fieldwork and historical and philological studies in order to «illustrate a significant aspect of the complex life of the Sicilian people».

Dorothy Louise Zinn
In Memory of Anthony (Tony) Galt

This obituary traces the academic career of Tony Galt, the noted Europeanist anthropologist who passed away unexpectedly in 2005. Tony conducted extensive fieldwork in Italy on the island of Pantelleria as well as in Apulia, and he was an active participant in the debate over Mediterraneanist anthropology. In the last several years of his life, he was widely known for his work as the founder and moderator of H-SAE net, the foremost electronic discussion group for Europeanist anthropologists.

Valerio Bernardi
Clifford Geertz (1926-2006)

This article is a tribute to the intellectual legacy of the renowned anthropologist Clifford Geertz, who passed away in 2006. It traces the highlights of Geertz's lengthy career and some of his most significant works. One of the leading figures in symbolic anthropology, Geertz influenced scholars in a host of other disciplines, and for this reason he is included among the major intellectual figures of the twentieth century.

Eugenio Imbriani
Pasolini and the Leaves (Speaking on Behalf of Others)

The Author reflects on the difficulty of *speaking on behalf of others*, drawing from his reading of the volume *Stendali. Canti e immagini della morte nella Grecia salentina* [*Stendali: Songs and Images of Death in Salentine Grecia*], published in 2005 by Mirko Grasso with Le Edizioni Kurumuny. *Stendali* is a short documentary on funeral lament by Cecilia Mangini, filmed in Martano. In the documentary, Pier Paolo Pasolini produces an Italian version of the lamentresses' songs in *grico*. The Author points out a mistake made by Pasolini in his adaptation of these texts, and with this he develops a reflection on the necessity of knowing context, linguistic practices and shared meanings in order to relate the thought and metaphors of others.