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ABSTRACTS

ANTI-ZIONIST JOURNALISTIC WORKS OF NAJĪB AL-KHŪRĪ NASSĀR IN THE NEWSPAPER *AL-KARMAL* IN 1914

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The aim of the present study is to explore the anti-Zionist journalistic activities of Najīb al-Khūrī Nassār in his paper *al-Karmal* in the period before the First World War. The focus of the paper is on the issues of *al-Karmal* published in 1914. All articles dealing with Zionism from this year were thoroughly analyzed. The editor of this newspaper, Najīb Nassār, was the most active and persistent anti-Zionist journalist and activist of this period. Most of his attention was devoted to Zionist land purchases and he drew attention to every change to the existing *status quo*. He regularly warned his fellow citizens that the goal of the Zionists was to take possession of Palestine and drive out the indigenous Arab population.

Key words: anti-Zionist, Arab Press, *al-Karmal*, *al-Karmil*, Najīb al-Khūrī Nassār, Palestine, Palestinian Press, Zionism, 1914

SYRIA AND THE 1975 – 76 CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON

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After 1970 the PLO, driven out of Jordan, made Lebanon its operational base. It did not want to enter the civil war, but it sided with any group that espoused Arab nationalism and wanted to liberate Palestine. It was a Maronite militia's attacks on the Palestinians that sparked the fighting in April 1975, committing the PLO to the Arab nationalist side. The Lebanese conflict was also a struggle between a privileged class of landowners and merchants trying to preserve the status quo and a large mass of poor people (mainly Muslim) striving for more equality. The two main Lebanese parties to the conflict were the Phalanges, a largely Maronite force, and the Lebanese National Movement which was mainly Muslim. The Muslim side won the support of the PLO. One puzzling aspect of this civil war was Syria's 1976 policy shift. President Ḥāfīz al-Asad first backed the rebels both morally and materially. He managed to get the Christians to accept a cease-fire, but the Muslim Lebanese, abetted by the PLO, rejected his proposed compromise. This rejection made Ḥāfīz al-Asad change sides and his forces battered the Muslims and the PLO into submission by the autumn of 1976.

Key words: the Lebanese civil war, Christian militias, the Lebanese National Movement, the shift in Syria's policy

OFFRIR DES DIVERTISSEMENTS AUX DIEUX LES SPECTACLES DES RITES DE FERTILITE DES SOLS DE MIYAZATO

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The present article aims to expose the modalities according to which are carried out the crop rites of Miyazato in the city of Nago situated in the northern part of Okinawan Main Island. After a global presentation of the village, the history and the progress of the ritual practices are described in order to provide a coherent figuration of the event. Finally, the article focuses on the organisation of the festivities, such as the salary of the dancers or the meetings determining the process of the festivities, and the transmission of

the performances. This research is based on several field studies during which oral and written documents were collected in order to present nowadays shape of one of the most traditional aspects of the Okinawan culture.

Key words: Okinawa, Yanbaru, Okinawan dances, crop rites festivals, Nago city, Miyazato

HORDE NOMADE OU EMPIRE DES STEPPES FACE A LA CHINE DES HAN? QUELQUES REMARQUES SUR L'ETUDE DU SYSTEME POLITIQUE DES XIONGNU SELON LES SOURCES ECRITES CHINOISES ET LES NOUVELLES DONNEES ARCHEOLOGIQUES

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Identified for a long time with European Huns, the Xiongnu confederation (3rd century BC – 3rd century AD) established in nowadays Mongolia, Southern Siberia and Northern China, has been seen as nomadic power relying upon external economic resources. However, this vision of the Xiongnu has been built on fragmentary and partial data, especially on the Chinese historical texts. Therefore, the present study based on recent archaeological data and on critical interpretation of the Chinese written sources aims to introduce new elements for the reconstruction of their political system supported by complex social structure and economy. Along with the results of new archaeological research related to the territorial organisation of the Xiongnu as well as to the significant domains of their material culture, a different interpretation of historical texts is presented, making possible to consider the impact of the Xiongnu political entity in the exchanges with China and Central Asia on a new basis.

Key words: Xiongnu, Eastern Huns, Mongolia, Han Dynasty, political system, archaeology, historical sources

THE ROLE OF EARLY “MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA” OR “WHITE FATHERS” IN THE STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

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In virtually all regions of sub-Saharan Africa outside the reach of Islam, Africans were introduced to written literature through Christian propaganda. Christian missionaries' pioneer work in African languages was scientifically very important. Most African languages had at first to be learned and reduced to writing before the difficult but vital task of religious instruction and the preparation, translation and publication of religious texts could be undertaken. Missionaries supplied unwritten African languages with a written form and provided the beginnings of a translated literature. The very first books in most African languages were produced to advance the Christian cause. The linguistic work of early missionaries in Africa is thus crucial for the correct evaluation of the nineteenth and early twentieth century Christian missionary enterprise.

Key words: Missionnaires d'Afrique, White Fathers, study of African languages