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ABSTRACTS

THE SEPARATIST PERIOD IN SYRIA, 1961 – 1963*

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On 28 September 1961 a group of Syrian army officers rebelled and announced Syria's secession from the United Arab Republic. A new government was hastily formed from conservative (reactionary) Syrian politicians. Jamāl ʿAbdānāʿeir initially contemplated intervening, but changed his mind when all resistance to the coup rapidly faded. It was a time for his many enemies both in the Middle East and elsewhere to triumph. Western governments were delighted, but equally the leaders of Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia did nothing to conceal their pleasure. However, pan-Arab emotion was a powerful factor in a further coup in Iraq on 8 February 1963. Syria's fragile government could not long resist the joint pressure from Cairo and Baghdad. Exactly one month after the Iraqi revolt, a military coup in Damascus swept aside all the men who had been in power since the break-up of

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the UAR.

Key words: the Syrian secession from the UAR; factional differences in the Ba^cth Party; military meddling in the politics; the Shtawra conference; the struggle between “progressive” and “reactionary” forces in Syria

A NEW INVESTIGATION OF THE SYMBOL OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GODDESS SESHAT*

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This paper focuses on the symbol of the ancient Egyptian goddess, Seshat, and its reinterpretation. The problem is discussed from the perspective of the cognitive abilities of ancient Egyptians to observe and understand some specific natural phenomena as early as the Predynastic Period. This study reveals a remarkable similarity in the design, symmetry and characteristics of the symbol of Seshat to the shadows cast by the vertical gnomon, which are oriented to the specific directions on the horizon. In addition, the geometric picture achieved as a result of observation and multiple measurements, based on the application of a specific solar method in order to find the cardinal points, is presented here in context of the shape of the symbol of Seshat. The geometric forms of both are almost identical. It is argued that in the two-dimensional representation of the sign of Seshat can in fact be seen the gnomon (stem), the directions radiating from the center (rosette) in which the shadows of gnomon can be oriented within a year at the latitude of Egypt, north of the Tropic of Cancer (hereinafter referred to as TC), and the curve (arc with two feathers or horns placed above the rosette) representing limits in which the shadows can move in connection with the apparent path of the sun in the sky during solstices or equinoxes.

Key words: Seshat, symbol, gnomon, shadows, cardinal points, orientation, rhombic method, geometry

EXPRESSING PAST ACTIONS AND STATES IN BENGALI*

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The aim of this paper is to show which tenses are used to describe past actions and states in Bengali. Our conclusions are based on the analysis of text by four Bengali authors and on descriptions introduced in some Bengali grammars.

Key words: past actions and states, tense, preterite, past imperfect, pluperfect, past habitual, perfect

THE STRUCTURE OF NON-FINITE RELATIVE CLAUSES IN ARABIC*

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The function played by the non-finite relative clauses (RCs) is not free from ambiguous interpretations oscillating between attributive modification and predication. The same holds true of the syntactic contexts where these disputed linguistic constructions operate: simple sentences with embedded attributive phrases or complex sentences with autonomous RCs? The following text aims to show that the difference between these two interpretations results from arbitrary criteria and the duality of finite and non-finite RCs is a matter of different relative-clause-forming strategies.

Key words: category of finiteness, finite/non-finite relative clauses, prenominal/postnominal, full/split or divided agreement, clausal/phrasal classification, accessibility to relativization, sentence ender

FROM THE ADRIATIC SEA TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN THE CROATS IN NEW ZEALAND

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The Croatian Community in New Zealand has a unique history. It is about 150 years old, its earliest arrivals were mainly young men from the Dalmatian coast of whom almost all worked as kauri gumdiggers before moving into farming, and then into viticulture, fisheries and orchard business. Before large-scale urbanisation in the 1930s they lived in the north of New Zealand where there was also considerable contact with the local Maori population. The arrival of ever more women from Dalmatia, urbanisation and with it the establishment of voluntary associations, an improved knowledge of English, the language of the host society and, above all, economic betterment led to ever greater integration. After World War II migrants from areas of former Yugoslavia other than Croatia started to arrive in bigger numbers. Nowadays Croat people can be found in all spheres of New Zealand society and life, including in the arts, literature and sports. But the history of the Croats in New Zealand is also characterised by its links with the 'Old Country' whose political and social events, the latest in the 1990s, have always had a profound influence on the New Zealand Croatian community.

Key words: Croatian chain migration to and from New Zealand, Croatia(n), Dalmatia(n), Yugoslavia, Austria-Hungary, kauri gumdigging, economic advancement, integration into Maori and Pakeha (white) host societies, women, urbanisation, voluntary associations, New Zealand Croatian culture, New Zealand Croatian dialects

MODERN CHINESE WRITERS' MANUSCRIPTS OR: WHEN DID AUTHORS START TO KEEP THEIR DRAFTS?

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This essay raises the question about the meaning of "keeping a draft manuscripts" in literary production, taking a famous calligraphy from Tang dynasty (8th cent.) as an early Chinese hand-writing that bears clear marks of intervention in a creative process. Taking four modern manuscripts as samples, it explores the blurred limits between calligraphy and manuscripts, and proposes to merge the millennium-old scholarly tradition of 'collation' (*jiakao*) in with methodological tools.

Key words: Modern Chinese literature, (draft) manuscripts, calligraphy, textual criticism, critique génétique, Mao Dun, Ding Ling, Feng Zhi

XU DISHAN'S *CHUNTAO* (*SPRING PEACH*) AND LAO SHE'S *YE SHI SANJIAO* (*ALSO A TRIANGLE*) : "FRATERNAL POLYANDRY" IN THE CHINESE FASHION?

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The aim of this study are the two short stories written by Xu Dishan and Lao She that is Spring Peach and Also a Triangle. The author analyses and compares both stories and brings a new view on them. He mentions some possible impacts on them by Elisabeth Nitchie.

Key words: Xu Dishan, Lao She, short story, Peking of the 1930s, Elisabeth Nitchie, J.E. Spingarn, Xie Jian, Melwyn C. Goldstein

CALVINISM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AFRIKANER NATIONALIST IDEOLOGY

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Calvinism was a part of the mythic history of Afrikaners; however, it was only a specific interpretation of history that made it a part of the ideology of the Afrikaner nationalists. Calvinism came to South Africa with the first Dutch settlers. There is no historical evidence that indicates that the first settlers were deeply religious, but they were worshippers in the *Nederlands Hervormde Kerk* (Dutch Reformed Church), which was the only church permitted in the region until 1778. After almost 200 years, Afrikaner nationalism developed and connected itself with Calvinism. This happened due to the theoretical and ideological approach of S. J. du Toit and a man referred to as its 'creator', Paul Kruger. The ideology was highly influenced by historical developments in the Netherlands in the late 19th century and by the spread of neo-Calvinism and Christian nationalism there. It is no accident, then, that it was during the 19th century when the mythic history of South Africa itself developed and that Calvinism would play such a prominent role in it. It became the first religion of the Afrikaners, a distinguishing factor in the multicultural and multiethnic society that existed there at the time. It legitimised early thoughts of a segregationist policy and was misused for political intentions.

Key words: Afrikaner, Afrikaner nationalism, Calvinism, neo-Calvinism, Christian nationalism, segregation, apartheid, South Africa, Great Trek, mythic history, Nazi regime, racial theories

VARIATIONS OF MYTHS CONCERNING THE ORIGIN OF FIRE IN EASTERN POLYNESIA*

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I have analysed in this study the most completely recorded variants of the Maui myths concerning the origin of fire in eastern Polynesia. Those myths show the diversity of form assumed in each island. No two islands have an identical myth about the origin of fire. This diversity is most probably caused by narrative traditions and by individual interpretations made by each tribe. But the figure of Maui which appears in the great majority of noted myths of eastern Polynesia confirms their common origin.

Key words: Polynesian mythology, Maui, cultural hero, origin of fire