Book Reviews

Anthropological Essays

Annual Review of Anthropology. Vol. 1. BERNARD J. SIEGEL, ALAN R. BEALS, and STEPHEN A. TYLER, Eds. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, Calif., 1972. xii, 452 pp., illus. $10.

Instead of having, as formerly, biennial reviews devoted to the broad and traditional topics of anthropology (physical anthropology, social organization, psychological anthropology, and so on) the editors of the *Biennial Review of Anthropology* have gone to an annual format. As a member of an extinct breed (I wrote the last article on social organization in the auld style) I can state without prejudice that the annual is a great improvement. Instead of long blunderbuss essays that attempt to make prose sense out of laundry lists of literature, we have smaller-scale essays on the state of the art in those areas where something significant or interesting is going on.

The contributions on physical anthropology in this volume clearly reveal that the field, though maintaining its traditional interest in fossil man (in an article by Bernard Campbell), is now concerned with problems of epistemology and conceptualization. It is developing strong links to demography (Paul Baker and William T. Saunders) and to ecological studies of living populations (D. F. Roberts and J. C. Bear).

Archeology is represented by three essays, one on settlement patterns (Jeffrey Parsons), one on dating methods (Joseph Michels), and one on ecological relationships (Ezra Zubrow). Zubrow raises the interesting question whether there has been a genuine revolution in archeological thinking which has diffused to the corners of the profession, and he concludes with an examination of the literature. "If a new paradigm exists (which I personally believe), one may only conclude that it has not permeated the discipline sufficiently to have a major literary influence."

In social anthropology two themes dominate: strategic analysis and linguistic models of cultural behavior. In transcultural strategic theory the more ecologically minded look at the adaptive strategies of whole populations to their environment, while the more socially minded tend to a gaming tradition and see political coalitions and domestic groups as engaged in the adjudication of competing interests. Highly quantified results are not available generally yet, according to these reviews, but there is much promise in this regard. Two essays, one on environment, subsistence, and ecology (Karl Heider) and one on social strategies and social relationships (Norman E. and Dorothea S. Whitten), are presented. Cognitive anthropology is represented by four essays (or five if you count the wide-ranging review of structuralism by Pierre Maranda). First, an article on ethnoscience by Oswald Werner suggests that our design for "getting into the head of the informant" may never be realized, but that if it is we may well find that our notion that different cultures work on different logics is false and that formal logic as now developed will serve for native thought patterns. A thoughtful essay by Harold Scheffler deals with the problem of what we are studying when we are studying kinship semantics—an important question since social anthropologists spend a lot of time studying it. There are two more general essays, one by Mridula Durbin reviewing the applications of linguistic models (for example, emic-etic, componential, distinctive-feature, and transformational-generative models) to anthropology and another by Michael Silverstein encompassing the most recent history of those aspects of linguistic theory which are most relevant to anthropologists. Two other articles are included: one by Karl Teeter on the most recent data on the classification of North American Indian languages, and one by Robert Carmack, who discusses definitions, methods, aims, and recent developments in ethnohistory.

The volume is prefaced by an essay by Conrad Arensberg, who points out that the discovery that all anthropology (and sociology) is divided into three parts (the study of action rules, rules of thinking, and rules of adaptation in anthropology; consensus, conflict, and exchange theories in sociology) is not altogether recent. Arensberg harks back to his own early work with Chapple and their associates, and brings us up to date on some developments in the formal study of interaction sequences, which is now capable of incorporating ideas, transactions with the environment, and symbols and of providing an empirical base for the study of social systems.

Altogether this is a successful volume, and manages to convey in a clearer fashion than before the scope of thinking in American anthropology.

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Protozoan

Blepharisma. The Biology of a Light-Sensitive Protozoan. ARTHUR C. GIESE. With the collaboration of Shōichirō Suzuki, Robert A. Jenkins, Henry I. Hirshfield, Irwin R. Isquith, and Ann M. DiLorenzo. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1973. xiv, 366 pp., illus. $17.50.

Comparable in many respects to Vance Tartar's earlier treatise on *Stentor,* Giese's new work on *Blepharisma* successfully presents, in nonpedantic fashion, a comprehensive survey of both the literature and current thought regarding this light-sensitive ciliated protozoan. *Blepharisma* has long been a favorite organism for laboratory experimentation because of its large size, slow movement, and widespread distribution. Currently its remarkable regenerative powers are undergoing extensive scrutiny. Also of considerable interest to researchers is the presence of a distinctive light-sensitive pigment, which has proven to be of no recognizable value even though it may be lethal to organisms subjected to high-intensity light.

Reflecting the fact that a significant amount of the work reviewed in this volume was originally performed by Giese and his research team are some excellent guidelines to experimental methodology. This, in itself, will greatly enhance the value of this book for both students and serious investigators.