

## 1. Trans-Pacific Contacts

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*Received 11 December 1961*

This section of *Asian Perspectives* on the somewhat obscure topic of trans-Pacific contacts is the only place known to me where the literature on the question is drawn together. To insure a more complete listing whereby the section will become a more useful tool for the many scholars in Asia and America who are interested in the subject, the editor will be grateful if readers bring to his attention new publications relevant to these contacts, particularly materials appearing in journals that an American would not normally see or use.

The first two articles in the following list are of special importance, perhaps, for they introduce a new region and a new set of materials. Of Ecuadorian archæology something has been known for a long time, but it is only recently through the work of the persons mentioned further down that a satisfactory sequence of cultures has been established and hints of possible transoceanic contacts have become apparent. We shall hear much more about this region in the future while regretting the untimely death of Emilio Estrada who has been a major force in developing archæological knowledge of his country.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

ESTRADA, EMILIO

- 1961 *Nuevos Elementos en la Cultura Valdivia. Sus Posibles Contactos Transpacíficos*, Subcomite Ecuatoriano de Antropología; Dependiente del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 14 pp., plates.

The author considers the Valdivia Culture of Ecuador as one of the earliest of the ceramic cultures of the New World, sharing many elements with early cultures in North and South America and in northeastern Asia. The second phase of this culture, Valdivia B, is carbon-14 dated to 2230 B.C., and its pottery shows several remarkable similarities in form and decoration to the early and middle Jōmon pottery of Japan. To account for these specific resemblances, the author suggests maritime contact with Asia.

ESTRADA, EMILIO and BETTY J. MEGGERS

- 1961 A complex of traits of probable Transpacific origin on the coast of Ecuador, *AA*, 63: 913-939.

The case for the Asiatic origin of another complex in the long sequence of cultures that has been discovered in Ecuador by these authors and Dr Clifford Evans is here discussed in some detail. Dating to approximately the last two centuries B.C., the complex includes pottery house models, clay neck-rests, seated figurines suggesting the adamantine position of Asiatic art, certain forms of pan-pipes, pottery net-weights, and 'golf-tee' ear-plugs. These all have Asiatic counterparts that in one way or another can be ascribed to the contemporary Han period of China. Other traits probably associated with the complex in Ecuador are the Coolie yoke and the sea-going balsa raft.

It is argued that the occurrence of these traits in Ecuador provides good presumptive evidence of sea-borne influence from Asia. The objects mentioned are well illustrated.

GARIBAY K., ANGEL M.

- 1959 Semejanza de algunas conceptos filosoficos de Las Culturas Indú y Nahuatl, *Cuadernos Americanos, Año 18, No. 2*, 103: 119-144. Mexico.

This outstanding scholar of Mesoamerican history and of the Nahuatl language (that of the Aztecs) outlines the concepts of space and time that were fundamental to the cosmological system in that area.

Space was divided into four cardinal directions and the centre, to each of which was assigned different colours, dieties, animals, and auguries. Time was divided into five great periods, each with its own deities and special characteristics. Translations and analysis of passages in the Upanishads indicate that very similar concepts of a five-fold division of the cosmos and of four cosmic periods were current in ancient India. Any conclusions as to whether these similarities are due to coincidence or to historical connections are disavowed by the author.

HENTZE, CARL

- 1960 Die Tierverkleidung in Erneuerungs- und Initiationsmysterien (Ältestes China, Zirkumpazifische Kultur und Gross-Asien), *Symbolon, Jahrbuch für Symbolforschung*, Band 1: 38-86. Basel.

Early historical relationships are seen in the wide distribution of the motif of a man being ejected from or protected by a feline or other animal. Hentze suggests that the motif originated in China and spread eastward to Melanesia and the New World retaining intact its basic symbolism of creativity and protection. Many illustrations are included in the work.

KUBLER, GEORGE

- 1961 Rival approaches to American antiquity, in *Three Regions of Primitive Art*: 62-75. Lecture Series No. 2, The Museum of Primitive Art, New York.

The 'rival approaches' are those of the scientific archæologist and of the art historian, with quite different points of view toward the objects left by ancient peoples. In discussing this subject Dr Kubler speaks of the problem of attempting to document trans-Pacific relationships with comparisons of works of art, and finds fault with much that has been done.

SCHUSTER, CARL

- 1961 Observations on the painted designs of patagonian skin robes, in *Essays in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology* by Samuel K. Lothrop and others: 421-447. Harvard University Press.

Schuster postulates that certain complex designs in skin robes are symbolic genealogical patterns and can be traced from Palæolithic beginnings to remote parts of the world. Though not exactly in the category of trans-Pacific contacts, it is of great interest as an example of long range and early diffusion of cultural forms.

WINNING, HASSO VON

- 1960 Further examples of figurines on wheels from Mexico, *Ethnos*, 1-2: 63-72. Stockholm.

This description of several newly-discovered examples of small ceramic figures that originally had axles and wheels adds to our documentation on this unexpected trait in pre-Columbian Mexico. The author does not mention the possibility that we have here a trait which might have been diffused from Asia, a point which must certainly be considered in any attempt to explore the significance of their occurrence. Miniature animals with wheels have a long history in Asia. Furthermore, functional wheeled vehicles from which these miniatures could have been derived were totally absent in the New World.