

BOOK REVIEWS / COMPTES RENDUS

Breaking New Ground: Agricultural Anthropology

Robert E. Rhoades

Lima, Peru: International Potato Center, 1984. 84 pp.

Reviewer: Alan R. Beals

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Most anthropological readers of this short monograph will applaud Mr. Rhoades's wish to give greater prominence to the field of agricultural anthropology, both within the discipline and among the disciplines dedicated to agricultural development. Together with Rhoades, R.L. Sawyer, who writes the Foreword, takes a rather cranky and hostile attitude toward the discipline of anthropology. In view of this, some readers may wonder how a group of scholars depicted as uninterested in helping the people they study, and hostile to applied anthropology, can play any role at all in any kind of development.

To be sure, many academically-trained anthropologists in the early part of this century were upper-class intellectuals who were more likely to be interested in garden magic than in time and motion studies of taro plantations. Nevertheless, an applied anthropology of agriculture can only be founded upon a developed science of anthropology. Thus, Rhoades's claim that he is "standing upon the shoulders of midgets" might well be regarded as counter-productive.

Fortunately, as Rhoades enters more deeply into his subject, his attitudes toward anthropology gradually improve. His fourth chapter is concerned with what anthropologists can contribute to agricultural development, and it is excellent. Rhoades concludes his monograph with the statement that "anthropology as a discipline has more than a century of experience in agriculture, and an intimate association with farmers in every corner of the globe" (p. 50).

In addition to his ambivalent discussions of anthropology and the anthropological establishment, Rhoades provides a number of examples of the work of agricultural anthropologists at the Potato Center. These examples are interesting and help to indicate a range of possibilities, but they do not represent a full expression of the possibilities for agricultural anthropology. It would be useful to find examples of the particular training in theory and method that is unique to anthropologists.

Navajo Coyote Tales: The Curly Tó Aheedlínii Version

Father Berard Haile, O.F.M.

Edited by Karl W. Luckert

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984. vi + 146 pp. \$17.95 (cloth), \$8.95 (paper)

Hopi Coyote Tales: Istutuwutsi

Ekkehart Malotki and Michael Loyatamay'ma

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984. viii + 343 pp. \$19.95 (cloth), \$12.95 (paper)