

styles of reconciling needs and resources, of having tastes and preferences and of engaging in personal change. "Ringing the Changes" (Chapter 4) allows the authors to present two expanded typologies, a 12-cell typology of surprises and a list of the microchanges available from one "way of life" to another. Part One is capped by a discussion of the pluralism generated by the coexistence and interdependence of these types. I found Part One pretty exciting; but then I like the typologies created when sociocultural variability is taken seriously.

Part Two, "The Masters," addresses the past use of functional explanation. Here are brief discussions of Montesquieu, Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Malinowski, Radcliffe-Brown, Parsons, Merton, Stinchcombe and Elster. Here also is where the argument is made that functional analysis, though indispensable, has not yet been done correctly. This is a rather boiler-plate review, but as such would be useful to someone teaching a social theory course.

Part Three, "Political Cultures" was less compelling. A case for the model is made in discussions of Banfield's *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*, Pye's *The Mandarin and the Cadre: China's Political Cultures*, and Almond and Verba's *The Civic Culture Revisited*. While these treatments might appeal to a political sociologist, I felt that the model lost its rigor in these applications.

Anatomy of the Amazon Gold Rush

David Cleary

Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1990. xxvi + 245 pp. \$17.95 (paper)

Reviewer: Bernard von Graeve
Trent University

Cleary's *Anatomy of the Amazon Gold Rush* is a timely, well-written book on a subject which has received little anthropological attention. The author had intended to do a study on rural-urban migration in Imperatriz, near one of Brazil's largest gold fields, but, once there, "the scale and the importance of the gold rush came as a revelation" (p. xvii). The book deals with the gold rush throughout the Brazilian Amazon, and the research combines archival work, structured interviews, conversations and participant observation undertaken between April 1984 and March 1986. It begins with a descriptive account of the massive scale of production and employment generated by the gold rush in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and it includes a brief description of the technology associated with prospecting or *garimpagem*. The simplicity of the technology, its portability and easy accessibility make it eminently suitable for the small operator and the realities of Amazonian conditions.

Following a short historical introduction to *garimpagem* in Maranhao, Cleary launches into an ethnographic description of the boom. The central chapters describe the phases and pattern of the rush, the social structure and economic and social relations within the gold fields. Much of his argument responds to official and popular misconceptions of this type of economic activity. The analysis of eastern Amazonian mining camps demonstrates that the stereotypes of lawlessness, exploitation and violence among the "desperate and goldcrazed multitudes" (p. 222)

have little foundation and that the system regulates itself effectively. Most prospectors, owners and workers come from the ranks of rural smallholders and can readily move in and out of mining. The system offers a significant avenue for upward mobility. Since machinery is inexpensive and readily available, workers can easily become owners of claims. *Garimpagem* has advantages for the state which can benefit from its productive capacity without infrastructural investment. For the region, it generates large-scale employment for underemployed smallholders as well as a demand for goods and services. However, in his enthusiasm for small-scale mining enterprise, Cleary understates its destructive effects on the environment and on isolated indigenous peoples like the Yanomamo.

The ethnography could have been strengthened by some biographical sketches of experienced miners, and I would have appreciated a sample questionnaire in the appendix. But these are minor points in an otherwise excellent book.