

## **Nº 23 EL FIN DE LOS ESCRIBAS**

### **HISTORY AND LANGUAGE: "THE CIVILIZATION OF ILLITERACY" BY MIHAI NADIN. A SUMMARY**

*Frederic Chordá*

Mihai Nadin's "The Civilization of Illiteracy" considers that Human Beings identify with language, which builds the necessary environment that sustains them. Human Being and language change in the course of time, as the species strengthens its hold on the world, always in search of a higher productivity and a more efficient domination, with the consequent emancipation, of nature, establishing mediations that amplify and facilitate human action.

### **NIGHTMARES OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE: CHILD ABUSE, FETISHISM, AND "THE NEW WORLD ORDER"**

*Jean Comaroff*

This text presents a particular approach to the most fundamental new development faced by specialists in Anthropology in these last decades: the enlargement as well as the difficult circumscription of their objects of analysis.

Having left behind the study and interpretation of mores, laws and behaviour patterns of so-called "exotic" societies, Anthropology has now to face the fact that its only actual objects of study pertain to its immediate environment, which are precisely the societies that have produced anthropological thought.

The paper presents an interpretation of two subjects as relevant and specific as child abuse and child rape in American society, and the role of witches in present-day modern African societies fully immersed in the "global village".

### **THE INTELLECTUAL GENEALOGY OF ANTI-SEMITISM. COMMENT ON Y. YOVEL**

*José Antonio G. Alcantud*

The author of this comment on the article by Y. Yovel proposes to extend their considerations on R. Wagner's and F. Nietzsche's intellectual anti-Semitism to all those men of acknowledged excellence in contemporary culture who felt attracted by a conspirative vision of history, always rooted in the action of Jews.

### **NAVIGATING LIFE REVIEW INTERVIEWS WITH SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA**

*Mark T. Klempner*

Conducting a life review interview with a person who has experienced severe trauma is a complex and precarious undertaking. Difficult emotions such as anxiety and grief as well as defense mechanisms such as numbing and rationalization may be triggered in both the interviewer and the interview subject. Such an interview is deeply collaborative for the interviewer becomes part of the interviewee's ongoing attempt to achieve closure in regards to the traumatic material. An empathic and skillful interviewer can facilitate this process while one lacking such sensitivity and knowledge may cause harm. Drawing on the fields of psychology and Holocaust studies, the author analyzes two interviews he conducted with Holocaust survivors as a way of introducing readers to the special challenges involved in such interviews and alerting them to the pitfalls and potential problems they may encounter.

### **MIND - ANTICIPATION AND CHAOS**

*Mihai Nadin*

This text is based on a lecture delivered in 1988 at the Ohio State University (Graduate Lecture Series). Mihai Nadin, at that time Eminent Scholar in Art and Design Technology, advanced a new cognitive foundation of human activity through his theory of the mind. Minds exist and identify themselves only in interaction with other minds. It is not that the brain does not control the mind, but vice versa. The anticipatory function of minds was another original idea he set forth, and which he continues to develop, ascertaining that anticipation is the new frontier of science. The book also refutes the mind/computer metaphor, as it refutes representation as the only form of knowledge acquisition and dissemination. Self-constitution is the alternative to representation, just as problem-generation is the alternative to problem-solving. This book was the first to set forth the idea of a computer with a variable configuration. In the application dedicated to education, Nadin advances a non-hierarchical, decentralized, and distributed learning and teaching model as a particular form of mind interaction.

#### ORAL HISTORY, TRAUMA AND TABOO

*Wendy Rickard*

As amongst other disciplines, there has been a recent trend for oral historians to raise issues about interviewing in the context of trauma and taboo. When working on two different British oral history projects, one on "HIV and Aids Testimonies" and the other on "The Oral History of Prostitution", traumatic interviewing scenarios and concerns about what might happen to material currently considered to be taboo are at the fore-front. Interviewees own ideas about these issues are rarely sought. This paper reports on interviewees' feelings and responses to talking about traumatic and taboo issues in their lives. They caution oral historians not to pass judgments on potential interviewees about their ability to cope with and interview, while acknowledging the difficulty and discomfort that the interviewer may have to deal with as a result. They also point the potential creative expression of trauma that oral history enables. They also caution the oral historian to be wary about the public expression of taboo issues.

#### STREET CHILDREN. LITERATURE AND HISTORY

*Antonio Torres Montenegro*

This paper studies the situation of poor children abandoned on the doorsteps of houses in Brazil in the 17th and 18th centuries. It also analyses, on the basis of contemporary documents, how these children were kept in orphanages. The same phenomenon is studied in two other historical moments: the period between the 1920's and the 1930's, and the period from the end of the 1970's through the 1980's, at the height of the 20th century. The author analyses how the state creates various mechanisms to control these children's lives applying law criteria or psychological criteria. However, in spite of the historical evolution of knowledge in these fields, children are still submitted to extremely violent forms of control and discipline. The approach combines literature and history throughout the text, showing the contrast between the representations of these children in the writings of Charles Dickens, Machado de Assis and Jorge Amado, and the stories of their lives told by themselves in their own words.

#### NIETZSCHE CONTRA WAGNER ON THE JEWS

*Yirmiyahu Yovel*

The author propose a detailed reconsideration of the anti-Semitism attributed to Richard Wagner and Friedrich Nietzsche. Wagner, they say, had the merit of keeping his anti-Semitic views apart from his music, so that it would not degenerate into a pamphlet. Reacting against Cosima Wagner's circle, breeding ground for the most irrational and conspirative views on the Jews, Nietzsche, initially an anti-Semite, evolved in his thought towards an empathic appreciation of the wandering image of the Hebrews, from an intellectual perspective. The author recover the mature Nietzsche, freed from his

anti-Semitism, in contrast with the social products of Wagnerism still surrounding the cult of music in Bayreuth.