

vols. at his disposal, and according to Lokesh Chandra there must exist two more volumes, which probably contain the maṇḍala rituals whose representations are known and given in the *Ngor collection*.

The introductions which give information about the text itself and the descriptive data also contain a short biography of the compilers of the Sādhana collections.

The descriptive data have been slightly modified and reduced to 19 in contrast to the prior editions where 23 are enumerated. This reduction is due to the text on which all descriptive data are based. For some parts, however, no special comment is given. The items "head" and "face" have been put together, likewise those of "headgear", "clothes" and "ornaments". This reduction is thus no lack of information, but serves to simplify and save space for printing.

The user will be very grateful for the glossaries, one part of which gives the names of the deities and their attendants in Tibetan with their Sanskrit equivalents, as well as the groups of all descriptive data in alphabetical order together with their equivalents in Tibetan. The second part contains both a German-Tibetan and a Tibetan-German index of the iconographical data. These glossaries enable the user to identify a deity unknown to him by means of single parts, by gesture or attribute.

Dieter Back

RODERICH PTAK, DIETMAR ROTHERMUND (eds.), *Emporia, Commodities and Entrepreneurs in Asian Maritime Trade, c. 1400-1750*. (Beiträge zur Südasiensforschung, Bd. 141). Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1991. 509 pages, DM 102.- (ISBN 3-515-05962-8)

The present volume contains 23 papers presented during a symposium held in Heidelberg in 1989 as well as brief summaries of the discussions. The meeting brought together well-known specialists and younger researchers in the field of the history of inner-Asian trade and the activities of European trading companies.

The volume is divided into three parts. The first entitled "Emporia and the Regions of Trade", starts with two contributions by Dietmar Rothermund and Niels Steensgard discussing the characteristics of an "emporium" and the - for the most part negative - impact the creation of European bridgeheads had on the network of Asian emporia. A kind of symbiosis with the Europeans was, however, achieved by the Chinese

diaspora in Southeast Asia, which was, as Pin-tsun Chang stresses, founded only at the beginning of the 15th century in the wake of progress in shipping technology and the expansion of a system of tributary and investiture missions. The rapid expansion of Chinese trade in the 1680s and the defensive response it met in Batavia, Manila and Nagasaki, is discussed by John E. Wills Jr., whereas S. Arasaratnam shows how the merchants of Coromandel lost their independence in the same epoch (ca. 1650-1700) due to the expansion of Dutch influence and to political changes in India as well as in Southeast Asia. How, on the other hand, a small European bridgehead could manage to survive and preserve its independence even when cut off from its mother country, is demonstrated by Ole Feldbæk in the case of Danish Tranquebar in the years 1639-1668.

Part II, "The Flow of Specific Commodities", deals with Bengali textiles in Ming trade during Cheng Ho's voyages (Haraprasad Ray), the commodities - mostly medicinal materials - imported into the Changchou region of Fukien during the late Ming period (Stephen Tseng-Hsin Chang), the opium imported from the Red Sea area and Rajasthan to other regions of Southern Asia (Geneviève Bouchon), and the restricted and therefore more profitable commerce of the Dutch in (higher valued) spices after they had won a monopoly in a complicated process not lacking in brutality (Om Prakash). Cheap and plentiful goods, such as zinc and sugar were the principal ballast goods used by Chinese entrepreneurs, but they could also be profitable as George B. Souza highlights. Gerrit Knaap and Luc Nagtegaal shed some light on another "forgotten trade", namely the commerce in salt within and from Indonesia. They convincingly explain the *longue durée* of an almost universal long-distance trade in this commodity as well as the structural changes in the particular case where the Javanese traders were gradually replaced by Chinese merchants between 1670 and 1813. Formosa's trade in venison and deer skins - including the extraordinary culinary predilections of the indigenous population - is described by Thomas O. Höllmann, whereas Leonard Blussé deals with a commodity which was both a luxurious drug (capable of curing almost any ailment) and a delicacy highly valued by the Chinese: edible birds' nests. In all three cases, the Dutch seem to have paved the way for Chinese expansion of trade or tax-farming, for skins as well as salt cakes came to be used as currency and the birds' nests as tribute items. All three contributions as well as one by Roderich Ptak on the Chinese trade in tortoise-shell also prove the dependency of trade in a particular commodity upon political and cultural

changes. The same can be seen in the replacement of the cowry currency by Chinese paper money in Yünnan, which is interpreted by Hans Ulrich Vogel as a result of repeated colonist endeavours by the Chinese government.

In the third part, "Entrepreneurs: Asians and Europeans", Ashin Das Gupta takes a critical look at the discussion of J.C. Van Leur's thesis of the "Unchanging Orient" and observes that Indian merchants were superseded by Europeans in the high-sea trade, though they succeeded in preserving their position in coastal commerce. The important questions of the trading activities of high royal officials and the relations between merchants and rulers is touched on by K.S. Mathew, who treats the substantial contribution of the Persian Shams-ud-din to the establishment of the Portuguese Estado da India. Sanjay Subrahmanyam deals with the Augsburg Ferdinand Cron and especially with his close connections with viceroy Count Vidigueira, while Anthony Disney analyses the extremely successful, though also somewhat dubious (and mostly indirect) commercial activities of viceroy Count Linhares (1629-1635). That the meteoric career of Constant Phaulkon was not a consequence of the alleged wish of Thai king Narai to oust the Dutch, is made plausible by Jurrien van Goor, though his reliance purely on Dutch sources may have induced him to overestimate the influence the French had in court circles. The unusual circumstances of the return of the overseas merchant Ch'en I-lao, who was severely punished in 1750, causes Ng Chin-keong to see the allegedly largely hostile attitude of the Ch'ing government towards maritime trade after 1717 in relative terms, though he should have differentiated a little more between the views of the court and those of the bureaucracy of the coastal regions.

The volume offers a great variety of interesting articles, the topics of which - especially in the second part - seem just a little too heterogeneous for the chronological and regional circumstances they deal with.

Walter Demel