

institutional arrangements of wage payments (in this village 1/18 to 1/25 of the harvested rice). Wages for agricultural workers are paid according to moral standards. The daily wage should be approximately equivalent to one kilo of white rice. This is indeed an interesting observation as it backs up the now well-known calculation of poverty lines based on rice equivalence proposed by the Indonesian sociologist Sajogyo.

The final seventh chapter draws together the various findings scattered throughout the book. Schweizer lists five major results:

1. Rice agriculture is highly monetarized. Most wages and the major part of the harvest are paid in money.
2. Rice agriculture is highly commercialized. Wages are based on current rice prices and agricultural inputs are bought on the market.
3. Javanese traditional values of cooperation and harmony do not hinder the commercialization of rice agriculture but soften the social impact of a market economy.
4. Income from rice agriculture varies considerably. Most households are engaged in rice agriculture only as a subsidiary activity or at least engaged in off-farm employment.
5. Monetarization, commercialization, and off-farm employment are not a matter of recent developments due to the green revolution as alleged in many previous studies, but are the result of a process of social and economic change that goes back to colonial times. The green revolution has only strengthened this development.

Schweizer's book is an interesting combination of meticulous ethnography and social survey research. This book is perhaps the most comprehensive contribution to the study of rice agriculture and Javanese rural society to date.

*Hans-Dieter Evers*

BURKHARD VIEWEG, *Big Fellow Man. Muschelgeld und Südseegeister. Authentische Berichte aus Deutsch-Neuguinea 1906-1909*. Weikersheim: Verlag Josef Margraf, 1990. 370 pages, 85 ill., 7 maps, DM 45.-

Sharing the Pacific Ocean with Asia but on the fringe of the Asian and Indonesian world lies the relatively new state of Papua-Newguinea. Burkhard Vieweg's book reminds of two facts about this country. First, that in long gone times of colonialism and imperialism it was a colony of a defunct German

Empire, and, secondly, that its peoples had a distinct identity before the white colonists arrived on their shores.

These are the two main themes of the author who uses the unpublished papers of Karl Vieweg (1883-1945), his father, as basic material for a narrative-type of book. His father's life and experiences as a coco-nut plantation assistant and buyer gave him unparalleled, detailed and intimate insight into the life of various ethnic groups in different parts of the then colony 80 years ago. Having not yet developed a state-like organization of society, life was then organized on the village level, but dominated by men's societies as they are known in the country's namesake in West Africa and strongly interwoven with religious beliefs and elements.

The breadth and depth of socio-cultural and socio-economic detail observed and recorded in this book are truly remarkable. One is inclined to say that colonialism may claim mitigating circumstances in so far as it has left books like this which provide records for a period during which the colonized were not yet able to write their own. For, as the author - himself with a life-long career as a development expert in Africa and India - has personally checked and compared on a long study trip to Papua-Newguinea in 1986, change has taken its toll in the 80 years since the times, the spirit and the customs described in this book.

Therefore, the peoples of the new state and their scholars will welcome this book as a most valuable addition to the historical and ethnological literature of Papua-Newguinea. The modern reader, be he development expert, businessman or tourist, will find in this book a humorously and well written introduction to the background of a developing country in search of a modern national identity, a country in a not untroubled neighbourhood with Indonesia with which it shares the major island, on the Indonesian part of which a movement clamours for an independent Irian Jaya.

*Gerold Schmidt*

VOLKER SCHULT, *Mindoro - Sozialgeschichte einer philippinischen Insel im 20. Jahrhundert. Studie eines verzögerten Entwicklungsprozesses.* (Europäische Hochschulschriften, Reihe III, 488). Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1990. 288 pages, DM 84.-

Volker Schult's study of the social history of Mindoro makes a welcome contribution to historical studies on the Philippines, something of a rarity in Germany. It developed from a thesis written at the department of Southeast