

ABSTRACTS

Andrés Medina. *The cargo systems in the valley of Mexico: A first approach to its historical background.*

This article introduces an interesting approach regarding the historical environment of the discussion of the cargo systems in Mexico. The latter is exposed as a framework in order to establish, from a historical perspective, some specific elements of cargo systems, the cosmovision and the sacred geography of the Mexican valley, which suggests to be undertaken not only regarding the economical, ecological and political, but also, what is related to religious beliefs and ritual practices.

Vania Salles. *Ideas to study religious festivities: an experience in Xochimilco.*

A portion of an investigation about popular traditions of the area of Xochimilco is presented here. Xochimilco is a suburban community located in the south of the Federal District and each day it is more integrated to the Metropolitan area of Mexico City. The referred investigation, deals with some demonstrations of popular religiosity shown in various ways during religious festivities, which are of great importance regarding mystical experiences associated to the imaginary world, which have a great influence in their daily life. Also, some methodological references are included in order to define in a better way, the procedures used in the field as well as in the systematization and analysis of the information.

María Ana Portal Ariosa. *Cosmovision, oral tradition and contemporary religious practice in Tlalpan and Milpa Alta.*

This work explores some of the religious practices performed nowadays among the people in the areas of Tlalpan and Milpa Alta in Mexico D.F. With a comparative viewpoint, some myths and rituals related to religiosity are analyzed in regards to patron saints and to the still present practice of the worship of hills of Mesoamerican origins.

Francisco J. Fernández Repetto. *Celebrate the Saints. Fiesta System in the Northwest of Yucatán.*

Through the presentation of the main characteristics of the patron saint fiestas in the northwest of Yucatán, this article explores the concept fiesta system, as proposed by Chance, to describe and analyze patron saint celebrations that show a different organizational pattern from the Mesoamerican cargo system.

Ma. Teresa Rodríguez. *Cargo system and religious change in the Zongolica sierra, in Veracruz*

In this article, in general terms, the characteristics of the religious organization in a "Nahua" area of the Zongolica sierra in Veracruz are exposed. The importance of the cargo system as an institution that builds up the relationship among different territorial instances of the area is evaluated, as well as the individual participation within an ample and inclusive system. Also, a general view of the presence of non-catholic organizations is exposed, mostly from the area of study. The relevance of this process favouring the dynamics of social relations within the region is as well analyzed.

Ma. Eugenia Olavarría. *Creativity and syncretism in a "Yaqui" ritual.*

Beginning with the ethnographic reconstruction of the belief and ritual system of the "Yaquis" from Sonora, this article presents and discusses aspects related to the specific situation of the religion of the "Yoremes", in order to provide an approach to some of the concepts that have been handled in an ambiguous way regarding the ethnography of native groups from Mexico, for instance, religious affiliation and non-affiliation, religiosity and syncretism, the statement that only a deep description of religious systems will establish the base for a conceptualization of what we know as a "notion" or in a merely descriptive way is firmly defended.