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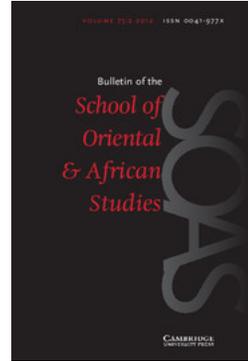
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K. S. Gurubasave Gowda: *Ao grammar*. (CIIL Grammar Series, 1.) xi, 76 pp. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages, 1975. Rs. 10.

B. K. Sprigg

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Chônju woodblock edition of the nineteenth century, *Yöllyö Ch'unhyang sujöl ka* 'Song of the constancy of the faithful wife Ch'unhyang'. There is also a separate introduction to each work which sets out accurately the history of the works and assesses competently their literary qualities.

The whole work is a most valuable addition to the stock of books in English on Korea.

W. E. SKILLEND

Dictionnaire historique du Japon. Fasc. III: lettre C. (Publications de la Maison Franco-Japonaise.) [iii], iv, 151 pp. Tôkyô: Librairie Kinokuniya, [1975].

Like the two previous fascicules (published in 1963 and 1970), this covers a wide field of historical material: entries concerning biography, customs, historical literature, events, titles, terminology, etc. Also like them, it maintains high standards of information and comment. Each entry lists bibliographical references, including some very recent ones; indicates what other relevant entries will appear elsewhere in the work; and provides Japanese characters for both names and technical terms. It is all extremely useful and well done. One can only hope that the pace of publication might be increased a little, lest the beginning be outdated before the end appears.

W. G. B.

ANDRÉ G. HAUDRICOURT: *Problèmes de phonologie diachronique.* (Langues et Civilisations à Tradition Orale, 1.) 384 pp. Paris: [Société d'Études Linguistiques et Anthropologiques de France], 1972 [pub. 1974]. Fr. 59.

The republication of these 24 papers (in 1974, despite the title-page) follows serendipitously on their presentation for a doctorate by *travaux publiés* of the Sorbonne Nouvelle. They cover a period of 30 years and an equally wide range of topics, taking in Chinese, nearly every South-East Asian language family, and Oceanic—with French thrown in for good measure—besides reminding us that Haudricourt was a pioneer in South-East Asian areal linguistics. All such collections have the merit of lying under the hand more readily than an accumulation of offprints; this has two more. First, while most specialists of the region will know several of the articles closely, they may now be provoked to read those outside their immediate field as well, to their instruction. Secondly, to read all in sequence points up the development of Haudricourt's thought over

three decades, and its coherence. It is daunting to reflect that he has made solid contributions in botany and the history of technology besides linguistics.

General linguists too may find this a useful book. Historical phonology as a study of the evolution of sound systems has been somewhat neglected in England. Americans have elaborated mathematical models; the French have preferred to work with *les données*, in a tradition deriving from de Saussure, of which Haudricourt is a notable exponent. His outlook is close to that of Martinet, and *Problèmes de phonologie diachronique* can serve as a case-book which naturally complements *Économie des changements phonétiques*. It is a happy choice to inaugurate this new series.

H. L. S.

K. S. GURUBASAVE GOWDA: *Ao grammar.* (CIIL Grammar Series, 1.) xi, 76 pp. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages, 1975. Rs. 10.

Ao grammar is the first of a new series of publications from the Central Institute of Indian Languages, the Grammar Series, with the aim of presenting a description of 'non-literate languages in general and tribal languages in particular' throughout the subcontinent, and of 'producing materials necessary for learning and teaching the language concerned'. 'It is also expected', Dr. Pattanayak writes in the 'Foreword' to the series, 'to be of interest to research workers and scholars engaged in the field of synchronic and diachronic study of languages'.

There could easily be a conflict of interest between these two classes of reader. It is, presumably, with the second class in mind that the author ignores the roman orthography that the Aos, with their relatively low rate of illiteracy, have hitherto used, for more than 40 years, in religious books, textbooks, and other kinds of book, in favour of a phonemic orthography of his own devising; for the members of the administration and the security forces, business men, and others at whom the *Grammar* is chiefly aimed might be expected to prefer the established orthography, which gives them access to what literature the language has to offer. The Aos are, perhaps, a special case: not all tribal peoples have an orthography for their language, with a fair body of literature written in it; but it would have been interesting in this, the first book of the new series, to see the strengths and weaknesses of the Ao orthography, in grammar and lexis, revealed by a comparison with the author's phonemic orthography.

B. K. SPRIGG