

## FRIEDRICH BEHN:

*Ausgrabungen und Ausgräber. Urban-Bücher. Die wissenschaftliche Taschenbuchreihe. Hrsg. von F. Ernst und K. Gutbrod. Bd. 15. 147 S., 61 Abb. W. Kohlhammer-Verlag, Stuttgart 1956.*

In lockerer Streuung greift der bekannte Frühgeschichtler einige Brennpunkte archäologischer Feldforschung der alten Welt heraus und stellt sie einem breiteren Leserkreis vor. Die kurzen Biographien von Koldoway, Schliemann und Wiegand lassen vermuten, daß der Erfolg des bekannten Buches von Ceram, Anstoß zu dieser Veröffentlichung gab.

Im einzelnen geht der Verf. auf folgende Fundplätze ein: Uruk-Warka, Mohenjodaro, Babylon, Assur, Troja, Mykenä und Tiryns, Olympia, die punisch-römischen Stätten (Karthago, Kyrene, Tingad, Leptis Magna, Sabratha).

Dazwischen sind ohne inneren Zusammenhang die russischen Ausgrabungen von Choresm (Amu-Darja), die Kurganfunde der Skythen und vom Altai-Gebirge (Pasyryk) eingefügt — ebenso wie der Bericht von der Entdeckung des Grabes von Tutanchamon. Die gesamte Darstellung mündet in den provinzial-römischen Funden von Trier und Alzey aus.

Der ganze Stoff steht etwas unverbunden da. Der Verzicht auf ein Literaturverzeichnis ist bedauerlich. Zur raschen Information des Fachfremden ist das mit Bildern reich versehene Büchlein geeignet.

J. F. Glück

## RENÉ DE NEBESKY-WOJKOWITZ:

*Oracles and Demons of Tibet; the Cult and Iconography of the Tibetan Protective Deities. 8vo, xi & 666 pp., 25 figs., and 20 plates, one of which in colour. Mouton & Co., 's-Gravenhage 1956.*

The book under review has two distinctive parts, the first of which is devoted to the iconography of the protective deities of the Lamaistic pantheon. The author starts by giving a general survey of the classification, the description of the general characteristics

of the appearance and attributes of those figures of the very complicated pantheon, which are usually called the "fearful ones". It is amazing to find how the author has managed to handle this material taken from numberless and often quite obscure descriptions in various texts, using it in a more or less direct way, which makes this account rather more interesting than might be expected when compiling the endless *sādhanas*, describing the figures with all their rather queer peculiarities. Since many years a number of books relating to the very complicated system of the Tibetan Buddhist pantheon have been published, but in almost all of them the authors have tried to deal with the subject along the line of the Indian Buddhist iconographical rules. For a great deal this way of approach holds good, but for another part it does not. In the first part of his book, Dr. Nebesky has shown us in how far it was not justified to rely only on the Indian material, especially when the so-called protective deities are involved. The material to be taken from Indian Buddhist sources is completely insufficient to understand the Tibetan Buddhist paintings (*thangkas*) representing the more powerful protectors (e. g. the *Drag gsed*) together with their *parivāra*, their retinue. The more important of them are to be found in the Indian Buddhist pantheon, it is true, but a very large group of figures of secondary importance remains, numbering hundreds of smaller deities and obscure figures, represented somewhere in almost every painting, which escape identification with the help of the Indian sources available.

Now Dr. Nebesky has done a wonderful, and at the same time a strenuous, job by compiling the iconographical details about almost all classes of protective deities, hidden somewhere in the big mass of Tibetan texts, dealing with the appearance and cults of these strange figures. This task could only be accomplished in close co-operation with some duly trained Tibetan informants, and the result is a valuable book, which is a mine of information, that will prove to be indispensable to all serious students of Tibetan Buddhist iconography. As a matter of fact, this work enabled me already to identify, up to the least important figure occurring in it, some of the fine *thangkas* in the collection of the National Museum of Ethno-