MACMILLAN
DICTIONARY
OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

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CHARLOTTE SEYMOUR-SMITH

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REFERENCE
BOOKS

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Foreword

There are few fixed definitions in anthropology. Instead, ours is a discipline which advances by constantly revising and interrogating current concepts and their use. This Dictionary is intended to convey the critical spirit of anthropological enquiry to students of social and cultural anthropology and to the interested lay reader. Emphasis is placed on theoretical and conceptual issues, as well as on the clarification of technical terms which sometimes confuse the uninitiated. The aim of the Dictionary is thus to provide the reader with the basic information necessary in order to understand and critically assess anthropological texts and material, as well as to furnish a starting point for the student, who may wish to go further by following up the references on any given topic.

Entries on individual anthropologists are brief and limited. Only those authors born before 1920 are included – references to the works of younger scholars will be found under the entries relating to the topics to which they have contributed. Similarly, for reasons of space it is impossible to explore all the interdisciplinary ramifications of anthropology, and the reader will not find coverage here of the fields of linguistics, physical anthropology, archaeology and so on.

In order to use this book most fruitfully the reader is advised to follow up the cross-referencing, which is designed to counteract the necessarily fragmented dictionary format.

Finally, this is perhaps not a dictionary in the strictest sense of the term. Many entries here are not 'definitive': they are designed instead to open up the debate.

CSS, June 1986

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Contributors

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How to use the Dictionary

Alphabetization

In entry headings in the text where more than one word forms part of the heading, the words are alphabetized as if continuous up to the first mark of punctuation, then again after the comma.

Cross-references

Cross-references are distinguished by the use of SMALL CAPITALS; large capitals appear in cross-references where the entry is a proper name (e.g. LEVI-STRAUSS). In a cross-reference to another entry within the Dictionary the word 'see' is printed in *italics*. Where the word 'see' is printed in roman type the reference is to another publication.

Cross-references are of two basic kinds. First, there are those 'cross-reference' entries that direct the reader to where he can find the entry he is seeking; thus:

childhood. *See* AGE, ANTHROPOLOGY OF.

The other type of cross-reference is that within an article. Some cross-references will be found at the end of short articles, or at the end of paragraphs, directing the reader to another entry where further information relevant to the subject he is reading about may be found (these may, as appropriate, embody such formulae as '*see*' or '*see also*'). Further cross-references will be found in running text to direct the reader to places where he can find further information on the topic. However, cross-references are used selectively, so it is always worth looking up a related term elsewhere in the Dictionary.

Bibliographical references

Throughout the text bibliographical references have been given with the name of the author/editor and the date of publication. Readers should refer to the Bibliography beginning on page 293.

The Bibliography is arranged in alphabetical order by author/editor, and chronologically under the author's/editor's name. Where a work has been published originally in a language other than English, the original date of publication and date of English translation have been given, where known. In the case of specific references to chapters in a book with more than one contributor, the reader will find a cross-reference within the Bibliography to the editor of the publication concerned.

Abbreviations

For kinship terminology the reader is advised to consult the article **abbreviations in kinship** on page 1. The abbreviation BP refers to dates 'before present'.