



A Narrative of Cultural Encounter in Southern China

Wu Xing Fights the 'Jiao'

By Hugh R. Clark

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Explores the interaction between the indigenous pre-Sinitic people and culture of the Fujian coast with the Sinitic immigrants who arrived in growing numbers through the eighth century and after.

Late in the 8th century, under the Tang dynasty, a local magnate led a land reclamation project on the Fujian coast that is emblematic of the encounter between the Sinitic culture of the Yellow River basin in northern China and the local cultures of the south. Later accounts say the drainage canals were undercut by a jiao, a mythological dragon-like beast that was a stand-in for the crocodiles that once inhabited the south China coast. The book uses this incident to explore the interaction between the indigenous pre-Sinitic people and culture of the Fujian coast with the Sinitic immigrants who arrived in growing numbers through the 8th century and after.

Readership

Undergraduates and graduates of Chinese or East Asian studies, and those interested in frontier history and cultural encounter studies.

Key selling points

- Explores both the nature of local culture and its interaction with and impact upon the evolving Sinitic culture
- Illustrates the accommodation that evolved between the classical culture of the Yellow River and the local cultures of the south

Contents

Relevant Dynastic Timeline; Preface; 1. Introduction to a Problem; 2. The Story; 3. Some Background; 4. The Sinitic Encounter and Wu Xing; 5. The Song Consolidation and Sinitic Accommodation; 6. The Ecological and Environmental Consequences; 7. Conclusions; Suggestions for Further Reading; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Hugh R. Clark was a member of the history and East Asian studies programs at Ursinus College (Pennsylvania) for 35 years. He is now retired from active teaching.

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