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978-0-521-18741-1 - Shared Wealth and Symbol: Food, Culture, and Society in Oceania and Southeast Asia

Edited by Lenore Manderson

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This pioneer volume brings together for the first time a range of essays on the anthropology of food in Oceania and Southeast Asia. The essays reflect current research in the field, particularly that undertaken by Australian scholars.

The volume focuses on four main concerns. First, it examines the ecological, economic, social, and political factors that influence the production of food, food choice, and dietary behavior. It then explores the way in which people think and speak about food, diet, nutrition, and eating, including discussions of concepts of hunger and the classification of foods. Next follow accounts of infant feeding practices in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. These include descriptions of traditional feeding and the changes that are taking place in it, specifically in response to the promotion of bottle feeding. The roles of government agencies and of multinational corporations are also discussed. Finally, the book raises questions about methods and research directions for nutritional anthropologists.

The regional focus of the volume allows for an examination of differences in food systems and uses within a single area, as well as for discussion of common trends, especially those that have arisen as a result of societies in the region having been incorporated into the world economy. Much that is discussed in the volume is applicable elsewhere in the world, and the collection therefore offers a basis for a comparative analysis of food in culture and society.

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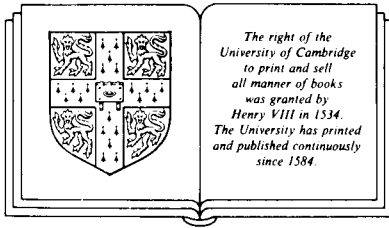
# Shared wealth and symbol

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