

SIGNIFYING ANIMALS

Human meaning in
the natural world

Edited by Roy Willis

Department of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh



London and New York

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	page v
<i>Foreword</i> P.J. Ucko	vii
<i>Preface</i> Roy Willis	xxv
<i>Preface to the paperback edition</i> Roy Willis	xxvi
<i>Introduction</i> Roy Willis	1
1 <i>The pangolin revisited: a new approach to animal symbolism</i> Mary Douglas	25
2 <i>Cultural attitudes to birds and animals in folklore</i> Jawarharlal Handoo	37
3 <i>Animal language in the Garden of Eden: folktale elements in Genesis</i> G. Koolmans Beynen	43
Genesis as a folktale	45
The Animal Language tales	46
The dangerous reward	47
'Passive' Adam	48
Ideology in Genesis	50
Towards a typology of man-woman-serpent tales	51
4 <i>A semantic analysis of the symbolism of Toba mythical animals</i> Pablo G. Wright	55
Metamorphosis	55
Owner of the snakes	59
Sexual polarity	60
5 <i>Back to the future: trophy arrays as mental maps in the Wopkaimin's culture of place</i> David C. Hyndman	63
Introduction	63
Mental maps	63
Mapmaking: the process of encoding	65
Mapreading: the process of decoding	68

6	<i>Sheep bone as a sign of human descent: tibial symbolism among the Mongols</i>	Slawoj Szykiewicz	74
7	<i>Ecological community and species attributes in Yolngu religious symbolism</i>	Ian Keen	85
	Introduction		85
	Yolngu religion and social organization		85
	A Yirritja clan estate		87
	A Dhuwa moiety clan estate		91
	Songs		94
	Two elements of the Dhuwa Madayin ceremony		95
	The tree		96
	Birth of children to the clans		98
	Conclusions		99
8	<i>Pictish animal symbols</i>	Anthony Jackson	103
	The nature-culture dimension		108
	Quadripartition		113
9	<i>The idea of fish: land and sea in the Icelandic world-view</i>	Gísli Pálsson	119
	Introduction		119
	Representations and social relations		121
	Reversal of the roles of fish and humans		127
	Conclusions		129
10	<i>Animals in Hopi duality</i>	Mark Tomas Bahti	134
	Intimate coexistence		134
	'Acting human'		135
	The double image		136
	Snake messengers		138
11	<i>Eat and be eaten: animals in U'wa (Tunebo) oral tradition</i>	Ann Osborn	140
	The <i>Aya</i> performance		143
	The Hives (Anbaya Bee Order) chant		148
	<i>Thenabuka</i> (male fox) and <i>Ruwa reowa</i> (animal purification) chants		152
	The <i>Reawa</i> (purification) chant		155
	Concluding remarks		156

12	<i>Tezcatlipoca: jaguar metaphors and the Aztec mirror of nature</i>	Nicholas J. Saunders	159
	Introduction		159
	Amerindian attitudes to the jaguar		161
	Tezcatlipoca: jaguar nature of an Aztec deity		165
	Concluding remarks		173
13	<i>Nanook, super-male: the polar bear in the imaginary space and social time of the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic</i>		
	Bernard Saladin d'Anglure		178
	The polar bear in Inuit mythical space		178
	The polar bear in the social time of the Inuit		183
	Nanook, super-male		187
14	<i>Antelope as self-image among the Uduk</i>	Wendy James	196
	The antelope as intimate other		198
15	<i>The track of the python: a West African origin story</i>		
	Eugenia Shanklin		204
	Introduction		204
	History of the Kom people		204
	The origin story		205
	Functional analyses		207
16	<i>Nigerian cultural attitudes to the dog</i>	J. Olowo Ojoade	215
	The dog in myth		215
	Dogs in the household, the hunt, and war		216
	Dog on the menu		218
	The dog in therapy and magic		219
	The dog and sacrifice		220
	The dog as pet		221
17	<i>Rodeo horses: the wild and the tame</i>	Elizabeth A. Lawrence	222
	Symbolic conquest		222
	Archetype of the wild		224
	The wild horse race		225
	Rodeo's central symbol		226
	Breeding for wildness		227
	The acceptance of 'culture'		229
	The 'level-headed' horse		230

	The horse as 'friend'	231
	The horse in the bar	231
	Horse and clown	232
	Humanization	234
18	<i>The beast without: the moa as a colonial frontier myth in New Zealand</i> Atholl Anderson	236
19	<i>The meaning of the snake</i> Roy Willis	246
	<i>Index</i>	253