



Anthropology s Global Histories: The Ethnographic Frontier in German New Guinea, 1870-1935 (Hardback)

By Rainer F. Buschmann

University of Hawai i Press, United States, 2008. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Anthropologists and world historians make strange bedfellows. Although the latter frequently employ anthropological methods in their descriptions of cross-cultural exchanges, the former have raised substantial reservations about global approaches to history. Fearing loss of specificity, anthropologists object to the effacing qualities of techniques employed by world historians - this despite the fact that anthropology itself was a global, comparative enterprise in the nineteenth century. Rainer Buschmann here seeks to recover some of anthropology s global flavor by viewing its history in Oceania through the notion of the ethnographic frontier - the furthestmost limits of the anthropologically known regions of the Pacific. The colony of German New Guinea (1884-1914) presents an ideal example of just such a contact zone. Colonial administrators there were drawn to approaches partially inspired by anthropology. Anthropologists and museum officials exploited this interest by preparing largescale expeditions to German New Guinea. Buschmann explores the resulting interactions between German colonial officials, resident ethnographic collectors, and indigenous peoples, arguing that all were instrumental in the formation of anthropological theory. He shows how changes in collecting aims and methods helped shift ethnographic study away...



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