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A Sense of Symbol: Symbol in Comparative Religion and the Georgics

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It takes more than a poetic ear to forge words into a poem; it takes also craftsmanship. Demetillo amply proves in *Masks* that he has both. His use of rhyme, while occasionally calling undue attention to the poetic form, only proves his technical dexterity.

In two parts, *Masks and Signature* discourses on the author's concept of the esthetic life (the Way of Art) and the men who in his view have given life to that concept (Witnesses). Here a wide range of personages, from the ancient and remote to the artist-next-door, is presented to the reader. The poet's tribute to Joya, the young Filipino painter, that

Space is a radiance like a summer sky
Where lines swerve surely in the air

is as cogent and sensitive as his statement on the French symbolist, Mallarmé:

The solitude of reed a star brought him
The misty torment of a paved atoll
Art of the delicate heart was not
what he sought:
He dreamed how sirens plunged
the wine cup's brim!

Here is a book that the serious student of art will find delightful, because it has something to say. And what it says it says intelligently.

FELIXBERTO C. STA. MARIA

A SENSE OF SYMBOL

SYMBOLS IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND THE GEORGICS.

by Francisco Demetrio, S.J., Manila: Ateneo de Manila Publications, Logos 3, 1968. 145 pp.

This little work is the third in a series of publications of the Loyola House of Studies. Happily, it sustains the high quality of the previous publications.

In an age which has been characterized by the loss of a sense of symbol, Fr. Demetrio's work is most timely. In his discussion of the earth as a cosmic symbol and of various rites and sacrifices connected with the earth, he has done a remarkable job of documenting the unity and continuity of man's desire to come to terms with himself and his environment.

The non-believer may well question many of the author's interpretations and conclusions. This, however, does not make them less valid.

He documents quite well the religious intent of the *Georgics*. As a believer attuned to the wonders of God's working in history, it is not surprising that Fr. Demetrio brings to his task a richer and deeper insight into nature and into man's efforts to come to terms with it.

This reviewer was especially happy to see the extent to which the work of Mircea Eliade has shaped the author's thinking. In reading Fr. Demetrio's work against the background of Eliade's writings, one can not help but recall Eliade's statement that, "every hierophany is an abortive attempt to reveal the mystery of the coming together of God and man. The whole religious life of mankind expressed in the dialect of hierophanies is simply a waiting for Christ." Though the religious character of the *Georgics* may seem far removed from the mystery of the Incarnation, the *Georgics* are nevertheless a significant document in the history of man's religious quest.

The introduction and the first two chapters of the book deserve special commendation. The author has summarized a great wealth of material in a very brief space. Perhaps, it is unfair in such a presentation to expect a full explanation of statements made. At any rate this reviewer would have liked a fuller explanation of such a statement as, "it is now acknowledged that the structure and function of the archtypes (Jung's) are in striking agreement with the structure and function of the hierophanies" (of Eliade) p. 19. Again a brief discussion of the whole question of ultimacy so prominent in the writings of Tillich might have helped focus on the deep spiritual need of man expressed so often in the religious symbol.

The criticisms are, however, minor. The author is both a classicist and a student of folklore. Since completing this work, he has been devoting himself to the study of folklore in Northern Mindanao. We are quite confident that his efforts to trace the religious traditions of his own people will be marked by the same scholarly erudition and deep sympathy displayed in *Symbols in Comparative Religion and the Georgics*.

JOHN F. DOHERTY

AN INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMED EDUCATION

TEACHING MACHINES AND PROGRAMMED INSTRUCTION:
An Introduction. By Edward Fry. New York: McGraw-Hill
Book Company, Inc., 1963. 244 pp.

This book is not entirely new, but the ideas expressed here are still of current importance in all phases of education. It describes