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White Gold: The Diary of a Rubber Cutter in the Amazon, 1906-1916. John C. Yungjohann (edited by Ghilleen T. Prance). Synergetic Press, POB 689, Oracle, Arizona. 1989. Pp. 103. Paperback only. \$7.95 + 10% postage and handling.

How fortunate we are that John C. Yungjohann, a tile setter and not a trained naturalist, had the energy to keep a diary during his years as a rubber cutter in the Amazon region. Many, in fact most, of his fellow rubber cutters did not survive the trails and tribulations, the adventures and misadventures which the author not only experienced but also wrote about. And he writes of joyous moments too.

His account of how he came to make friends with one tribe of local Indians shows his determination and ingenuity. This provided him an opportunity to observe them, their life styles, activities and uses of plants and animals. This, along with the many descriptions of the plants and animals he encountered in one way or another, will be of interest to readers of this journal. Since the author used local common names for these plants and animals, Editor Ghilleen T. Prance has provided informative commentary and photography to identify the plants and animals and interpret their uses.

But the trials and tribulations of the jungle were only part of the problem. Those who sold provisions, at highly inflated prices, and bought the rubber the cutters returned with, at very low prices, were ruthless in their exploitation. Basically a variation on the "company store," it was difficult or impossible for most rubber cutters to get out of debt to these providers.

Although not a scientist, the author was an intelligent and keen observer, which, after all, is where science starts. Readers of this journal will find this first hand account fascinating and will appreciate the efforts of a work weary rubber cutter to not only survive the experience but to write about it.

The contemporary photographs and commentary furnished by Editor Ghilleen T. Prance greatly enhance the value of the diary as a scholarly work. It appears that Synergetic Press is rapidly becoming a leader in the publication of books—many of them dealing with natural history—which have a different and unusually interesting approach.

Where the Gods Reign: Plants and Peoples of the Colombian Amazon. Richard Evans Schultes. Synergetic Press, POB 689, Oracle, Arizona. 1988. Pp. 304. Paperback only. \$20.00 + 10% postage and handling.

In the novel *This Rough Magic* by Mary Stewart, the heroine's sister explains that the villa on the opposite promontory "had been rented by an Englishman, a Mr. Manning, who had been there since the previous autumn working on a book ('you know the kind . . . all photographs with a thin trickle of text in large type, . . .')." Richard Evans Schultes knew of this type of book and succeeded admirably in his desire to make *Where the Gods Reign* "more than just another picture book" (from the Forward). The numerous photographs are at once spectacular, beautiful, fascinating, and of excellent quality. Each is accompanied by an appropriate quotation from one of the many natural historians, explorers, and scientists who have written about the Amazon region, e.g., Richard Schomburgk, Theodor Koch-Grünberg, Everard F. Imthurn, Enrique Pérez-Arbeláez, Richard Spruce, Algot Lange, Alfred Russel Wallace, Geraldo Reichel-Dolmatoff, Millicent Todd, and many others. In addition each photograph has an extended description, explanation, or account.

Mark Plotkin, a former student of the author who also wrote the Preface, gives the reader insight into the professional career of Richard Evans Schultes. The Forward and a chapter on The Amazonia set the stage for the main part of the book. The photographs and accompanying quotations and text are amazingly diverse. They are of the mountains, rivers, rapids and waterfalls, rock engravings, forest, plants, houses, men and women, children, chieftains and medicine men, legends, drugs, coca, arrow poisons, agriculture, food, rubber, music and dances, artistry, and travel.

It is likely that only Professor Schultes has had or ever will have the resources to produce such a book. These resources include a deep love and knowledge of all aspects of Amazonia, intensive and extensive experience in the area, a long