

Contents

Preface of Ngum III, Ebfon of Oku	9		
Introduction: General information about Oku and the Cameroon Grasslands; the research project and its realization	11	5.4	Brideprice and marriage 74
1 African religious world-view as reflected in scientific theory	21	5.5	The polygamous form of marriage; its organization and problems --
2 The history of Oku: facts and assumptions	29	5.6	The three clans of Mbele, Ebjung and Mbulum 77
2.1 Historical perspective in Oku	29	5.7	The highest dignitaries 80
2.2 The history of the Ntul and their annihilation by Mkong Moteh	31	5.7.1	The three 'true' or 'big <i>faise</i> ' 80
2.3 The time after Mkong Moteh until the arrival of the Germans in 1905	35	5.7.2	The seven counselors, <i>kebei kesamba</i> 82
2.4 The arrival of the Germans and the Colonial period	36	5.7.3	The queenmothers, <i>enontock</i> 86
2.5 The time of Sentieh (1956–1992)	38	5.7.4	The fathers of the Palace or the fathers of the King, <i>ebaantock</i> or <i>ebatifton</i> 90
2.6 Ngum III and the present	39	5.7.5	The Princes, <i>ghonentock</i> 91
3 The socio-geographical situation of thirty villages in Oku	47	5.7.6	The wives of the King, <i>ebkee ntock</i> 91
4 Elements of religious life and the order of time (days and 'moons') An initial orientation	57	6	The concept of <i>juju</i> 97
4.1 Gods and ancestors, witches and medicine	57	6.1	The secret societies 97
4.2 Ancestral ceremonies and medicine rituals – outer form and general appearance	57	6.2	The sphere of medicine 98
4.3 Peace and harmony as the most important social and moral values	58	6.3	The sacred musical instruments 99
4.4 Overcoming guilt and injustice	58	6.4	The masks 99
4.5 Life-plant	59	6.5	Initiation and ranks of secret societies 100
4.6 Camwood powder	59	6.6	Significance and function of <i>jujus</i> : an initial account 101
4.7 <i>Emkan</i>	60	7	King and <i>Kwifon</i> 105
4.8 The eight-day week	61	7.1	The Palace, <i>ntock</i> 105
4.9 Cultic activities in the course of the year	62	7.2	<i>Kwifon</i> 110
5 Nuclear families, extended families and clans	65	7.2.1	The public image of <i>Kwifon</i> 110
5.1 The nuclear family and the common man; the status of the <i>babey</i> and the <i>shey</i>	65	7.2.2	Members of <i>Kwifon</i> , <i>nchisendase</i> 112
5.2 The extended family and the head of the family	65	7.2.3	Magic medicines and sacred musical instruments 114
5.2.1 The extended family as a religious and political unit	65	7.2.4	The masks of <i>Kwifon</i> 114
5.2.2 The head of the extended family: his privileges, insignia and attributes	67	7.2.4.1	<i>Mabuh</i> 114
5.2.3 The family council, <i>ebtoy bey</i>	69	7.2.4.2	<i>Nkock</i> 118
5.2.4 The death of the head of the extended family and the installment of his successor	70	7.2.4.3	The <i>Nokangse</i> 124
5.3 The social and economic status of women	72	7.2.4.4	<i>Agah</i> 130
		7.2.4.5	<i>Felingang</i> 131
		7.2.4.6	<i>Mknakwa</i> 131
		7.2.4.7	<i>Nchisendase bangbene</i> , red or dangerous <i>nchisendase</i> 131
		7.2.5	General <i>Kwifon</i> 131
		7.2.6	The activities of <i>Kwifon</i> 133
		7.2.7	The <i>Kwifon</i> initiation in the year 1978 137
		7.2.8	Oku- <i>Kwifon</i> and the tradition of <i>Kwifon</i> in tribes of the Grasslands (including <i>Nwerong</i> and <i>Ngirrib</i>) 144
		7.3	The King 150
		7.3.1	Rights and responsibilities of the King 150
		7.3.2	The death and burial of the King and the selection and enthronement of his successor 158
		7.3.3	The death of King Sentieh and the election and enthronement of his successor King Ngum III 163
		7.4	The religious and political position of the King and his relationship with <i>Kwifon</i> 171

8	Foreign relations, peace treaties and the military in Oku	187	9.11	Masks and non-initiates: rules of behaviour in practice	262
8.1	Peace treaties with neighbouring tribes	187	9.12	Establishment of the Princes' society <i>Ngirrib</i> in Oku	266
8.2	General remarks about the state of the military and of war in Oku	190	10	Medicine societies	279
8.3	The traditional war <i>jujus</i>	191	10.1	<i>Ngang</i>	279
8.3.1	<i>Labe</i>	191	10.2	<i>Kheghebchiob</i>	292
8.3.2	<i>Nontang</i>	194	10.3	'Dancing <i>Ngang</i> '	300
8.4	Special military societies	196	10.4	<i>Nseh</i>	302
8.4.1	<i>Manjong</i>	201	10.5	<i>N'tel</i>	304
8.4.2	<i>Mjub</i>	204	10.6	<i>Menkang</i>	305
8.4.3	<i>Samba</i>	205	10.7	<i>Njio</i>	305
8.4.3.1	The history of <i>Samba</i>	205	10.8	'Swearing of medicine': <i>Mossock</i> and other medicines	306
8.4.3.2	Medicines, musical instruments and masks	205	11	Native doctors, traditional healers and diviners	311
8.4.3.3	Levels and medicine rituals	210	12	Witchcraft	321
8.4.3.3.1	<i>Samba</i> of Fai Keming from Ilak	210	12.1	Devilish powers of animals, plants and inanimate nature	321
8.4.3.3.2	<i>Samba</i> of Fai Tokembong from Ngashie	212	12.2	<i>Ebvung</i> , witches and <i>tefeem</i> , devils	323
8.4.3.3.3	<i>Samba</i> of Babey Ntama from Ilak	213	12.3	Physical features of witches and their admission into witch societies	324
8.4.3.4	Rituals of death	220	12.4	Psychological and social background of witchcraft	324
8.4.3.5	The engagement of <i>Samba</i> in measures of war	220	12.5	Pursuit and punishment of witches	325
8.5	General <i>Manjong</i>	220	12.6	Consciousness of witchcraft in the population	326
8.6	Conflicts with Din (February 11, 1997)	221	13	Ceremonies of death: burials and memorials	329
9	Special mask societies	223	13.1	Death and its general aspects in Oku	329
9.1	General characteristics	223	13.2	Burial ceremonies: <i>tediy tekfuo</i> (sg. <i>ediy ekfuo</i>) or 'crying of death'	329
9.2	Levels in the mask societies	223	13.2.1	Religious and spiritual background	329
9.2.1	<i>Ecbeck emkam</i>	223	13.2.1.1	Grief and mourning	329
9.2.2	<i>Ntang emkam</i>	224	13.2.1.2	Fear and uncertainty	330
9.2.3	<i>Kam</i>	224	13.2.1.3	Honouring the dead	330
9.2.4	Medicine men, <i>ghelemfuh</i>	224	13.2.2	The course of burial ceremonies	331
9.3	Mask house and medicine corner	225	13.2.2.1	The 'day of burial', <i>kechii ngvume</i>	331
9.4	Principal rituals of medicine	227	13.2.2.2	The 'day of feasting', <i>kechii ebyea</i>	338
9.4.1	'Bad or dangerous medicine', <i>kefuh kebeb</i>	228	13.2.2.3	The 'day of cleansing', <i>kechii ebsoo</i>	340
9.4.2	'Good medicine', <i>kefuh kejunghe</i>	228	13.2.3	Burial ceremonies of <i>Kvijon</i>	341
9.4.3	Blessings	229	13.2.4	The 'bad death', <i>ekfuo ebeb</i>	342
9.4.4	Rituals of appeasement of the <i>jujus</i>	231	13.2.5	The cause of death and its background: exemplary cases gathered in 1997 and in 1998	343
9.5	Mask equipment	233	13.3	Commemorative ceremonies: dancing of death, <i>ebine ekfuo</i>	346
9.5.1	Mask headdresses	233	13.3.1	Initial preparations	346
9.5.1.1	Mask headdress of feathers, <i>eful</i>	233	13.3.2	The days of <i>Kvijon</i>	347
9.5.1.2	Masks of cloth or textiles	233	13.3.3	Placement of a memorial stone, <i>ketootisay</i> , for the deceased head of the family and the enstoolment of his successor	354
9.5.1.3	Wooden masks	236	13.3.4	Appearance of the mask- and military societies	364
9.5.2	The face-net, <i>kembaal</i>	239	13.4	Death celebration for a <i>uchinda kebul</i> or 'uchinda of the dust' by <i>Kvijon</i>	381
9.5.3	The mask gown, <i>kebam</i>	239			
9.5.4	Dance rattles, <i>kemibak</i>	240			
9.5.5	Dance sticks and staffs	240			
9.5.6	Musical instruments	240			
9.6	Mask societies of extended families	240			
9.6.1	<i>Ndongtoh</i> of Ilak	240			
9.6.2	<i>Mukong</i> of Ngashie	242			
9.6.3	<i>Mefuh</i> of Mboh	242			
9.6.4	<i>Ndanyi</i> and <i>Fenji</i> of Lui	248			
9.7	The <i>jujus</i> of the King and the Princes	248			
9.7.1	<i>Nchiamfah</i>	251			
9.7.2	Other mask societies of the King and the Princes	255			
9.8	<i>Felingang</i> , the <i>juju</i> of <i>Kvijon</i>	256			
9.9	<i>Chong</i> , a big <i>juju</i> without masks	260			
9.10	<i>Fombien</i> , the <i>juju</i> of the women	262			

14	Transcendental powers and the sphere of cult		15.1.3	Decorative art	433
	Gods and ancestors	383	15.1.4	Objects of daily use	434
14.1	God is first, <i>Mbiy lu Feyin</i>	383	15.2	The wood carver: training, skills and techniques, social position	434
14.2	The Gods of Oku, <i>Emyin me Ebkanno</i>	384	15.3	Elements of form and aesthetic norms	438
14.3	The Gods of the Land, <i>Emyin Mentieb</i>	390	15.4	Symbolism in representations of humans and animals	440
14.3.1	The grass-cutting festival, <i>ebwoi kembah</i> or 'grass for <i>kembah</i> ' (the trumpet of the Palace)	392	15.5	Art criticism: its forms and dimensions	441
14.3.2	'Medicine against hailstorms', <i>efaa emtiy</i>	394	15.6	The influence of traditional canons on art-forms	442
14.3.3	'Seed of God', <i>ngos Feyin</i>	397	16	The theoretical structure: the concept of <i>keyoi</i>	445
14.3.4	<i>Ngyun</i>	399	16.1	The basic meaning of <i>keyoi</i>	445
14.4	The ancestors, <i>nkfusaisih</i> (sg. <i>nkfusai</i>)	400	16.2	Society united in peace as a divine commandment	446
14.4.1	Prayers, <i>emkab</i> (sg. <i>kenkab</i>)	402	16.3	Sovereignty and equality; principles of political organization	447
14.4.2	Curses and denunciation	402	16.4	The ancestors and the principles of ancestral veneration	449
14.4.3	<i>Ntanglese</i>	402	16.5	The meaning and purpose of offerings to the ancestors	451
14.4.4	<i>Keteff</i>	403	16.6	The ancestors as the source of life	453
14.4.5	Ancestors as divinities: the medicine ritual of <i>kefub Emyin</i>	403		Glossary	457
14.4.5.1	The religious and social background of <i>kefub Emyin</i>	403		Bibliography	469
14.4.5.2	Ritual objects and artifacts of <i>kefub Emyin</i>	404		Films about Oku	479
14.4.5.3	A typical ritual of <i>kefub Emyin</i>	406		Index	480
14.4.6	Individual ceremonies	408			
15	Traditions in Art	433			
15.1	Categories of woodcraft	433			
15.1.1	Figures and statuary	433			
15.1.2	Masks	433			