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**Flying Saucers: A Social history of UFOlogy** by David Clarke; Andy Roberts

Review by: Andrew Bennett

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effect, prompts the other "team." Bender refers to the recitations of these epics as a marathon extending over three days and nights, a form of competition between the "teams" to see who can give the "best" performance. This book is recommended to folklorists and anthropologists with an interest in East Asia or who want good comparative material for their research.

*James H. Grayson, University of Sheffield, UK*  
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**Flying Saucers: A Social history of UFOlogy.** By David Clarke and Andy Roberts. Loughborough: Alternative Albion, 2007. 231 pp. Illus. £14.95 (pbk). ISBN 978-1-905646-00-5

This is just the sort of book any modern folklorist ought to read and enjoy. It takes the prevailing mood of Cold War Britain in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s and shows how ready people were to embrace ideas about, and possible sightings of, flying saucers. The book exposes some of the undoubted hoaxers, but deals very sympathetically with those who really believed in UFOs. It is clear that if the hoaxers were to succeed, people needed to be in a mood to believe, or at least half believe.

Occasionally, the mass of information the two authors have collected becomes a little overpowering, and a good editor might have persuaded them to drop a few nuggets of information that no doubt took them great effort to collect but add little to the story. Also, some of the copied illustrations from newspapers are intriguing, but hard to read.

In their final chapter, the authors try to place UFOs in the context of the human longing for some new saviour. They also explain how seekers after flying saucers soon sought scientific explanations, and describe how ultimately UFOlogy waned.

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**From Satan's Crown to Holy Grail: Emeralds in Myth, Magic and History.** By Diane Morgan. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2007. 192 pp. £22.95/\$39.95 (hbk). ISBN 978-0-275-99123-4

**Relics of the Christ.** By Joe Nickell. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2007. 232 pp. Illus. \$27.95 (hbk). ISBN 978-0-8131-2425-4

Diane Morgan's study of the emerald is an excellent subject for a book, and the writing style is lively and informative. It traces the uses of the emerald as a gemstone and as a focus for magic and belief. There is a chapter on different types of green stones and how they relate to the true emerald gem, and one on the different emerald mines and the gemstone industry. There are lots of anecdotes about finding famous emeralds and creating famous pieces of emerald jewellery. Unfortunately, it also has the feel of a book full of recycled information, with no indication of sources. While it is true that one cannot tell a book by its cover, one can tell a great deal about it by the bibliography. This "Selected Bibliography" contains only seventeen items, all secondary sources, including Elizabeth Taylor's account of her *Love Affair with Jewellery*.

Even the two emeralds alluded to in the title, the one in Satan's crown and the Holy Grail, are not treated in any depth, nor even at length. Satan's crown does not occur in the Index and Lucifer appears only briefly, although the reference to Lucifer's crown (p. 53) is not