

Notes from the Underground

When we changed the typeface and the layout of *The Pom* last issue, we expected that we'd receive compliments or complaints. But we weren't expecting nothing at all—which is what we got. We can either assume that everyone is completely happy with the magazine's new look or that nobody cares. If you do care, or (better yet) if you have suggestions or comments, please let us hear from you.

The first of our feature articles is by Jone Salomonsen, of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oslo. She addresses the methodological problems facing scholars who do their research within magical communities, in this case San Francisco's Reclaiming Collective. Prof Salomonsen's observations may prove useful (especially in the wake of the controversies surrounding works such as Tanya Luhrmann's *Persuasions of the Witch's Craft*) to scholars who are planning research, as well as to the subjects of these studies.

Since 1967, when *Science* magazine published an article by Lynn White suggesting a link between mainstream religion and environmental degradation, there has also been increasing interest in those non-traditional religions which take nature as their sacred or symbolic center. The publication, in 1990, of Catherine Albanese's *Nature Religion in America* has precipitated considerable scholarly discussion of nature religions, including, but by no means limited to, Neopaganism. At last winter's Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, several scholars presented papers in response to Prof

Albanese's book in a session entitled "Nature Religion as a Theoretical Construct: Reflections from an Emerging Field." *The Pom* published one of these papers in our previous issue: Jeffrey Kaplan's biographic sketch of Savitri Devi. In this issue we offer our readers two more, and we hope that both of these articles will spark as much interest and controversy as did Prof Kaplan's article.

The Pom Sells Out

That's right, at least one of our back issues (#3) has completely sold out, and #4 and 5 are in short supply. Reprinting is expensive and storage space is at a premium, so we're currently favouring the idea of making the entire text of 'sold out' issues available for downloading from our website. Unless we hear objections to this plan, it will most likely be implemented sometime between May and August.

And speaking of selling out, until now *The Pom* has resisted the siren song of the market place by not accepting advertisements. Several of our more experienced colleagues, however, have pointed out that other serious academic journals *do* take ads—from book publishers! So on the last page of this issue you'll see our first ad ever, from Phoenix Publishing, for their landmark new edition of Leland's *Aradia*. Hermes willing, our next issue will include a review of this book by Sabina Magliocco, herself the editor of the recent special issue of *Ethnologies* on Wicca. This magazine, by the way, contains the long-awaited critique by Don Frew of the research of Aidan Kelly and

continued on page 56