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morris swadesh one of this century's foremost scientific investigators of language dedicated much of his life to the study of the origin and evolution of language this volume left nearly completed at his death and edited posthumously by joel f sherzer is his last major study of this difficult subject swadesh discusses the simple qualities of human speech also present in animal language and establishes distinctively human techniques of expression by comparing the common features that are found in modern and ancient languages he treats the diversification of language not only by isolating root words in different languages but also by dealing with sound systems with forms of composition and with sentence structure in so doing he demonstrates the evidence for the expansion of all language from a single central area swadesh supports his hypothesis by exhibits that conveniently present the evidence in tabular form further clarity is provided by the use of a suggestive practical phonetic system intelligible to the student as well as to the professional the book also contains an appendix in which the distinguished ethnographer of language dell hymes gives a valuable account of the prewar linguistic tradition within which swadesh did some of his most important work

anthropology and linguistics as historically developing disciplines have had partly separate roots and traditions in particular settings and in general the two disciplines have partly shared partly differed in the nature of their materials their favorite types of problem the personalities of their dominant figures their relations with other disciplines and intellectual current the two disciplines have also varied in their interrelation with each other and the society about them institutional arrangements have reflected the varying degrees of kinship kithship and separation such relationships themselves form a topic that is central to a history of linguistic anthropology yet marginal to a self contained history of linguistics or anthropology as either would be conceived by most authors there exists not only a subject matter for a history of linguistic anthropology but also a definite need

the myths of the norse god thor were preserved in the icelandic eddas set down in the early middle ages the bane of giants and trolls thor was worshipped as the last line of defence against all that threatened early nordic society thor's significance persisted long after the christian conversion and in the mid eighteenth century thor

resumed a symbolic prominence among northern countries admired and adopted in scandinavia and germany he became central to the rhetoric of national romanticism and to more belligerent assertions of nationalism resurrected in the latter part of the twentieth century in marvel magazine thor was further transformed into an articulation both of an anxious male sexuality and of a parallel nervousness regarding american foreign policy martin arnold explores the extraordinary regard in which thor has been held since medieval times and considers why and how his myth has been adopted adapted and transformed

includes the section book reviews

this is a sweeping survey of american indian agriculture from its ancient origins to the present it combines a wealth of historical anthropological legal and economic information in a clear readable synthesis this is without doubt the most thorough and comprehensive treatment of american indian agriculture in print it is multidisciplinary and impressive both in scope and in depth hurt shows a deft hand in summarizing not only the literature on the evolution of agriculture in north america but also the dismal failure of american indian policy to build on earlier native american achievements this book is the starting point for any serious consideration of the literature on subjects ranging from the domestication of corn to pre contact irrigation to current indian water rights richard white author of it s your misfortune and none of my own this extremely worthwhile work is a significant contribution to both indian history and general american history gilbert fite past president of the agricultural history society and the western history association merits the attention of all who are concerned about the past present and future of american indians the chapters devoted to the past century should be required reading for students of modern agricultural and american indian history peter iverson author of when indians became cowboys native peoples and cattle ranching in the american west a very thorough and readable account the scope of this work is truly impressive the bulk of it revolves around the implementation of united states federal indian policies aimed at transforming native americans into self sufficient yeoman farmers and farm families during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries hurt s chapters on indian agriculture and water rights in the twentieth century are very timely and instructive should become a standard text for american indian history courses new mexico historical review a useful introduction to the subject that is organized in an admirably clear fashion and can be recommended to student and specialist alike journal of american history offers fresh and vital insights into the life and culture of the american indian american historical review a comprehensive authoritative account of one of the most significant topics in the history of indian white relations western historical quarterly

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