Aboriginal Fables and Legendary Tales

Author
Reed, A. W

Date
1965. Reed Books. Frenchs Forest, Australia,

Category
Aboriginal.

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Remark:
Here is an earlier edition of a book I have already listed under 1965/89. The two volumes together give rise to some engaging observations, I believe. The cover art will change from the anonymous illustration here of an older man holding a small statue or person to John Rissetto's Man in the Mountain image on the 1989 edition. The printer will change from Shanghai Printing Press in Hong Kong here to Imago Productions in Singapore there. A.W. Reed has written and published four books in the Reed Books series by the time of this book; the later edition will list seven on its back cover. I will repeat here some of the comments I made there. The seventy-three stories are alphabetically arranged and direct themselves overwhelmingly to etiology. Three clever tales which are not fables that may strike a contemporary reader are The Coming of Death (21), Dingo and the Native Cat (23), and The Spear with the Stingray Spines (126). The best of what I would call fables is The Turtle, the Oyster, and the Whale (133). Otherwise the closest stories to being fables are found on 26, 40, 44, 52, 90, 103, 118, and 137. The art is simple. The best art may be on 44 for The Frog and the Flies.

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