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Cannabis

Evolution and Ethnobotany

ROBERT C. CLARKE AND MARK D. MERLIN

“The authors have produced a work that is thorough, globally ambitious, and carefully constructed. The extraordinary power and range of their cross-cultural perspectives are likely to elicit fresh consideration of familiar studies.” —Richard Tucker, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan

“*Cannabis* is one of the best, if not the best history of the extraordinary plant *Cannabis sativa* that I have read. It is encyclopedic in its scope, painstakingly documented, and well written. A must for libraries, cannabis scholars and the growing number of readers who are interested in this remarkable plant.”
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“This is a unique and valuable work. It aptly summarizes the voluminous literature on cannabis to bring the reader a better understanding of its origins and uses, as well as the relationship with man, its chief employer and manipulator.” —Ethan Russo, President of the International Cannabinoid Research Society

Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary exploration of the natural origins and early evolution of this famous plant, highlighting its historic role in the development of human societies. Cannabis has long been prized for the strong and durable fiber in its stalks, its edible and oil-rich seeds, and the psychoactive and medicinal compounds produced by its female flowers. The culturally valuable and often irreplaceable goods derived from cannabis deeply influenced the commercial, medical, ritual, and religious practices of cultures throughout the ages, and human desire for these commodities directed the evolution of the plant toward its contemporary varieties. As interest in cannabis grows and public debate over its many uses rises, this book will help us understand why humanity continues to rely on this plant and adapts it to suit our needs.

Robert C. Clarke is Cannabis researcher and Projects Manager for the International Hemp Association in Amsterdam and the author of *Marijuana Botany and Hashish!* **Mark D. Merlin** is Botany Professor at University of Hawai‘i at Manoa and author of *On the Trail of the Ancient Opium Poppy*.



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