

River Books Spring 2017

River Books

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Publishers of Southeast Asian art, culture & history

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River Books was founded 30 years ago to publish books on Southeast Asian art, history and culture. We are committed to recording and preserving unique and vanishing cultures, as well as celebrating the most beautiful art and architecture in mainland Southeast Asia. In Spring 2016, River Books was one of the founders of **Bangkok Edge** - Bangkok's first ideas festival.

Our Thai language books cover aspects of Thai history, while on the dictionary front, our Unabridged English-Thai dictionary continues to be reprinted with many electronic versions licensed throughout the world. A major new project in preparation is the Thai-English dictionary. Electronic versions and an app will also be available.

Working with acknowledged experts, River Books titles combine excellent photography, design and production values. Significant books published in 2016 were **Unseen Siam – Early Photographs 1860-1910** and **Fit for a Queen - Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Creations by Balmain**. The first title in the **Discover Asian Art** series, **Bencharong – Chinese Porcelain for Siam** is available in early 2017, as is the beautiful **Catching the Light – A Journey through Burma**.

Following the success of **Siamese Coins** (sold out within four months of publication), **The Evolution of Thai Money**, is a companion volume, while a new geographical departure for River Books is the fascinating account of life among an endangered African tribe, **The Barabaig – Life, Love and Death on the Tanzanian Plains** by Charles Lane.

Our fiction list continues to grow, with a new title by Claire Keefe-Fox, **Siamese Tears**, an exciting thriller by G. Svasti, **A Dangerous Recipe**, and an historical novel, **The Stairway Guide's Daughter** by John Burgess.

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest news and information about events, new books and reprints, or email chris@riverbookslondon.com to receive our regular newsletter.

Full details available in this catalogue and on our website:
www.riverbooksbk.com



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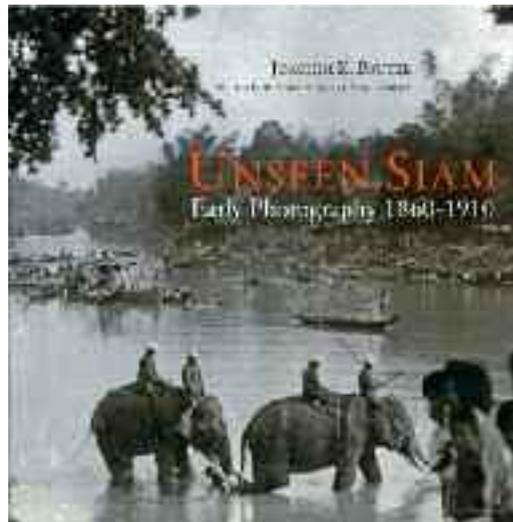
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UNSEEN SIAM

Early Photography 1860-1910

Joachim K. Bautze

364 pp, 280 x 280 mm
 Hardback, 704 b/w photographs
 ISBN 978 616 7339 66 5
 £40/\$69.95 October 2016 (UK & USA)



Unseen Siam – Early Photography 1860-1910 reproduces many previously unpublished images and is the first extensive English-language overview of early photography in Siam (Thailand).

The book reveals the careers of 15 early photographers who worked in Siam – Abbé Larnaudie, Fedor Jagor, Pierre Rossier, Carl Bismark, Francis Chit, John Thomson, Henry Schüren, Gustave Richard Lambert, Max Martin, William Kennett Loftus, Fritz Schumann, Joaquim António, Robert Lenz, Emil Groote and Kaishu Isonaga – many of whom became court photographers to the then ruling King of Siam. Their work included

photographic cartes-de-visite, as well as large-sized images from attributable albums and portfolios. Each photograph is fully catalogued, and often attributes the photo-grapher of some well-known images for the first time. This exhaustively researched reference work includes biographies of the photographers and an extensive bibliography.

The book is an invaluable insight into Siam when it was truly opening up to the outside world, with photographs of every aspect of Siamese life,



from inside the royal palace to vernacular architecture and riverine views; from kings and queens to ordinary people and village life.

The author

Art historian Dr. Joachim K. Bautze has taught at the universities of Heidelberg, Tokyo and Berlin. He has guest-curated exhibitions of Indian art in Europe and the U.S.A. He has written, contributed to, or edited, a number of books, catalogues and articles on South- as well as Southeast Asian art and photography.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Creations by Balmain

Melissa Leventon



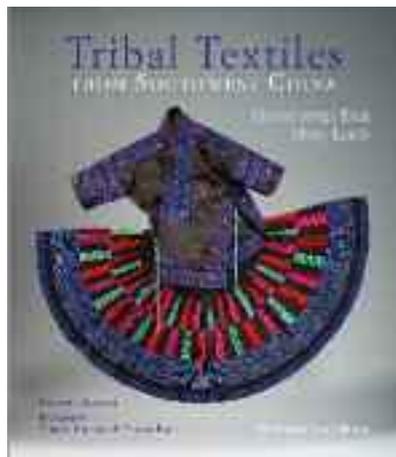
232 pp, 285 x 230 mm
 Hardback, 313 colour photographs
 with 90 b/w images
 ISBN 978 616 7339 63 4
 £35/\$55 October 2016
 (UK & USA)



In 1960, King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand embarked on an epoch-making state visit to 15 Western nations. The trip, which revitalized the image of Thailand internationally, was a coming-of-age for the young monarchs who thus entered upon the world stage. Presenting an engaging image of their homeland, Their Majesties were received by statesmen, local and international celebrities, and many of the crowned heads of Europe.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit enchanted Europeans and Americans during the tour with her "fairytale" couture wardrobe. Designed primarily by Pierre Balmain, her regal attire was the result of a professional collaboration that was to last for more than two decades. The interest and acclaim accorded the beautiful Queen contributed greatly to that first tour's success and established her as an international taste-maker and the era's epitome of royal style. Moreover, Her Majesty's Thai dress from the tour evolved into modern Thai national dress, and her subsequent work with Balmain significantly influenced its development as well.

Fit for a Queen charts the evolution of Her Majesty's royal style and her professional relationship with Balmain. The book showcases more than 70 of the ensembles he designed for Queen Sirikit in the 1960s and 1970s in photographs by renowned Thai fashion photographer Nat Prakobsantisuk.



TRIBAL TEXTILES FROM SOUTHWEST CHINA

Threads from Misty Lands

Catherine Bourzat
Photography Thierry Arensma
and Philippe Fatin

254 pp, 300 x 255 mm
Hardback, 320 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 71 9
£40/\$64.95 October 2016



Profusely illustrated with over 320 colour illustrations, the book not only studies the designs themselves but shows the ceremonies the textiles are made for, the traditional weaving methods employed as well as other other ornamentations such as headpieces and fastenings. Dyeing techniques and other working methods are also discussed.

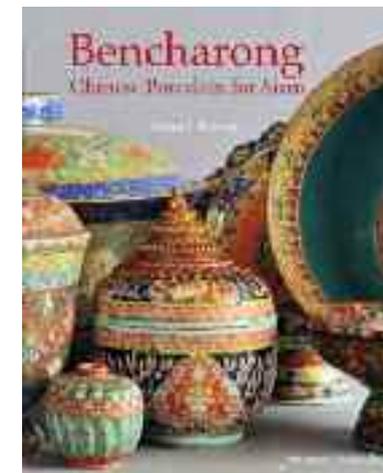
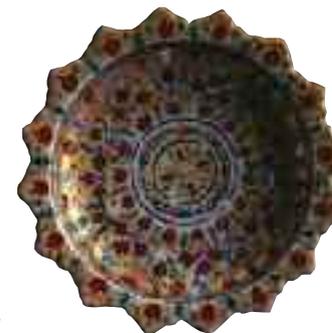


Discover Asian Art

BENCHARONG - CHINESE PORCELAIN FOR SIAM

Dawn F Rooney

224 pp, 222 x 175 mm
Hardback, 302 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 68 9
£14.95/\$25 January 2017



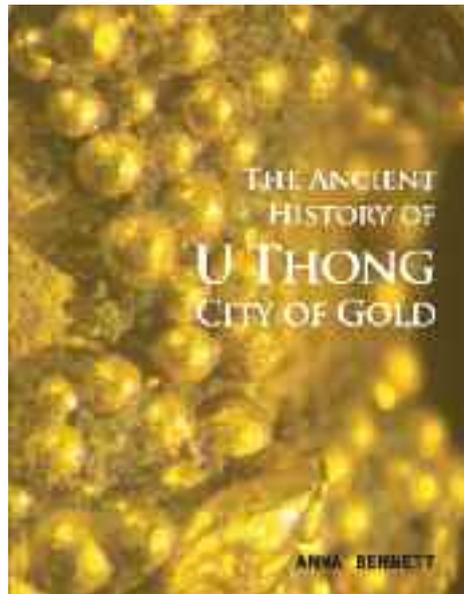
Bencharong, a unique class of Chinese export ware, was made exclusively for Thai royalty and the ruling elite in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Enamelled porcelain containers and dishes for the table and boudoir are resplendent in kaleidoscopic colours inspired by verdant, tropical vegetation. Lai Nam Thong ('gold-washed'), a variant, takes the opulence of this ware to a pinnacle by adding gold as an embellishment. Although Bencharong belongs both in place and time to the broader tradition of Chinese export art for the European and American markets, it is distinctively Thai in

style and aesthetics. A wealth of lavish illustrations, many never before published, are visual revelations of Bencharong's splendour.

The author traces the history of Bencharong from the renowned kilns of Jingdezhen to enamelling centres at coastal ports in southern China and its final destination – Ayutthaya and Bangkok.

Dawn F Rooney, a long-term Thai resident and an art historian specialising in Southeast Asia, is the author of nine books, of which four are on the ceramics of the region.





U THONG – CITY OF GOLD

Anna Bennett



168 pp, 270 x 210 mm
 Paperback, 400 illustrations with 2 maps
 ISBN 978 616 7339 81 8
 £25/\$40 February 2017 (UK & USA)

U Thong, 100 or so km north of Bangkok, has been an important site for over 2,000 years, as witnessed by the discovery of a 3rd century Roman coin. The moated city was connected to the Chin river, thereby gaining access to international trade routes.

The inhabitants of the early centres of Classic Southeast Asian civilisation were already wealthy enough to own large quantities of ornate jewellery such as imported beads from India and carved stone from Taiwan. They had so much gold that central and western mainland Southeast Asia including the U Thong area was known in Sanskrit as Suvarnabhumi, the Golden Land.



This publication brings a new perspective to the study of ancient gold from U Thong. The author is a trained research metallurgy scientist, and these skills have been brought to bear on the highly significant corpus of early gold artefacts found in and around the moated city, the largest accumulation of such artefacts from any of the ancient *muang* of Thailand.

The goldsmiths were as highly skilled as those anywhere else in the world, but almost all previous studies have been written by people who can only study the outer appearance to draw conclusions regarding its age and place of origin.

Anna Bennett is an archaeological scientist and conservator, as well as a principal of Conservation and Technical Services Limited, a company she founded in 1989, which is affiliated with the Centre for the Scientific Investigation of Works of Art. She was trained as a conservator and gained her PhD in 1988 from University College London. From her doctoral fieldwork in Lopburi province in the years 1984 to 1988, and frequent return visits to investigate new finds, she has been scientifically engaged with this region for some 32 years.

BARABAIG

LIFE, LOVE AND DEATH ON TANZANIA'S HANANG PLAINS

Charles Lane

246 pp, 280 x 240 mm
 Hardback, 150 illustrations with 2 maps
 ISBN 978 616 7339 85 6
 £35/\$55 March 2017 (UK & USA)



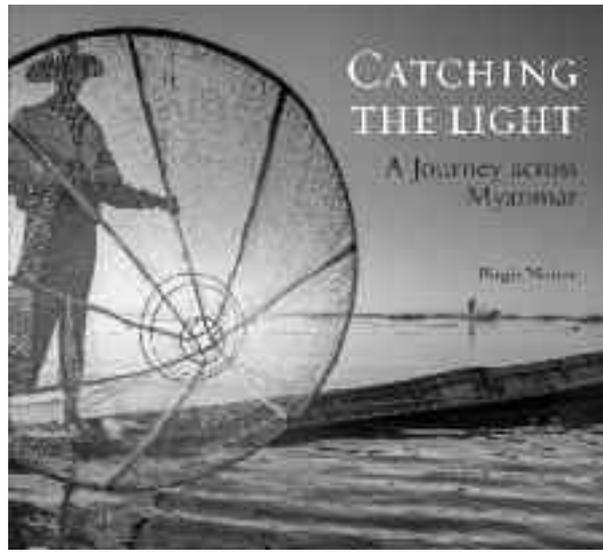
The Barabaig are a group of nomadic cattle herders in north central Tanzania. In the 1980s, Charles Lane had the privilege of living as one of them. Despite being known as killers by their enemies, he found them to be generous and caring companions, giving him his own cattle and sharing all aspects of their lives. However, their reputation for stealing cattle and killing their foes has led them to be widely feared and disliked by administrators and neighbours, thereby contributing to the seizure of much of their lands and abuse of their rights.

This beautifully illustrated book, photographed by Charles Lane, shows the Barabaig's artistry in

many facets of their lives, and provides both a fascinating anthropological record and a visual feast. It also recounts how Charles joined with the Barabaig in an ultimately unsuccessful legal challenge for the loss of their lands. This rich and hitherto sustainable culture is now under threat, ensuring that this book will become an invaluable record.

With a Preface from Survival International Director, Stephen Corry, and Foreword by author and activist, George Monbiot.





CATCHING THE LIGHT A Journey across Myanmar

Birgit Neiser

200 pp, 250 x 230 mm
Hardback, 153 illustrations with 1 map
ISBN 978 616 7339 83 2
£22/\$35 April 2017 (UK & USA)

Much has changed in Burma since Birgit Neiser first visited in 1981. The country is now known as Myanmar, and military rule – which lasted nearly half a century – has given way to a tentative democratic process. Returning in 2010, at the cusp of this groundbreaking shift, Neiser began spending two months each year in Myanmar. To document ways of life she knew would soon start to disappear and to reach areas inaccessible to the casual visitor, she travelled across the country – on the back of timber trucks in the mountains of Kachin state, by motorbike in northern Shan State, and onboard an old fishing vessel in the Andaman Sea. The result is *Catching the Light* – a dazzling

collection of photographs that captures a unique moment in Myanmar's social, cultural, and political history.

Birgit Neiser is a German photographer who divides her time between Germany and Australia. Her work has been exhibited in London, Munich, Sydney and in the National Museum in Yangon.

“Although Myanmar is a country full of colour, I chose black & white images for this book because they provide a deeper insight into the country's soul than colourful travel images of the main tourist attractions.” – Birgit Neiser



A DANGEROUS RECIPE

G. Svasti

312 pp, 196 x 128 mm
Paperback, 1 map
ISBN 978 616 7339 82 5
£7.99/\$12 April 2017 (UK & USA)



Celebrity chef Corran Brook scours the globe for the world's best recipes and foods, for his ambitious compendium, 'The Story of Food'. But when travelling through Asia and chancing on a rare and extraordinary meal he cannot decipher, his struggle to unravel its secrets draws him deeper into a mystery of corruption and intrigue, it proves difficult to extricate himself from.

A Dangerous Recipe is a salutary story of greed, infatuation and obsession. But more than a hunt for perfection and the sublime, the book is also an insight into western attitudes to world culture;

whether a bug, monument, fossil or dish, there's a compulsive need to control, curate and make it one's own.

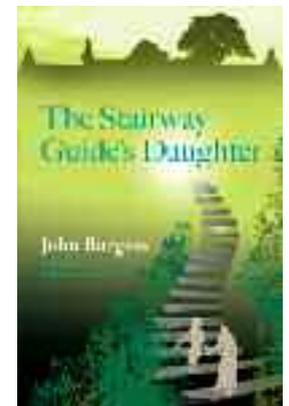
G. Svasti, half English and Thai, has known many lives. After a career in television and production design, he started several businesses, was a company director with Pearson PLC, co developed the Soho Theatre and more recently co-founded the international media company, Contagious Ltd. Recently he has returned to writing. *A Dangerous Recipe* is his first novel.

THE STAIRWAY GUIDE'S DAUGHTER

John Burgess

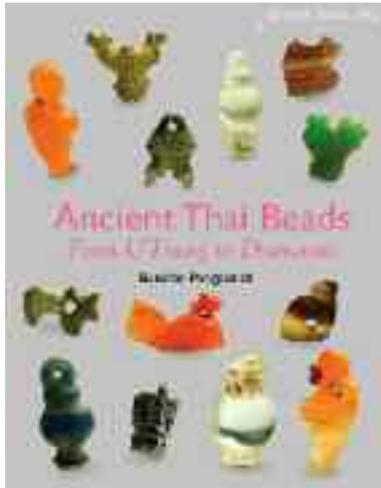
400 pp, 196 x 128 mm
Paperback, 1 map
ISBN 978 616 7339 87 0
£8.99/\$15

April 2017 (UK & USA)



In twelfth century Cambodia, a young woman called Jorani earns her living guiding pilgrims up a two thousand-step stairway to the magnificent cliff-top temple Preah Vihear. One day, she accidentally witnesses the furtive burning of sacred palm-leaf documents, and is drawn into a succession struggle at the temple. She is forced to choose between loyalty to family and to the son of the abbot, with whom she forms an unlikely bond.

Set in the golden age of Cambodia's Angkor civilization, *The Stairway Guide's Daughter* brings to life a temple that is one of humankind's most remarkable creations of faith and architecture, and is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



220 pp, 222 x 175 mm
Hardback,
200 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 88 7
£35/\$55 March 2017

ANCIENT THAI BEADS

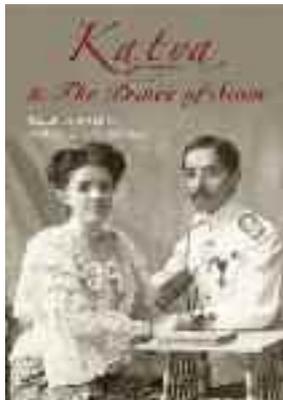
From U-Thong to Dvaravati

Bunchar Pongpanich

In the pre-historic period in the archaeology of Thailand, beads are among the most exciting finds. Easily transportable, hard and durable, one bead can provide a mass of information. Usually found as part of grave assemblages, the quantity of beads found can give an excellent indication as to the wealth of the buried person, while exotic beads bear witness to ancient trade routes.

Some beads were carved for the beauty of the stone, while others also had religious or ritual significance. Other materials include gold, pottery and glass.

In this important book, long-time collector and expert, examines the history of Thai beads from the period of U-Thong until the Dvaravati era of around the 6th-8th centuries AD.



252 pp, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback,
168 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 33 7
£9.95/\$15.95 March 2017

KATYA AND THE PRINCE OF SIAM

Eileen Hunter and Narisa Chakrabongse

Katya & the Prince of Siam is the story of a daring love affair and marriage between a beautiful young Russian girl from Kiev and a Siamese prince, Prince Chakrabongse - one of King Chulalongkorn's favourite sons. It tells of their meeting in St. Petersburg in 1904 where the prince had an honorary commission in the Hussars as a protégé of the Tsar, of their elopement to marry in Constantinople and their journey and arrival in Siam. At first an outcast in Thai society, Ekaterina Ivanovna Desnitsky, or Mom Katerin as she became known, gradually gained love and respect. In 1908, they had a son, Prince Chula, and for the next 10 years enjoyed a happy life in Bangkok society as well as making various trips abroad and throughout Siam.

Making use of much hitherto unpublished archive material such as letters, diaries and photographs, the book gives a fascinating insight into life in both pre-revolutionary Russia and the Siamese court.

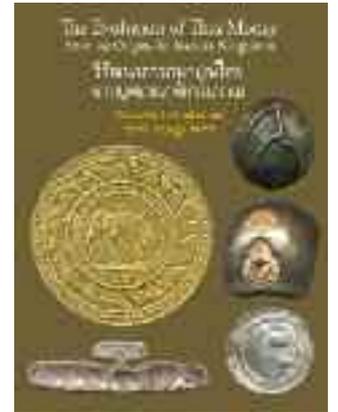
THE EVOLUTION OF THAI MONEY

FROM ITS ORIGINS IN ANCIENT KINGDOMS



Ronachai Krisadaolarn

270 pp
280 x 215 mm.
Hardback with slipcase and
reproduction coin, 245 colour photographs
ISBN 978 6167339 73 3
£50/\$80



This book is the result of over 40 years study of the various forms of Thai money from their origins to the introduction of the decimal system of baht and satang. A companion volume to the award-winning book, *Siamese Coins – From Funan to the Fifth Reign*, it includes 100s of new coins – pressed silver, metallic ingots (*toks*), silver bars ('tiger tongues'), bent ingots (*chiang* money), tokens and *pot duang* (bullet money). The author examined, photographed and weighed thousands of specimens, conducted hundreds of assays, and obtained images from museums, dealers and private collectors.

Ronachai Krisadaolarn. Born in Brooklyn, he gained law degrees in the USA before coming to Thailand in 1969 as an American Air Force Judge Advocate, pursuing a legal career, and becoming a Thai citizen in 1998. A leading coin expert, he has authored or consulted on many major coin books and exhibitions.



SIAMESE TEARS

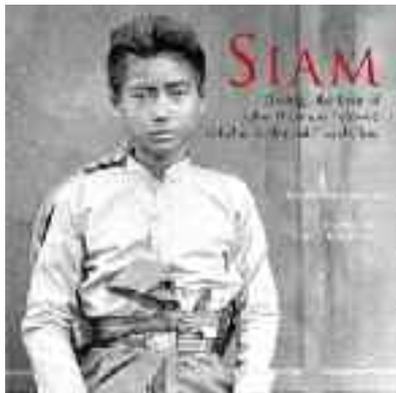
The kingdom's struggle against
the colonial superpowers

392 pp, 196 x 128 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 6167339 75 7
£ 9.95/\$14.95

Claire Keefe-Fox

Siam 1890 and blue-stocking Julie Gallet, an independent-minded Parisian, has made what her English mother describes as an imprudent match. Following her husband to the Far East, she comes to stay with Michael Crawford, her British diplomat cousin and discovers a city of golden spires and colonial intrigue between France and England. Resisting entreaties to return home, Julie settles in Bangkok, teaches French to the ladies of the Royal Court and becomes passionately involved in Siamese life and affairs. Her irreverent journal recounts her growing political awareness along with the awakening of her sensuality. Blending fact and fiction, *Siamese Tears* is a faithful account of the events leading to the Paknam incident through the eyes of those who witnessed them.

Claire Keefe-Fox was born in Italy of French and American parents and grew up between Europe and the USA. She always felt a special affinity for Asia. She has written three novels in French about Thailand, and divides her time between France and Bangkok.



SIAM – Through The Lens of John Thomson 1865-66 including Angkor and Coastal China

Paisarn Piemmettawat
Translated: Narisa Chakrabongse
160 pp, 280 x 280 mm
Hardback, 100 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 51 1
£19.50/\$40

"John Thomson, brought to 19th century photography a true artist's eye, great technical ability and, above all, a deep humanity and respect for his subjects... A BOOK TO BUY AND TO TREASURE"
Arts of Asia Review, June 2015

Legendary Scottish photographer and travel writer John Thomson (1837-1921) set off for the East in 1862, and over the next ten years undertook numerous journeys to various countries, including Siam, Cambodia and China, becoming the first person to photograph Angkor Wat, Cambodia. The photographs from these journeys form one of the most extensive records of any region taken in the 19th century.

At that time, cameras were large and heavy. The photographic images were exposed onto a glass negative and this had to be done in complete

darkness, on location, in a portable darkroom tent. Despite the limitations of the process, Thomson was able to make photographs of great beauty and sensitivity, capturing the individuality and humanity of the diverse people of Asia, whether royalty or street vendor.

The photographs of his trip to Siam in 1864-65 have never previously been published as a group. Thomson received unparalleled access to King Rama IV of Thailand, and his images of the king, royal ceremonies, temples and landscapes form a unique archive of images.



TEA HORSE ROAD China's ancient trade road to Tibet

Michael Freeman
Selena Ahmed
264 pp, 228 x 228 mm
Paperback
250 photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 53 5
£25.00/\$40

One of the longest and most dramatic trade routes of the ancient world, the Tea Horse Road carried a crucial exchange for 13 centuries between China and Tibet. China needed war horses to protect its northern frontier and Tibet could supply them. When the Tibetans discovered tea in the 7th century, it became a diet staple, but its origins are in southwest China, and they had to trade for it.

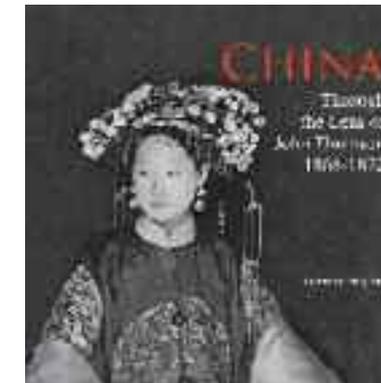
The result was a network of trails covering more than 3,000 kilometres through forests, gorges and high passes onto the Himalayan plateaus, traversed by horse, mule and yak caravans, and human porters. It linked cultures, economies and political ambitions, and lasted until the middle of the 20th century.

Re-tracing the many branches of the Road, photographer and writer Michael Freeman spent two years compiling this remarkable visual record, from the tea mountains of southern Yunnan and Sichuan to Tibet and beyond. Collaborating on this fascinating account, ethno-ecologist Selena Ahmed's description of tea and bio-cultural diversity in the region.

CHINA Through The Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872

Betty Yao
168 pp, 280 x 280 mm
Hardback, with 157 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 65 8
£25/\$40

150 stunning black-and-white photographs from late 19th century China portray Chinese landscapes, architecture and city scenes, intimate portraits of Manchu brides and Mandarin officials. Betty Yao curated the exhibition that inspired this book and works closely with the Wellcome Institute which owns the original negatives. The photographs have been exhibited all over the world.



[John Thomson's images] offer an inspiring glimpse into a lost world that continues to intrigue. An important record but also a joy to behold, this book is both history and high art.
Traveller Magazine (Autumn 2010 issue)



THE HOUSE OF THE RAJA Splendour and Desolation in Thailand's Deep South

Xavier Comas
232 pp, 290 x 290 mm
Hardback, 86 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 17 7 £40.00

Forgotten in Thailand's troubled Deep South, stood a dilapidated wooden palace once home to a Malay ruler, the last of his dynasty. Known as the "House of the Raja", it is suffused with loss and solitude. Comas' evocative black-and-white photographs take us to a realm of hauntings, mystic powers and fading memories, while his account enthralls with vivid descriptions in which the real and the magical entwine.

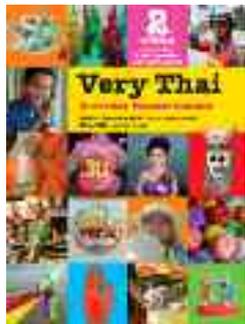
THAI MAGIC TATTOOS (2ND EDITION) The Art and Influence of Sak Yant

Isabel Azevedo Drouyer
Photography Rene Drouyer
175 pp, 280 x 215 mm
67 colour and 68 b/w illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 72 6
£22/\$35 April 2017

With 67 new images

For hundreds of years, Thai Buddhist monks, using magical incantations and spells, have been covering people's bodies with indelible ink marks, *sak yant*, in the belief that they will attract luck, wealth, and blessings. With many new magnificent photographs, *Thai Magic Tattoos* is an essential guide to this fascinating subject.





320 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Hardback, 590 colour
illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 37 5
£20.00

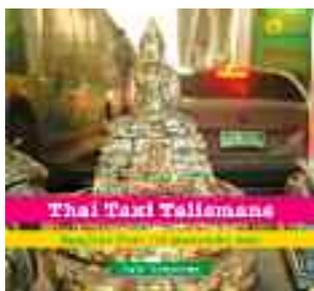
VERY THAI – Everyday Popular Culture

Philip Cornwel-Smith
Photography John Goss & Philip Cornwel-Smith

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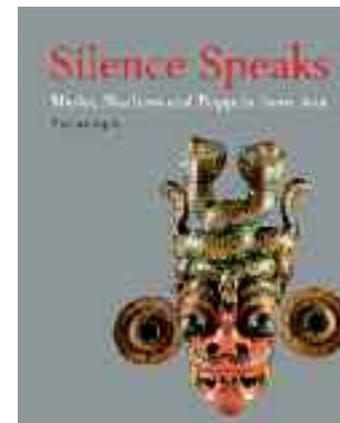


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This dual-language book features 50 proverbs and sayings from Thailand, each interpreted with a work of art from some of Thailand's leading contemporary artists such as Manit Sriwanichpoom, Pinaree Sanpitak and Jakkai Siributr. A fun and fascinating book, it has proved useful to both Thai language learners and Thai children born in Europe and America, giving them a link to their Thai culture.

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The history of Cambodian dance, the relationship with Siam, the role of the French in bringing the dancers to the West, and the stories of dancers who survived the dark period in Cambodian history to revive classical dance today are related in this fascinating and beautifully illustrated book.

This isn't simply a book for everyone interested in South Asian dance..... This is a book for everyone interested in dance.

Bill Harper, *Dancing Times*

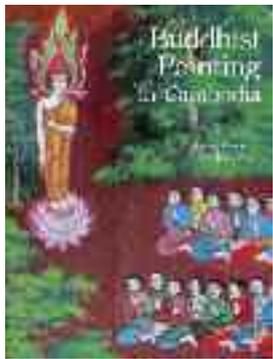


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Contributors: A. Choulean,
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V. Roveda, A-V. Schweyer,
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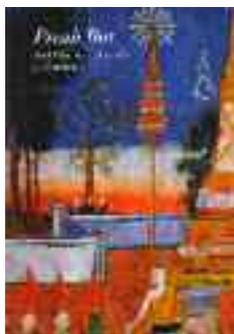
Nine researchers probe the mysteries of this extraordinary monument and its giant face towers, built by King Jayavarman VII in the early 13th century, with insights challenging many of the earlier interpretations of the Bayon's art, architecture and inscriptions.



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Peter D. Sharrock
Photography Paisarn Piemmettawat



The secrets of the great temple and city of Banteay Chmar have been buried in the forest for 800 years. Now, finally being restored, it emerges as the twin-hub of the Khmer Empire under its greatest king, Jayavarman VII (1181-1219). As well as providing a detailed tour of the monument, the book includes a new translation of the temple's main inscription, discusses the unique series of Avalokiteshvara reliefs, as well as Banteay Chhmar's role in providing herbs for the chain of 102 hospitals built by Jayavarman VII.

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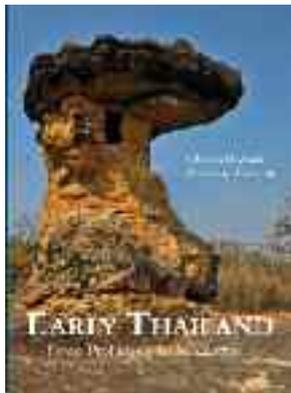
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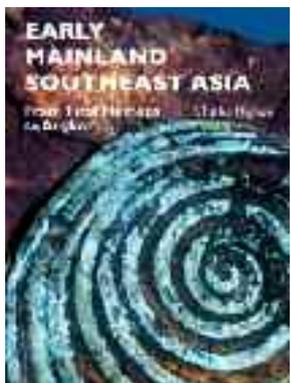


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Charles Higham & Rachanee Thosarat

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Archaeological discoveries over the past ten years give new perspectives on Thailand's past. Drawing on *Prehistoric Thailand*, this greatly updated book covers the history of Thailand from the first human settlement to the earliest civilisations and reappraises the early hunter-gatherers and the origins of early rice farmers. A new chronology shows the social changes of the Bronze Age and the rapid foundation of early states, its art seen in painted ceramics 1,000 years earlier than those of Ban Chiang. Later the wealth of Iron Age chiefs led to the foundation of the Angkorean and Dvaravati kingdoms, while in the south, maritime trade brought exotic ideas and goods.

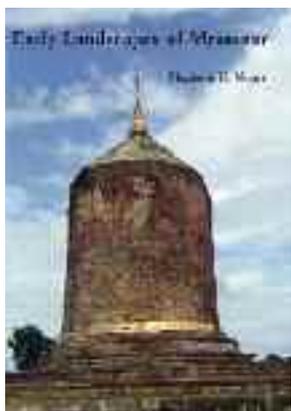


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This synthesis of the latest archaeological discoveries in Southeast Asia begins with the early hunter gatherers and concludes with the early states, in particular reference Angkor. New ideas abound. Rice farming is now documented in the Yangzi Valley, whence it spread south; copper and bronze casting is seen as an extension via China of a process from the Near East. With his excavations in Northeast Thailand, Higham reviews the Iron Age that heralded the transition to early states. The book is the only up-to-date account of such early cultures and a vital compendium for those studying the region.



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Newly published discoveries make this essential reading for those interested in the early history of Myanmar and mainland Southeast Asia. Donald Stadtner, *JSS*

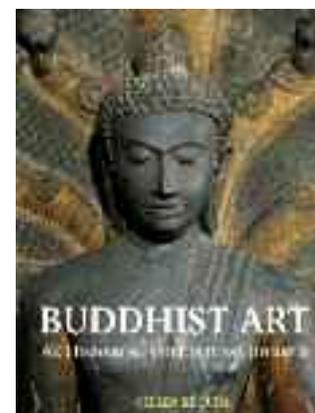
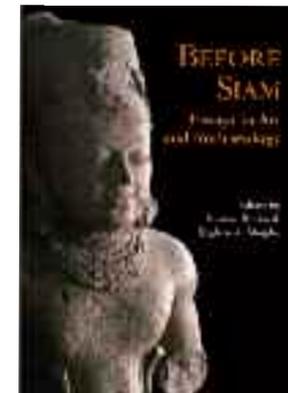
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The birth of Siam has been traditionally marked by the founding of the great city-states of Sukhothai and Ayutthaya, civilisations which grew out of a rich milieu of cultures and traditions present from as far back as prehistoric times. Whether the Mon Buddhism that flourished during the so-called Dvaravati period, the heritage of the Khmers or the Brahmanical and Mahayana stimuli of the Malay Peninsula, these varied influences came together to shape what became early Siam and later modern Thailand.

This peer-reviewed publication with contributions by renowned experts presents new research and discoveries to reconstruct the cultures, religious persuasions and artistic traditions in pre-modern Thailand and its neighbouring regions.



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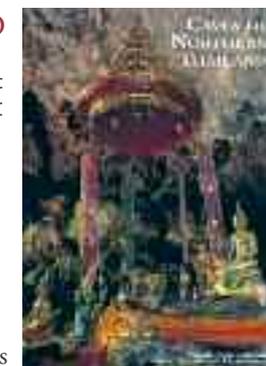
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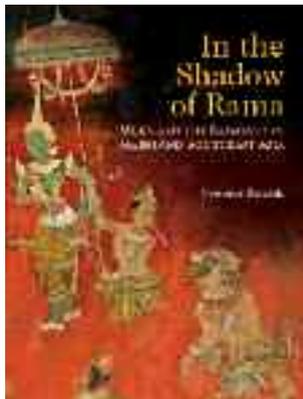
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Pindar Sidisunthorn, Simon Gardner & Dean Smart

..an extremely well-researched, carefully constructed publication that is a credit to both the authors and the publisher. An unusual, and truly impressive work. 'Descent' Journal of *Speleology*, Dec. 2006

More caves occur in the eight northern provinces of Thailand – Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Lampang, Chiang Rai, Phayao, Nan and Phrae – than in any other region. The 106 featured here include the most spectacular: wild caves, temple caves and archaeological sites. All aspects of caves are covered: their geology, environment, archaeology, temples and folklore.





IN THE SHADOW OF RAMA Murals of the Ramayana in Mainland Southeast Asia

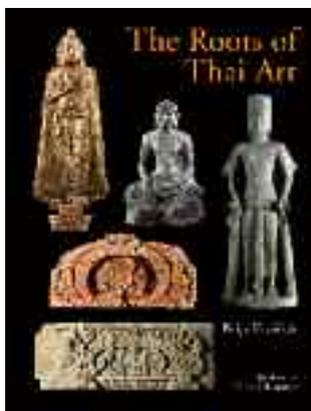
Composed over two thousand years ago, the *Ramayana* was transmitted to Southeast Asia in the first centuries CE. Over the years, it was adapted to suit local customs and traditions. The story of Rama's exile with his wife Sita, her abduction by the ogre king Ravanna, her rescue and Rama's triumphant return to Ayodhya, captured the imagination of the kings of Siam, Cambodia and Indonesia. This triumph of good over evil was then visualised in stone carvings, drama, shadow puppets and mural paintings. Among the latter, Thailand and Cambodia have the finest examples.

In the Shadow of Rama examines the most beautiful paintings of Southeast Asia. From Siam, come the famous murals of the Grand Palace, Bangkok, and the intricacies of the shadow puppets, *Nang Yai*. In Cambodia, Roveda studies the delicate and expressive murals of Wat Bo, Siem Reap, and the Silver Pagoda, Phnom Penh, linking the sources for the images to the Thai *Ramakien* and the Khmer *Reamker*. Representations of Rama's story in Laos and Burma are also discussed.

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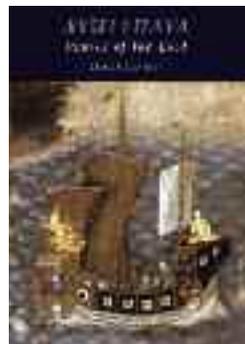
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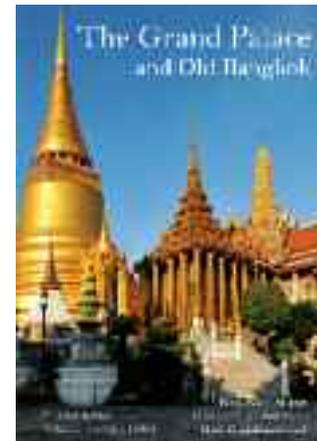
Between 1351 and 1767 AD, Ayutthaya, capital of Siam, was one of the most important trading centres in Southeast Asia, renowned throughout the world for its wealth and beauty.

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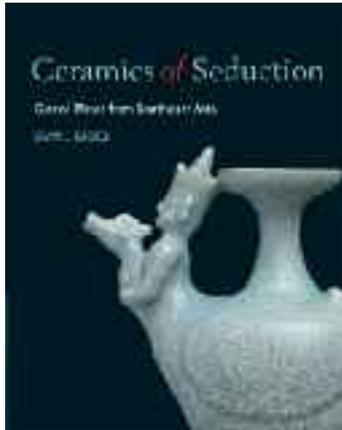
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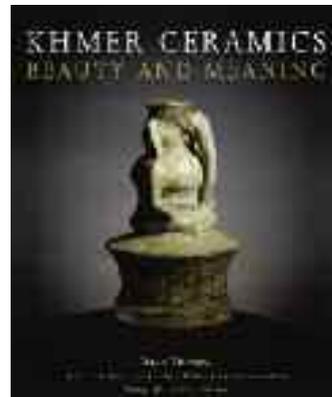
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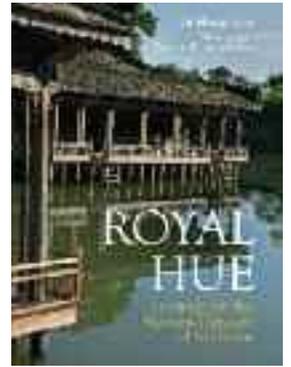
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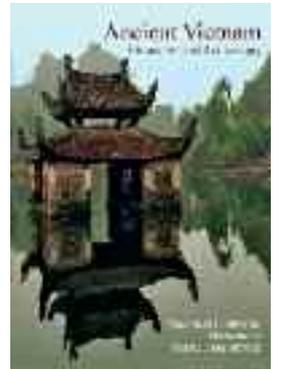
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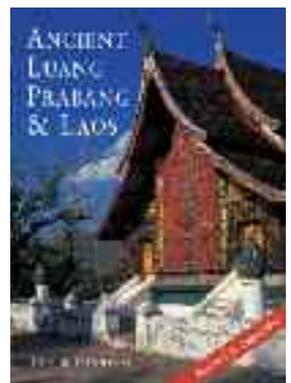
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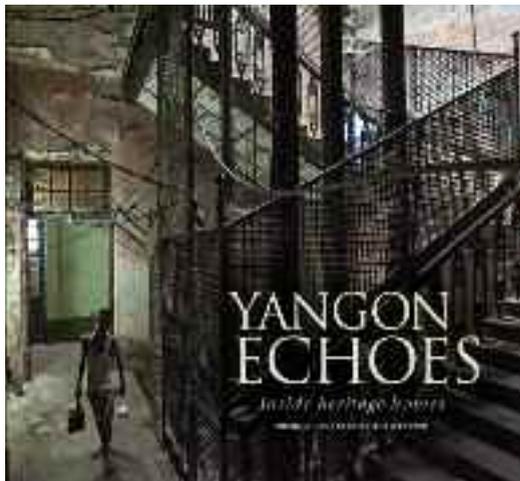
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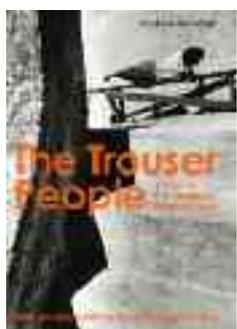
Our storytellers speak of joy and tragedy, simple pleasures and aching issues. They share thoughts and feelings of living through Yangon's emergence from decades of stagnation to engagement with a rapidly spinning world.

Virginia Henderson from New Zealand has been based in Southeast Asia since 1990. An oral historian with a doctorate in heritage management, she writes on culture and art, and organizes exhibitions and festivals. Tim Webster is a documentary photographer specializing in theatre, dance and architectural heritage photography. Tim and Virginia moved to Yangon in January 2013.

Packed with stunning photographs, this beautiful and haunting book provides an evocative insight in to some of Yangon's most atmospheric historic places and interiors.

Philip Davies, English Heritage

The book is a pleasure to look at and read.
Thant Myint U, Yangon Heritage Trust



THE TROUSER PEOPLE

Burma in the Shadows of the Empire

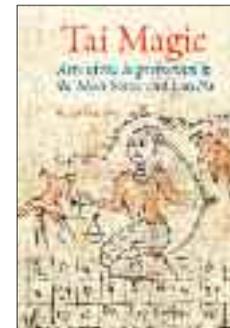
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Chris Baker. *The Bangkok Post*

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Narrated by the eldest daughter of Sao Shwe Thaik, Sao Sanda, *The Moon Princess* is both an autobiography and a memoir of her father who, in 1948, became first President of the Union of Burma. Growing up in the Shan States, she records the changes that occurred during British colonial rule, war and Japanese occupation,

the return of the British administration, Burma's independence and the military takeover in 1962.

In addition, Sanda recounts the story of her marriage to an Englishman and her journey by Land Rover from London to Rangoon.

Burma's Spring documents the struggles of ordinary people made extraordinary by circumstance. Rosalind Russell, who came to live in Burma with her family, witnessed a time of unprecedented change in a secretive country that had been locked under military dictatorship for half a century.

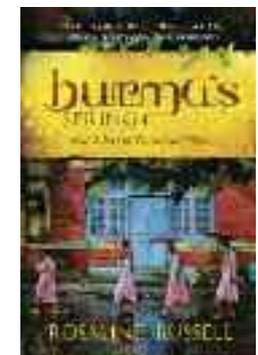
BURMA'S SPRING

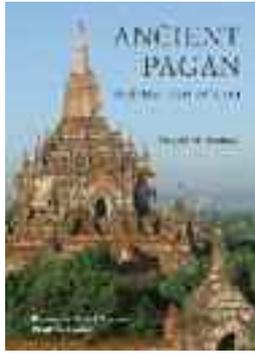
Portraits of a Changing Nation

Rosalind Russell

Rosalind Russell is a journalist who worked for Reuters and then the Independent. She lived in Burma for two years during this important period and returned to cover the elections of 2015.

198 pp, 210 x 142 mm
Pb, over 80 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 55 9
£9.95





ANCIENT PAGAN – Buddhist Plain of Merit

Donald M. Stadtner Photography Michael Freeman

Pagan is the largest and most resplendent centre of Buddhist art in the ancient world with nearly 3,000 brick monuments dotting the landscape along the Irrawaddy River. Construction peaked between the 11th-13th centuries when the city was the capital. Complex vaulting techniques unrivalled in Asia, together with distinctive mural painting and sculpture, created superlative art. Although the capital moved in the mid-14th century, the city never lost its significance.

Dr. Donald M. Stadtner, a distinguished scholar with decades of experience in Burma, describes and explains 33 monuments key to Pagan's unique history with exquisite photographs by Michael Freeman.

286 pp, 232 x 170 mm
Paperback, With over
84 colour illustrations
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BACKSTAGE MANDALAY

Daniel Ehrlich

This glimpse behind the curtain of the ancient Burmese performing arts reveals a world populated by animist spirit media (*nakadaws*), monsters from the *Ramayana* and Buddhist texts, princesses (*minthami*) and princes (*mintha*). We see the performers as they travel around the towns and countryside using temporary bamboo stages constructed for all-night festivals.

This photo essay captures an insider's view of a fragile and mystical aspect of Burmese culture. With essays from Professor Ward Keeler and U Ohn Maung, the book is a visual and informative testament to the Burmese performing arts.



122 pp, 290 x 290 mm £19.95
Hardback, 290 photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 22 1



SACRED SITES OF BURMA Myth and Folklore in an Evolving Spiritual realm

Donald M. Stadtner

The sacred sites of Burma are amongst the most beautiful and spectacular in Asia. However, their fame and sacredness rest largely on their founding myths and legends. The author traces the development of these intricate myths across a swathe of sacred sites from Yangon and the Mon State in Lower Burma to Pagan, Mandalay and Inle lake.

Sacred Sites of Burma is an essential read for anyone interested in the development of Buddhism in Myanmar and its diverse manifestations, whether in art, archaeology, history, ritual or belief.

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£19.95

THE BURMA COOKBOOK Recipes from the Land of a Million Pagodas

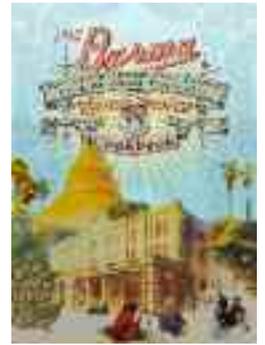
Robert Carmack & Morrison Polkinghorne



This lavishly photographed cookbook and historic travelogue traces contemporary and colonial Burmese dishes over the past century. With its rich traditions of empire, *The Burma Cookbook* highlights the best of present-day Myanmar, including foods of its immigrant populations – from the subcontinent, down the Malay peninsula, and Britain itself. The authors spent some ten years researching the book, while organising and hosting culinary tours to uncover the country's most popular dishes. They were privileged to have exclusive access to The Strand Hotel's collection of historic menus, pictures and photos, while contemporary photography by Morrison Polkinghorne portrays Myanmar street life.

Robert Carmack is the author of four books and a well-known cookery writer. He and partner Morrison Polkinghorne regularly lead culinary tours to Southeast Asia. Morrison is a well-known textile designer and authority on Southeast Asian weaving.

This is more than just a cookbook; along with 100 tested and tried recipes, there are introductory chapters on Myanmar and its history, plus speciality subject articles from Tea Houses, Scott Market, and Local Etiquette, to the 2,000-year old Shwe Dagon Pagoda. An illustrated chapter showcases the ingredients, with shopping substitutes for international readers.



392 pp, 232 x 155 mm
Hardback, 343 colour ills
ISBN 978 616 7339 38 2
£19.95



RIVERSIDE RECIPES Thai Cooking at Chakrabongse Villas

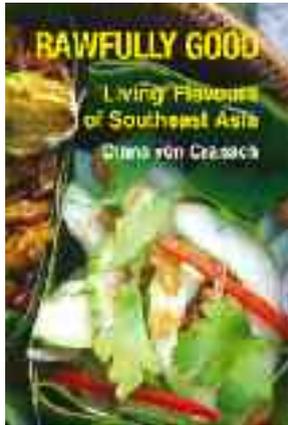
The exquisite food served on the Chao Phraya riverside at the former home of Prince Chakrabongse in Bangkok has become one of the many reasons travellers come to stay at the boutique hotel created there by the prince's granddaughter, Narisa Chakrabongse.

In this sumptuous book, 68 recipes take the reader and nascent Thai chef through a wide range of meals, from a typical Thai breakfast, through classic lunchtime dishes of *somtam*, fried rice and noodles to elaborate evening meals, featuring the signature dishes by Chef Worawat, which have brought this restaurant its great reputation.

For those with an interest in Thai royal history, a chapter describes the building and its past. Chakrabongse Villas has won numerous awards, including "Best Boutique Hotel, Bangkok 2011" and has received Fordor's "Highest Recommendation" for 5* hotels in Bangkok.

Paisarn Piammettawat's superlative photography showcases the food so budding and experienced chefs alike can create delicious Thai dishes.

204 pp, 228 x 228 mm
68 dishes with glossary and
appendices
232 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 36 8 (Eng)
£19.95



284 pp, 245 x 165 mm
Hardback, 342 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 190 4562 12 2
£19.95

RAWFULLY GOOD 'Living' Flavours of Southeast Asia

Diana von Cranach

Owner of the idyllic resort Puri Ganesha in Bali, Diana von Cranach has long been a well-known local food explorer and creator of incredible food. A few years ago, she began a journey into the world of raw food using only locally sourced ingredients. In this book, Diana works with world-famous chefs at restaurants throughout Southeast Asia to prepare healthier and lighter vegan food using their own recipes as a basis.

From Bali in Indonesia, Langkawi in Malaysia, Nha Trang in Vietnam, Siem Reap in Cambodia, Luang Prabang in Laos, Chiang Mai and Loei Provinces in Thailand and the cities of Bangkok, Singapore and Yangon, *Rawfully Good* reinvents over 99 well-known regional recipes with excitingly different and invigorating 'living' flavours.



192 pp, 240 x 170 mm
Hardback, 400 illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 06 1
£25.00

Rirkrit Tiravanija COOK BOOK

Rirkrit Tiravanija

The installations of contemporary artist Rirkrit Tiravanija are often stages or rooms for sharing meals, cooking, reading or playing music. His structures for living and socializing have been shown at museums and galleries throughout the world. In 2004 he was awarded the Hugo Boss Prize by the Guggenheim Museum, "in recognition of his contribution to contemporary art" and he is a Professor at the School of the Arts, Columbia University. The 23 recipes, previously performed in museums and galleries around the world, were cooked again in Chiang Mai and photographed by Antoinette Aurell.

"Letting things burn and cook and boil, that's great". (RT)

THAILAND'S POLITICAL HISTORY: From the Thirteenth Century to Modern Times



B. J. Terwiel

328 pp, 232 x 170 mm
Paperback, 36 illustrations
ISBN 978 974 9863 96 1
£16.95

Revised edition

This fully revised edition has a greatly widened scope, from the evolution of the Siamese state in the early Sukhothai period through the fall of Ayutthaya, to the large-scale investments in modern infrastructure and the economic expansion that have occurred since the 1950s onwards.

A new chapter addresses Thailand's recent political situation and the divisive polarisation of Thai society. It traces the emergence of the rival Yellow and Red shirt groups and the occupation of Rachaprasong by the UDD and their violent dispersal by the Thai military.

SIAM AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1920-1940

Stefan Hell
Foreword Tej Bunnag,
former Minister of
Foreign Affairs

284 pp, 232 x 170 mm
Paperback,
22 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 974 9863 89 3
£16.95



The fight against human trafficking, public health, or combating the international drug trade are pressing problems Thailand and the world face today. However, such topics were already high on the political agenda over 80 years ago during colonial times, when the League of Nations, the United Nations' predecessor, was created.

This first in-depth study of Thai foreign relations in over a decade traces how these and other policy areas brought Siam in contact with the League of Nations, after the kingdom became an original member of this first global body.



ON TRACK – Henry Gittins, Railway Pioneer in Siam & Canada

Paul Gittins

152 pp, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback, 33 b/w photographs with 4 maps
ISBN 978 616 7339 42 9 £9.95

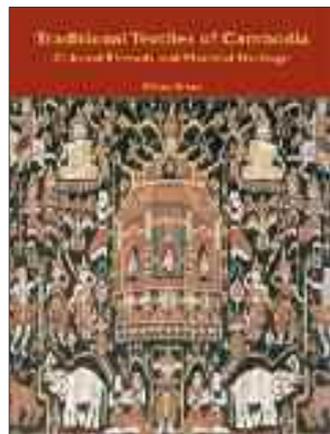
Also available on
Kindle edition

Henry Gittins, born in 1858, went to Canada as a young adventurer where he started his career as a railway engineer. In 1885, he joined a survey team in Siam aiming to develop a national railway system. He spent thirty-three years there, progressing to the highest position in the Siamese Railway Department.

Amongst his many achievements was the discovery of Hua Hin and his heroic construction of the Southern Railway line. During his time in Siam, Henry Gittins kept a series of diaries which not only give a first hand account of the difficult and dangerous conditions surrounding the construction of railways at that time but also a fascinating picture of the emergence of Siam into the modern world.

On Track is an affectionate tribute from the author to the grandfather that he got to know and to appreciate through the diaries that had been left him.

'The diaries provide a rare first-hand account of a great period in world history and Paul Gittins makes excellent use of this material to create a highly readable book.' (Donald Threlford, ex-editor, *The Observer*)



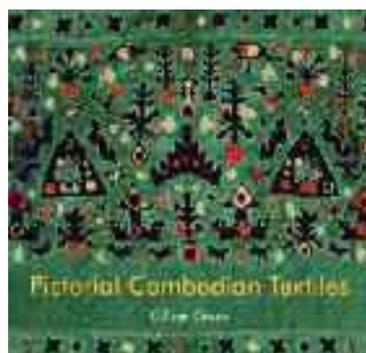
TRADITIONAL TEXTILES OF CAMBODIA

Cultural Threads and Material Heritage

Gillian Green

320 pp, 280 x 215 mm, Hardback
Over 400 colour illustrations
ISBN 974 8225 39 9 £35.00

The silks and costumes of Cambodia are among the most beautiful and complex in Southeast Asia. Gillian Green's comprehensive text provides an historical framework from the Angkorian period onwards. From everyday dress and dance costumes to temple hangings and monks robes, all aspects of Cambodian textiles are elucidated and illustrated in full colour.



PICTORIAL CAMBODIAN TEXTILES

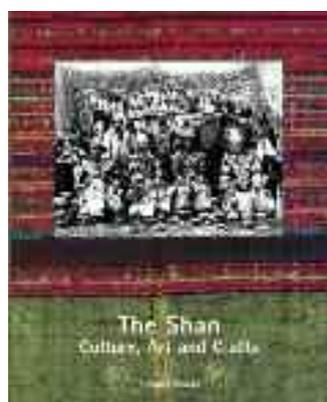
Gillian Green

Gill Green is to be congratulated on this important contribution to our understanding of Cambodian textiles . . . the book provides an extremely satisfying aesthetic experience.

Milton Osborne, *The Asian Arts Society of Australia*, Vol. 18, no. 1

166 pp, 230 x 250 mm
Paperback, 278 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 974 9863 39 8 £19.95

The pictorial representations of Cambodian silk hangings, *pidan*, are unique in mainland Southeast Asia. Many of the few surviving antique textiles visualise Buddhist themes – a response in silk to similar images in other media also used in community religious practice. This book illuminates many facets of these spectacular cloths, assembling for the first time a comprehensive collection of pictorial *pidan* from private and public collections.



THE SHAN

Culture, Art and Crafts

Susan Conway

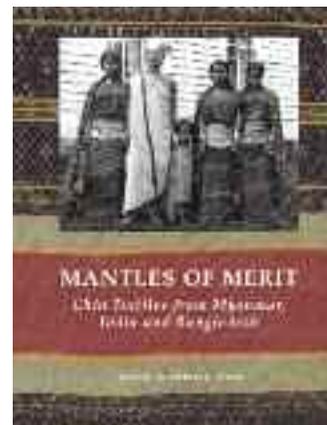
212 pp, 280 x 215 mm
Hb with over 300 colour ills
ISBN 974 9863 06 2 £35.00

The culture of the Shan and their rulers is explored in this fascinating volume with rare, previously unpublished photographs of life in the courts and in the hill regions of the Shan dominion.

.....beautifully produced and written... worth buying for the illustrations alone...

The book also makes a valuable and fascinating scholarly contribution to a little studied part of the Tai world.

Martin Stuart-Fox, *JSS*, 2007 Vol. 95



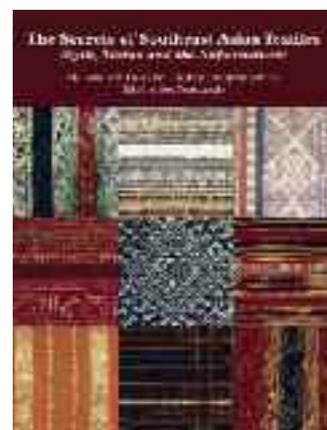
MANTLES OF MERIT

Chin Textiles from Myanmar, India and Bangladesh

David Et Barbara Fraser

288 pp, 280 x 215 mm
Hb, 650 colour ills
ISBN 974 9863 01 1
£35.00

The rich textile heritage of the Chin emphasizes blankets and intricate tunics of homespun cotton, flax, hemp and silk, dyed with indigo and lac, and woven on a back-tension loom. Winner of the Millia Davenport Publication Award 2006 for the best book on costume, and the R. L. Shep Book Award 2007 as the best book on ethnic textiles.



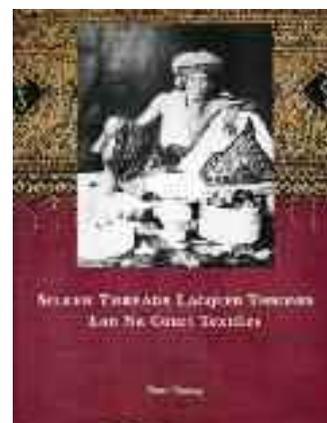
THE SECRETS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN TEXTILES

Myth, Status and the Supernatural

Edited by Jane Puranananda

216 pp, 275 x 217 mm
Pb with over 300 colour ills
ISBN 978 974 9863 38 1
£30.00

Fifteen scholars including Diana K Myers, Gillian Green and John Guy discuss the mythology and beliefs surrounding Southeast Asian textiles.

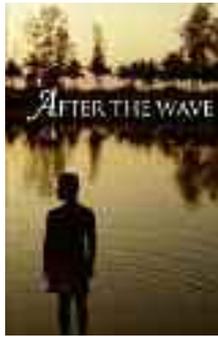


SILKEN THREADS LACQUER THRONES – Lan Na Court Textiles

Susan Conway

282 pp, 280 x 215 mm, Hb
Over 300 colour ills
ISBN 974 8225 65 8 £35.00

The unique character of the 19th century Lan Na culture of Northern Thailand is seen in its sumptuous textiles and court dress reflecting a diverse cultural heritage. In addition, Susan Conway situates this textile history within the context of the complex marital and political alliances of the time.



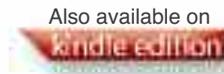
118 pp, 196 x 128 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 616 7339 59 7
£7.99/\$15.95

AFTER THE WAVE

Tew Bunnag

Tew decided to write this collection of short stories linked to the Tsunami, inspired by his experiences of working in the South of Thailand with those who had suffered the devastation at first hand and were dealing with the loss of their families and friends, as well as, in some cases, their livelihoods, stories which touch on universal issues of loss, grief and recovery.

Tew Bunnag was in Bangkok, and studied Chinese and Economics at Cambridge University, before travelling in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. He is a T'ai Chi and meditation teacher, specialising in bereavement counselling.



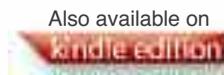
224 pp, 196 x 128 mm
Paperback, b/w
ISBN 978 616 7339 49 8
£8.99

CURTAIN OF RAIN

Tew Bunnag

Two lives, fatefully interlinked; two sets of memories, in danger of being lost. Clare Stone's past has suddenly caught up with her. When a long-suppressed memory comes vividly alive, she finds herself being pulled back to the place of its origin: Bangkok. There, she meets Tarrin Wandee, the writer whose book has unsettled her. But have they met before, all those years ago, when she was young, idealistic and dangerously naïve?

All our lives are linked; it's just a question of how. Moody and atmospheric, *Curtain of Rain* is a story of politics, power and greed, and the search for meaning and redemption.



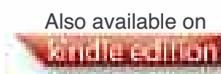
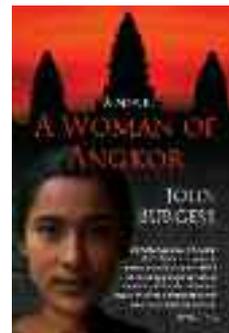
A WOMAN OF ANGKOR

John Burgess

264 pp, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 616 7339 25 2 £8.95

In a village in 12th century Cambodia, birthplace of the lost Angkor civilisation, behind a towering stone temple, lives a young woman named Sray. Her neighbours liken her to the heroine of a Hindu epic, but her serenity is marred by a dangerous secret. One rainy season afternoon, she is called to a life of prominence in the royal court. There, her faith and loyalties will be tested by the great king Suryavarman II.

"Burgess has done something that I believe is unique in modern writing: set a credible and seemingly authentic tale in the courts and temples of ancient Angkor to stir the imagination and excite our historical interest."
(John le Carré)



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