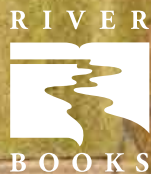


RIVER BOOKS

2023 - 2024



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River Books was founded over 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.

Working with acknowledged experts, River Books titles combine excellent photography, design and production values. We also publish Thai-language books on similar subjects (see our Thai catalogue).

2022 saw bestsellers such as *The King and the Consul* by Simon Landy, *Chariot of the Sun* by Shane Bunnag and *Bangkok Street Art and Graffiti* by Rupert Mann, as well as the second novel by Veeraporn Nittiprapha to be translated into English, *Memories of the Memories of the Black Rose Cat*. On the art front, *Decoding Southeast Asian Art* brings together 30 diverse and fascinating essays by the world's top art historians. *Enchanted Land* is an engaging look at foreign writings about Chiang Mai and northern Thailand before the second world war, while *Unseen Burma*, featuring important old photographs, and *Maymyo Days* shows how magnificent the country once was. *Tai – A Woven Culture* is a celebration of the beautiful weaving practiced by diverse ethnic groups in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The second half of 2023 will see the publication of *Malay Gold and Silver* by Michael Backmann and *Masterpieces of Lacquerware*.

Check our website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Line for all the latest news and information about book-related cultural events, new books and reprints, or email chris@riverbookslondon.com to receive our regular newsletter.

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New Books

Unseen Burma

Early Photography 1862-1962

Thweep Rittinaphakorn

240 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Paperback, 350 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 067 8
£35/\$40/฿1,650



- One hundred years of dynamic history through captivating photos
- A glimpse of this time capsule, once regarded as the 'Pearl of the Orient'
- Many previously unpublished photographs

350 rare photographs of a bygone era from the personal collection of Thai scholar Thweep Rittinaphakorn (Ake).

With extensive captions, this book unveils the lives and landscapes of a bygone era in a country once known as "the golden land".

When the British colonized Burma, they brought with them the latest technology in cameras and photographic reproduction and, since these were introduced to Burma as early as the middle of the 19th century, Burma was richly recorded and photographed. Carefully selected, curated and captioned from the personal collection of Thai scholar Thweep Rittinaphakorn (Ake), who has written and lectured extensively on Burmese culture, these photographs cover 100 fascinating years of Burmese history.

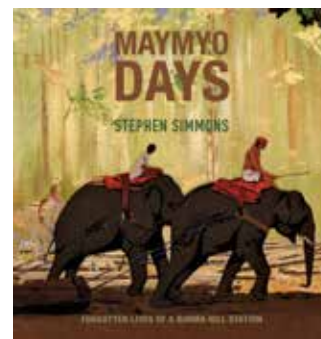
As such, *Unseen Burma* takes readers from the beginning of Burma's colonial era through to the hopeful first years of independence, creating a stunning visual journey across a century of history, story and memory.

"Thweep Rittinaphakorn has done it again. He has produced an enthralling kaleidoscopic pictorial record of events and people a time-traveler can only dream of. The reader is wafted past a host of people, events, and scenery, accompanied by well-researched captions which scholars will find invaluable. The pictorial evidence alone reveals how great and historically rich Myanmar used to be."

Noel F. Singer, author of *Burma - A Photographic Journey*

"This unmatched and beautifully produced collection of photographs, together with the stories that accompany them, shine a fascinating light on Burma's often enigmatic but always captivating past."

Thant Myint-U, author and historian



Maymyo Days

Forgotten Lives of a Burma Hill Station

Stephen Simmons

200 pages, 228 x 228 mm, paperback
172 colour and 50 b/w illustrations
With 5 maps and plans
ISBN 978 616 451 076 0
£30/\$45/฿1,250



Rhododendron htaungaw

Hill. Station. Two ordinary, utilitarian words, yet words which when conjoined, create an exotic exciting vision of those days when the subjects of the British Colonial Government relaxed in the Hill Stations of India and Burma.

Such holiday towns built at 3,000 feet provided a haven and an escape from the heat of the plains. India had Simla, Java had Buitenzorg, Penang had the Crag and Cambodia had Bokor. Burma had Maymyo, high up in the Shan hills east of Mandalay.

All were special but there was something about Maymyo, which seemed to attract some extraordinary, gifted, capable, artistic, often courageous individuals.

This book is a moving evocation of writers, artists, botanists, princesses and soldiers for whom Maymyo really was a heaven 'lost in the clouds' with over 170 colour and 50 black and white images.

A former soldier, Stephen Simmons is the author of *Club Class* in Asia Pacific. He is married with two grown up children and divides his time between England and Bangkok from where he and his wife travel extensively throughout Southeast Asia.

"Maymyo Days is one of those invaluable books that rescues stories from the scrapheap of history and opens a window onto a world and lives long gone. Through photographs, paintings and ephemera gleaned from a wide range of archives and private collections, Stephen Simmons brings 'old Maymyo' back to sparkling life. By all accounts, Maymyo was a magical place and this charming book conjures it up splendidly."

- Emma Larkin, author of *Finding George Orwell in Burma*



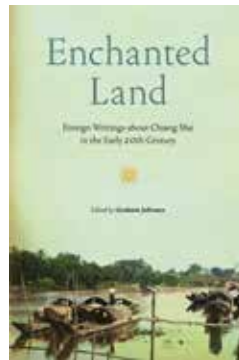
- Diverse and fascinating stories
- Much previously unpublished material
- Nostalgic account of a bygone era

Enchanted Land

Foreign Writings About Chiang Mai in the Early 20th Century

Graham Jefcoate

288 pages, 210 x 142 mm, hardback
59 b/w photographs and 2 maps
ISBN 978 616 451 064 7
£14.95/\$19.95/฿795



- Vivid first-hand accounts of northern Siam
- Many hitherto unpublished writings
- Vignettes from the difficulties and pleasures of daily life

A century ago, northern Thailand (or Siam, as it was then known) was home to small communities of westerners, many of them British diplomats and foresters (like Reginald Le May and Reginald Campbell) or American missionaries (like Lucy Starling and Mary Lou O'Brien). Though few in number, they left behind a considerable written legacy. Their writing is invariably personal and often vivid, describing their hopes and aspirations, the challenges they faced in their work and daily lives, and their attachment to this "enchanted land".

This book makes a selection of that writing accessible to a wide readership, much of it for the first time. The texts are illustrated by 60 evocative photographs, many of them contemporary.

This book is a most welcome addition to the literature pertaining to what is now known as "Northern Thailand". Graham Jefcoate skillfully guides us through the experience of those who lived in an area which, in the early 20th century, was often imaginatively referred to as "Eastern Burma" or "Western Laos". The eyes and feelings of foreign actors and witnesses of that time enrich immeasurably the rational analyses later written by anthropologists and historians.

– Louis Gabaude, retired from the École française d'Extrême-Orient

This collection of rare historical materials – selected by a judicious scholar who knows and loves the land – is sure to captivate anyone ready to be whisked back in time to the northern reaches of Old Siam.

– Carol Biederstadt, Union College, New Jersey, USA

As Chairman of the Chiang Mai Foreign Cemetery, founded 1898, Graham's delightful compilation gives a voice back to so many of those eternally at rest under my care. Missionaries and teak wallahs are brought back to life and now as I wander from stone to stone, I can almost hear them chatting away about their work, their dinner parties, their club, the climate, insect pests and elephants in this enchanted land so distant in so many ways from their homelands in the West.

– Ben Svasti Thomson, MBE



Tai

A Woven Culture

Hans Roels
Napajaree Suanduenchai

348 pages, 320 x 295 mm
Hardback, 206 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 074 6
£80/\$95/฿3,200

On a hot and humid day in June 1997, over twenty Monsoon Seasons ago, Napajaree Suanduenchai and Hans Roels began their maiden journey to explore "Tai" culture and its way of life, determined to preserve a vulnerable and precious culture.

From that day onwards, they would travel extensively to meet and photograph the twenty-three "Tai" subgroups spread out across Southeast Asia, their travels taking them as far as Assam (Eastern India).

On these journeys they photographed and documented all the essentials of the Tai's artistic and magical textile designs, as well as capturing the Tai way of life.

Gradually they realised that the *Tai* groups had undergone many changes – some had moved location, some had migrated to the cities leaving their identities behind and some no longer existed, disappearing along with their exquisite designs and craft.

TAI, a Woven Culture is the culmination of 25 years of passion, patience and an enduring love for Tai silk culture, dedicated to its remaining practitioners and the many generations who came before them.



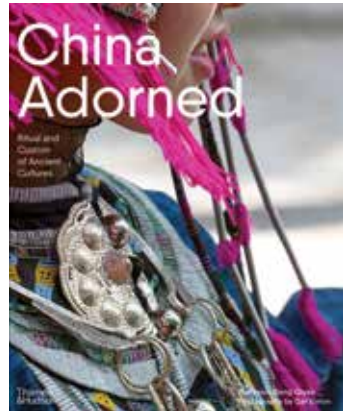
- The fruit of 25 year fieldwork
- Lively, breathtaking photographs
- Delves into Tai ways of living through their textile world

China Adorned

Ritual and Custom of Ancient Cultures

Professor Deng Qiyao
Photography by Cat Vinton

400 pages, 230 x 270 mm
Hardback, 230 colour illustrations
352 b/w illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 068 5
฿2,200



Aesthetic influences drawn from China have long resonated throughout global art, design and thought. *China Adorned* challenges the monolithic idea of 'Chinese' culture and fashion, turning the lens on the rich clothing and jewellery traditions of ethnic minority groups.

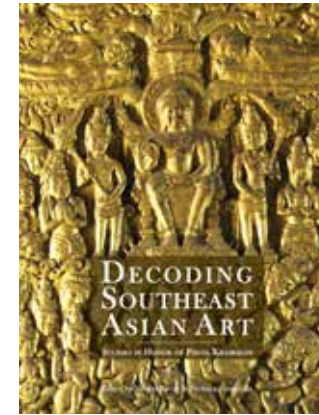
Drawing on three decades of research by cultural anthropologist Professor Deng Qiyao, the book documents the customs, rituals and mythology of more than thirty minorities through their clothing and accessories. Professor Deng's never-before-published material sits alongside stunning contemporary imagery by photographer Cat Vinton, which showcase fabrics, jewellery and the surrounding landscapes, demonstrating the deep connections between people, place, ritual and adornment.

China Adorned is an elegantly illustrated meditation on the resilience of material culture and the importance of preserving traditions in the lives of China's ethnic minority groups.

Thailand Only
Rest of the World : Thames and Hudson



- New and unpublished research
- Jewellery and costume of 30 ethnic minorities
- Stunning contemporary photography



Decoding Southeast Asian Art

Studies in Honor of Piriya Krairiksh

Edited by Nicolas Revire & Pitchaya Soomjinda

424 pages, 280 x 215 mm
Hardback, over 450 illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 066 1
£45/\$55/฿2,200

The collection of essays in this festschrift celebrates the extraordinary scholarship of Professor Piriya Krairiksh, the distinguished Thai art historian on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The most fitting way to honor our esteemed mentor and colleague, who has dedicated his life to teaching and fundamental research on Thai and Southeast Asian art and archaeology is to support further scholarship and debate on the issues in these fields. The volume gathers together contributions from many of his colleagues, friends, students, disciples, and admirers in tribute to his gift to the world of his scholarship.

Topics covered include early art and archeology, Dvaravati, Borobodur, the Khmer and Mon civilizations, Bagan, Ayutthaya, stoneware and porcelain, iconography, photography and contemporary Thai culture. The list of authors is a veritable roll-call of the most eminent scholars in these fields and the book's lavish illustrations make it both a fitting celebration of Achan Piriya and an essential volume for all lovers of Southeast Asian art and culture.

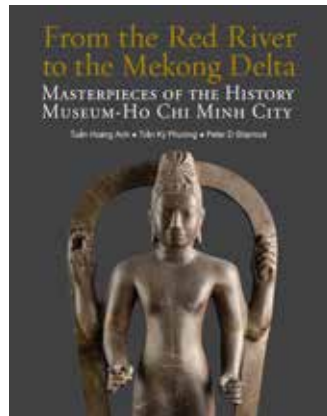


- Essays by 29 top art historians and archeologists in the field
- Lavishly illustrated covering diverse facets of Southeast Asian art
- Memorable tribute to Dr Piriya Krairiksh

From the Red River to the Mekong Delta

Masterpieces of
the History Museum-
Ho Chi Minh City

Tuấn Hoàng Anh
Trần Kỳ Phương
Peter D Sharrock
photography by Pattana Decha



Late 2023

288 pages, 300 x 230 mm, hardback
Over 340 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 072 2

£40/\$65/฿2,000

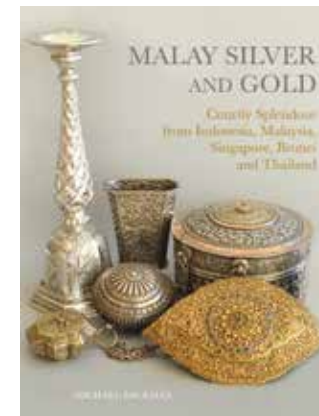
From the 2nd century CE to the 19th century, the people of the fertile estuary of the great Mekong River created treasures of sacred art, architecture and accomplished feats of water engineering that are coming to light in Vietnam's vigorous new archaeological research programmes. The large stilted wooden houses of Oc Eo, the early Venice of the maritime routes of the East in the earliest centuries of the first millennium, drew in traders with precious cargoes from Rome, India and China to trade.

Among the earliest Mekong Delta Buddhist icons are a breathtakingly elegant 2.7m tall Buddha carved in hardwood that has survived more than 1000 years in the delta mud and a 29 cm bronze Buddha that arrived on a trading ship from the 6th century Chinese Northern Qi dynasty. Very early Vishnu statues wear high, floral mitres and clasp war conch-trumpets on their left hip, and Shiva's face stares out from stone lingas.

The Ho Chi Minh Museum collection conserves diverse masterpiece of the art of Vietnam from the prehistoric Dong Son drums of the Red River Delta to the vibrant Hindu and Buddhist statuary of the former kingdoms of Champa in Central Vietnam. In addition, there is an immense array of the art and imperial furnishings of the last Vietnamese dynasty, the Nguyen, founded in the Mekong Delta at the beginning of the 19th century – inlaid wooden cabinets, blue and white ceramics, embroidered silken court costumes and huge wooden and ceramic Buddha statues.



- First comprehensive guide to the HCMC Museum of History
- Essays by experts in the field
- Superlative photography by Pattana Decha



Malay Silver and Gold

Courtly Splendour
from Indonesia,
Malaysia, Singapore,
Brunei and Thailand

Michael Backman

October 2023

This beautifully illustrated and comprehensive account is the first book to be published in a hundred years on Malay gold and silverware.

It tells not just the story of Malay gold and silverware, but also that of the Malay people, with particular emphasis on the banqueting items, the regalia, the betel sets, the jewellery and gold and silver mounted weapons of the 18th and 19th centuries. As well as detailing objects for the Malays of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, southern Thailand and Brunei, Malay-made items for the 18th century European market are also revealed.

With hundreds of photographs of previously unpublished items, and meticulous research, Michael Backman provides a definitive guide to Malay gold and silver. He identifies items not previously thought to be of Malay origin, and conversely points out those pieces once thought to be Malay which are not. Through his detailed analysis, Michael Backman he reveals a rich and sophisticated legacy.



296 pages, 280 x 215 mm, hardback
452 photographs and 3 maps
ISBN 978 616 451 077 7

£80 /\$90/฿2,500



- First book on the subject for 100 years
- Groundbreaking research
- Incredible photographs

Lacquerware Masterpieces from Southeast Asia

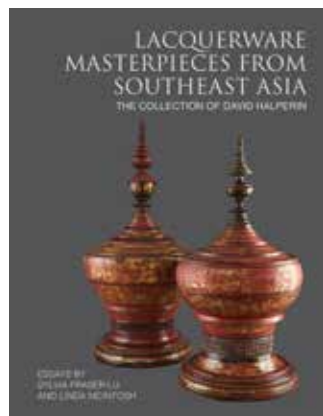
The Collection of David Halperin

Essays by
Sylvia Fraser-Lu and
Linda McIntosh

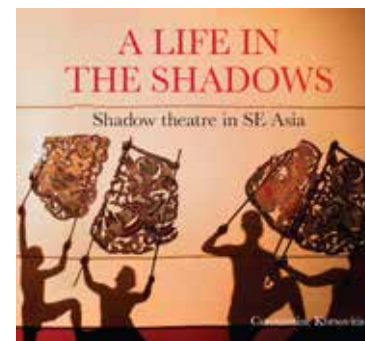
November 2023

296 pages, 280 x 215 mm
Hardback, 300 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 079 1
£40/\$60/฿2,000

Although much has been written about Burmese lacquerware, this book breaks new ground with essays by the art historians Sylvia Fraser-Lu and Linda McIntosh focusing on the locations and techniques of lacquer production in Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, as well as the form, function and use of these beautiful utilitarian and sacred objects. Dating, styles and designs are also considered. More than 150 exquisite and diverse objects are beautifully photographed with full descriptions.



- First new book on lacquer for many years
- Essays by experts in the field
- Diverse and superlative collection



A Life in the Shadows

Shadow Theatre in Southeast Asia

Constantine Korsovitis

November 2023

One of the oldest story-telling traditions, shadow theatre combines puppetry with music, philosophy, history, story telling, fashion, ritual, religion, and education. Through documentary photography, *A Life in the Shadows*, reveals the sophistication and value of Shadow Theatre and its creators.

Constantine Korsovitis who has been documenting the spirit and multiplicity of shadow theatre since 1999 in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, the common thread being the use of the Hindu epics of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata as the source stories.

While each nation has its own distinct culture, shadow theatre is a shared theme. Many of the masters make their own puppets, play all the musical instruments, learn long texts in ancient languages, sing, study movement, and perform for long periods of time in what is one of the most difficult and challenging art forms. Many performers are farmers, fisherman, factory workers, or teachers by day and artists by night.

The book explores all aspects of shadow theatre, as well as including photographs of the most influential masters. Floating between worlds, these men and women are writing and rewriting the world with light and shadows – creating magic and recounting the eternal struggle between good and evil.

176 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Hardback, 200 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 084 5
£30/\$40/฿1,200

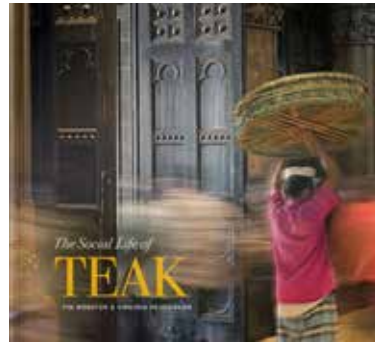


- The result of 20 years research
- Unique insight into the lives of shadow puppeteers
- Evocative photography

The Social Life of Teak

Tim Webster &
Virginia Henderson

220 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Hardback, 200 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 082 1
£30/\$40/฿1,200



November 2023



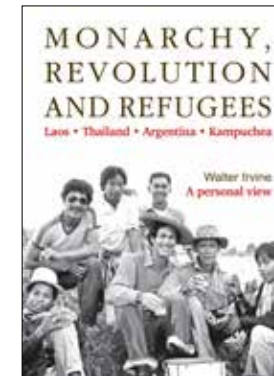
In this illustrated anthology of oral histories, people connected personally or professionally to teak speak of survival, change and learning, creativity and destruction, growth and demise. Woven together, these experiences show how teak has been sought, crafted, cultivated, traded and valued over time. Exploring its significance highlights processes of consumption and commodification, inviting questions about our relationships with nature and the politics of value.

Virginia Henderson and Tim Webster previously authored *Yangon Echoes* (see page 34), which was a fresh look at Yangon's architecture through the lives of the buildings' inhabitants.

In *The Social Life of Teak*, the authors use oral histories to examine the history of one of the world's most valuable commodities, prized for its durability and beauty over millennia, Virginia's insightful texts are accompanied by Tim's unique photographic vision.



- A unique look at the lives of those working with teak
- Insightful and moving oral histories
- Unusual and beautiful photography



Monarchy, Revolution and Refugees

Laos • Thailand
• Argentina • Kampuchea

Walter Irvine
A personal view

Walter Irvine's account places his personal experiences against the political and cultural changes that surrounded the Lao and Cambodian revolutions of the 1970s and 1980s, giving particular attention to refugee movements and their impact. Irvine's professional involvement as teacher in Laos, Social Anthropologist in Thailand and UNHCR official in Argentina gives him an insider's understanding of the specificity of culture, the dynamics of political change, the realities of forced exile, and the challenges of refugee work. His description of a revisit to Indochina in 2016 puts the account of the earlier period into perspective.

This is a fascinating, detailed and richly illustrated account of personal experiences in Laos, Thailand, Argentina and Cambodia in the 1970s and 80s, where Walter Irvine served successively as language teacher, anthropologist and official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Based on copious contemporary diary entries, and enriched by sharp political and sociological analysis, the book will enhance the reader's understanding of the history and cultures of South-East Asia, and of the work of UNHCR.

~ Dr. Martin Barber Associate Fellow, Chatham House; retired UN official, with extensive experience in Laos and Thailand; author of *Blinded by Humanity*

In *Monarchy, Revolution and Refugees* Walter Irvine traces his own political awakening from a state of almost tabula rasa as a volunteer teacher in the Lao "paradise" he discovered before the 1975 revolution, to various levels of later disenchantment. His detailed description of the politics and traditional rituals in pre-revolutionary Laos and communist Kampuchea at a time of radical change are full of valuable insights, and with pertinent illustrations, the book provides a fresh look at the 1970s and 1980s and shows their continued relevance to the present.

~ Dr. Andrew Turton, Emeritus Reader and former Head of the Department of Social Anthropology, SOAS University of London

320 pages, 232 x 170 mm
Paperback, 300 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 065 4

£16.99/\$22.95/฿850



- First-hand account of the fall of the Lao monarchy.
- Fascinating description of Thai spirit mediums
- Astute political and sociological analysis
- Keen insight into refugee dynamics

Totsakan

The Demon King and the Hermit's Riddle

Tamlin Bea

288 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback
£10.99/\$14.99/฿495



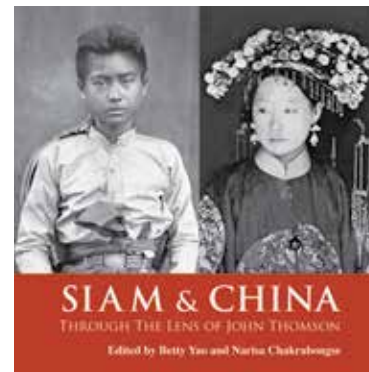
October 2023



Catt and Rawin disappear while on a school visit to the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and find themselves in a bewildering world of deadly demons and cunning monkeys. At first all they want is to go home to Bangkok, but they are told by a friendly hermit that they cannot do so until they accomplish what they have been brought there to do. They are destined to help the good Prince Ram defeat the Demon King Totsakan, who has abducted Ram's wife Sida and whose evil ways are ravaging everything and everyone around him.

They become caught up in a long and bloody war between the demon hordes and Prince Ram's monkey army. Catt draws on her almost superpower martial arts skills while Rawin uses his nerdy intelligence to plot their way out of what for lesser beings would mean certain death. A small boy they meet who has magic powers lends a hand.

The Demon King, angered that two 14-year-olds keep getting in his way, knows there is only one solution – he has to kill them before they kill him. But it turns out that it is not simply a matter of who strikes the mortal blow first. Catt and Rawin discover to their horror that the Demon King imperils not only the world they have been trapped in, but their own world too. There is only one way left for them to fulfill their destiny.



Siam & China

Through the Lens of John Thomson

Edited by Betty Yao & Narisa Chakrabongse

224 pages, 228 x 228 mm
Paperback, 231 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 069 2
£25/\$35/฿1,650

September 2023

Legendary photographer and travel writer John Thomson (1837-1921) left Scotland for Singapore in 1862 and over the next ten years made photographic journeys to Siam, Cambodia, Vietnam and many areas in China, creating one of the most extensive records of any region taken in the 19th century. The range, depth and aesthetic quality of John Thomson's photographic vision mark him out as one of the most important travel photographers.

Thomson arrived in Siam in 1865 and with the help of the British Consul in Bangkok, he was able to gain an audience with King Mongkut who granted him unparalleled access to the King, his royal family and chief ministers, as well as important ceremonies. Thomson also photographed the river in Bangkok and travelled to Ayutthaya, Petchaburi and the surrounding countryside. In Cambodia he was one of the first to photograph and publish images of the Angkor Wat ruins.

Between 1868-1872 Thomson turned his attention to China, making extensive trips to Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing and China's north-east travelling down the Yangtze river and covering nearly 5,000 miles. In China, Thomson's photographic skills reached their zenith and his portraits of women are particularly remarkable.

His collection of over 600 glass negatives form a unique archive of images, which are today housed in the Wellcome Library, London.



History Memoirs Biographies

September
2023



Katya & the Prince of Siam

Getting to know
my Grandparents

Narisa Chakrabongse

268 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Hardback, 186 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 081 4
£9.95/\$15.95/฿499

Katya & the Prince of Siam is the story of a daring love affair and marriage between a beautiful young Ukrainian-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 unpublished archive material, the book is a fascinating insight into life in both pre-revolutionary Russia and the Siamese court.

This completely revised edition by Narisa Chakrabongse includes many recently translated letters which provide new insights into the lives of Katya, Prince Chakrabongse and their son Prince Chula.



- Captivating story that changed the course of history
- Riveting account of Katya's journey to become Mom Katerin
- Biographical story that bridges Siam, Russia, England and France
- Rare and unseen portraits, letters and diary entries
- Fascinating insight into pre-revolutionary Russia and the Siamese court

A Luang Prabang Love Story

Manisamouth
Ratana Koumphon

172 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback, 58 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 042 5

£9.95/\$14.95/฿450



Also available on
kindle edition

In 1930s Luang Prabang, the beautiful and demure Kham-Phiou caught the eye of a sophisticated older man – Prince Souvanna Phouma who determined to marry her against all odds – his family wanted a marriage within the dynasty, while her widowed mother feared palace intrigues. The tale of their tragic love story spans over half a century and is set against the little-known backdrop of old-world Laos, where ancient customs and superstitions still held sway.

In this moving personal account, Manisamouth, recounts her grandmother Kham-Phiou's untold story accompanied by evocative black-and-white photographs, family trees, and a section on Lao history.



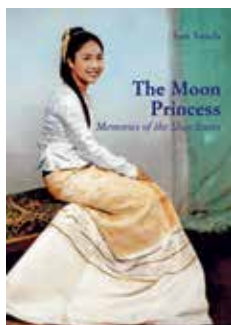
The Moon Princess

Memories of the Shan States

Sanda Simms

310 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Paperback, 162 b/w ills
ISBN 978 974 9863 37 4

£16.95/\$35/฿595



Also available on
kindle edition

- Includes appendices of political documents relating to the Shan States
- Archive photographs, maps and family trees
- An important record of the Shan States, now under military regime

Narrated by the eldest daughter of Sao Shwe Thaik, Sao Sanda, *The Moon Princess* is both her autobiography and a memoir of her father who, in 1948, became first President of the Union of Burma. It also covers Sanda's life at Cambridge, marriage to Peter Simms, much against the wishes of her family and an exciting drive from London to Burma.

Sanda's life in the Shan States against the backdrop of Burmese history from colonialism through independence to military takeover in 1962, is a moving account of the personal tragedies of a family caught up in political turmoil.

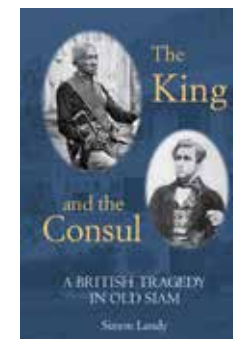
In 1856, soon after Britain and Siam had finalised the historic Bowring trade treaty, the violent death of a Siamese official at the new British consulate threatened to scuttle the deal and lead to war. *The King and the Consul* explores UK and Thai archives to reveal the twists and tensions of this little-known episode that pitted Thailand's King Mongkut, Rama IV, against the first British consul, Charles Hillier. The crisis was resolved without war, but not without cost. The book also reveals how this incident has continued to shape Thai attitudes to foreign land ownership.

"The fabulous tale of the Bowring mission's trials and tribulations, and its ultimate success, leaves an indelible image. It reads like a classic novel [Dickens?], with only footnote citations to the contemporary record as a reminder that all this really happened."

Edward Van Roy, author of Siamese Melting Pot: Ethnic Minorities in the Making of Bangkok

"This intriguing book could only be written by someone with long residence in Bangkok, thorough knowledge of Thailand's property law, and enthusiasm for history. Simon Landy gives us a slice of legal and diplomatic history with close attention to its human dimensions. An unusual and lovely read."

Chris Baker, author of A History of Thailand and political commentator



The King and The Consul

A British Tragedy in Old Siam

Simon Landy

248 pages, 210 x 142 mm, hardback
32 b/w illustrations 6 maps and plans
ISBN 978 616 451 059 3

£16.95/\$27.50/฿975

- An intriguing and little-known story
- Sheds new light on Thai property law
- A new look at Siamese-British relations at a crucial time

Chariot of the Sun relates the story of Siam to that of the author's family, the Bunnags; who came from Persia in the early 17th century and through daring and good fortune held positions of power during the 19th century.

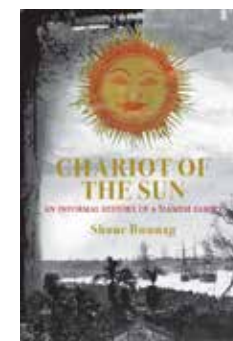
Rather than a straightforward historical account, *Chariot of the Sun* pulls us into a compelling family drama, intertwining a candid and humorous diary with ancient chronicles ripe with violence, mythology, folklore and intrigue.

"*Chariot of the Sun* is a rich and deeply personal telling of a Siamese family's history through 'a labyrinth of memory'. A beautifully written account that skillfully weaves stories of renewal, reinvention and continuity."

- Nic Dunlop, author of The Lost Executioner-The story of Comrade Duch and the Khmer Rouge

"Anywhere in the world, this book would be a surprise because of its unusual blending of memoir and history, and Shane Bunnag's painterly style of prose. ... This is an extraordinary, beautiful and rather daring book."

- Chris Baker - Bangkok Post



Chariot of the Sun

An Informal History of a Siamese Family

Shane Bunnag

296 pages, 210 x 142 mm, hardback
102 b/w Photographs and 4 Map
ISBN 978 616 451 063 0

£18.99/\$29.99/฿895

- First account in English of one of Siam's foremost families
- Moving interweaving of a personal story with Siamese history
- Beautifully written with an evocative, elegiac tone
- Haunting black and white photographs

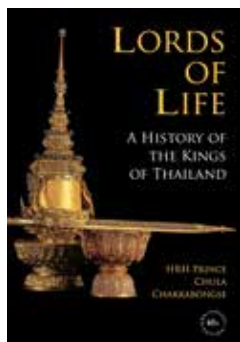
Lords of Life

A History of the Kings of Thailand

HRH Prince Chula Chakrabongse with an Afterword by B. J. Terwiel

324 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Paperback, 370 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 030 2

£22/\$29.95/฿895



- Thai history classic
- Both scholarly & highly readable
- Richly illustrated
- Rare archival images

HRH Prince Chula Chakrabongse (1908-1963) was in a uniquely favourable position for writing the history of the Royal House of Chakri, the current Thai royal dynasty.

With access to unpublished letters, archives and documents he was able to give a fascinating account of the monarchs who were the absolute rulers of Siam for 150 years, who re-established Thai culture and the Buddhist religion after the fall of Ayutthaya and, through skilful diplomacy, preserved Siamese during a time of colonialism.

First published in 1960, the revised edition is profusely illustrated.



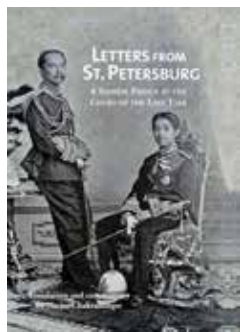
Letters from St. Petersburg

A Siamese Prince at the Court of the Last Tsar

Translation and commentary by Narisa Chakrabongse

452 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Hardback, 400 photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 58 0

£25/\$40/฿1,200



"Letters from St. Petersburg offers a treasure trove for historians of Thailand. [Narisa Chakrabongse] guides the reader with a light touch, providing just enough context to understand each letter. The missives are among the few first-person primary sources available in English about Thai history... [and] the correspondence has something to offer every scholar of Thai history."

~ *Journal of the Siam Society*

Over 280 letters written between King Chulalongkorn and his son, Prince Chakrabongse, from 1896 until the King's death in 1910, cover a turbulent period in Siamese and Russian history. In Tsarist Russia under the patronage of Tsar Nicholas II, the Prince's letters home provide a fascinating insight into his daily life, and the role that Siam occupied in Russia's desire to gain a foothold in the East.

When Tsarevich Nicholas visited Bangkok in 1891 his lavish reception by King Chulalongkorn led to an enduring friendship and, for Siam, an important geopolitical relationship in the face of colonial ambitions by France and Britain.

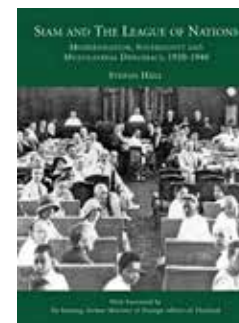
The king's frank letters to his son cover politics, family, health and future plans. Also included are telegrams and a few letters between the Prince and his future wife, Ekaterina Desnitsky, before they eloped to Constantinople.

Beautifully illustrated with 400 photographs and extensive explanatory footnotes.



The fight against human trafficking, improvements in public health, or combating the international drug trade are some of the most pressing problems Thailand and the world face today, but these topics were already high on the international political agenda over 80 years ago, when the League of Nations, the United Nations' predecessor, was created.

This in-depth study of Thai foreign relations traces how Siam came in contact with the League of Nations, after the kingdom had signed the Treaty of Versailles and became an original member of this first global body. Based primary sources in Thailand and Europe, the study tell the story of a unique relationship between the only independent country in Southeast Asia and the League during the inter-war period of 1920-1940.



Siam and The League of Nations

Modernisation, Sovereignty and Multilateral Diplomacy, 1920-1940

Stefan Hell

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

£16.95/\$30/฿895



The beautiful and historic area centred around the Grand Palace, bordered by the Chao Phraya river on the west and Ku Muang Derm canal on the east, is undoubtedly Bangkok's cultural centre and contains many of the city's key sites.

Exploring Old Bangkok visits all the iconic sites as well as lesser-known landmarks such as the Pig Memorial and the Monument to the Expeditionary Force as well as eight on the west bank of the river, including Wat Arun and the Royal Barge Museum.

Lavishly illustrated in full colour, the book includes two walking tours showcase the diversity of the area.



Exploring Old Bangkok

Royal Palaces • Temples • Street Life

Narisa Chakrabongse
Photography Paisarn Piammettawat

220 pages, 232 x 170 mm, paperback
Over 200 colour illustrations
With 4 maps and 17 plans
ISBN 978 616 451 031 9

£16.95/\$25/฿895

- The only guide to explore in-depth this fascinating area
- Lavishly illustrated throughout
- Includes Bangkok's Top Tourist Attractions, including The Grand Palace, Wat Pho and Wat Arun
- Two gentle walks to take in the diverse architecture and sites of the area
- Includes great places to eat and have a drink overlooking the iconic Wat Arun





Popular Culture

Bangkok arrests the senses with a bewildering juxtaposition of hi-tech and impromptu, sacred and profane, drawing equal vigour from its historic communities, cultural diversity and creative boom. In the first comprehensive book on contemporary Bangkok, Philip Cornwel-Smith – author of the best-selling and award-winning *Very Thai* and *Time Out Bangkok* – explores and photographs his adopted hometown from surprising angles, all with the Thai sense of fun. Lavishly illustrated throughout.



Very Bangkok In the City of the Senses

Philip Cornwel-Smith

360 pages, 240 x 168 mm
Hardback, 450 colour photographs
2 colour maps
ISBN 978 616 451 043 2
£20/\$25/฿995

- Follow-up to cult book, *Very Thai*
- Insider's guide to contemporary Bangkok
- Handbook to a fast-changing urban culture
- Unique thematic approach
- Colourfully illustrated

NEW 2nd Edition – expanded & fully updated 209 new photos 64 more pages, 4 extra chapters

- The influential, best-selling guide to Thai pop and streetlife
- Totally revised to reflect the dramatic changes in Thailand
- New coverage of Vernacular Design, Contemporary Thainess, and the rise of 'Thai' retro culture



Very Thai Everyday Popular Culture

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

320 pages, 240 x 168 mm
Hardback, 590 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 37 5
£20/\$30/฿995

'A thrilling, trailblazing book that will help you see and understand Thailand afresh... A work of astounding breadth and erudition... Has few, if any, English-language equals.' *Bangkok Post*

'Equally fun and authoritative on subjects as diverse as bulletproof tattoos, hi-so hairdos, folk music and soap operas.' *The Australian*

'It is truly so much better than any other guide.' *The Nation*

'Required reading for visitors, residents and anyone anywhere interested in what makes Thailand tick.' *Asian Wall Street Journal*



Bangkok Street Art and Graffiti

Hope Full, Hope Less,
Hope Well

Text and Photographs: Rupert Mann

256 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Paperback, 140 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 061 6
£25/\$35/฿1,100



Discover the hidden heart of contemporary Thailand through 140 images of abandoned ghost towers, hidden canals and the doomed Hopewell site + interviews with Bangkok's graffiti writers and street artists as they tell of dictatorship's cost, development's fallout and the impact of corruption on a nation balancing between global forces and local traditions.

"This sharp-eyed survey of Bangkok's kaleidoscopic graffiti, street art and Four Kings tagging exposes the city's unofficial social and urban history, its decay and corruption."

-Kong Rithdee, writer and translator

"Rupert Mann's enlightening commentaries, curated photographs and artist interviews provide a fascinating cut into the multi-leveled strata of Bangkok, following fault lines revealed through the artful markings bleeding from its concrete."

-Nicolas Verstappen, author of *The Art of Thai Comics*



- An alternative history told by Bangkok's graffiti writers and street artists
- First major work to examine these Thai subcultures
- 140 images provide a gritty portrait of the city and its scene
- Interviews with 18 street artists and graffiti writers



With an introduction by Sonny Liew (*The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*) and an afterword by Thai artist Om Ratchawej

From folklore and Buddhist legends to tales of modern-day millennial angst, *The Art of Thai Comics* chronicles the fascinating, untold history of Thai comics. Rich with stories and illustrations, this groundbreaking book uncovers 'lost' comics and reveals the back-story of much-loved characters and the artists who created them. Each page opens new windows onto a fast-changing society – its hopes, fears, delights and horrors distilled in comics form.

Nicolas Verstappen, is a lecturer and comics scholar at the International Program of the Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University.

The Art of Thai Comics is a superb and surprising book. It is also the work of a serious and skilled historian. The capsule biographies of the artists are aslice of social history in themselves.

- Chris Baker (*Bangkok Post*), co-author of *A History of Thailand*

Beyond escapism, the supernatural or hero worship, *The Art of Thai Comics* does not shy away from issue of widespread rape, migrant workers, shifting gender roles, harsh village life and periods of dictatorship and and sensorship. As such, Verstappen's research stands out as a major contribution to shedding light on the country as a whole.

- John Krich (*Nikkei Asia*)

"A revelatory book that changes the global map of comics forever. At last, the histories and mysteries of Thailand's ever-changing comics can emerge from the shadows into the spotlight."

- Paul Gravett, author of *Mangasia: The Definitive Guide to Asian Comics* and curator of the touring exhibition *Mangasia: Wonderlands of Asian Comics*

The Art of Thai Comics

A Century of Strips and Stripes

Nicolas Verstappen

288 pages, 230 x 250 mm, paperback
Over 370 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 036 4
£32/\$40/฿1,495



Featuring 50+ cartoonists, a showcase of the most exciting contemporary comics artists, and over 370 colour images drawn from archives, private collections and rarely-seen original artworks.

Yangon Echoes

Inside Heritage Homes

Virginia Henderson
& Tim Webster

208 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Paperback, 116 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 57 3

£19.95/\$39.95/฿1,300

- Visually stunning with beautiful and evocative photographs and superb graphic artwork
- Unique approach offering personal insights into the history of the city with greatest collection of heritage buildings in Southeast Asia
- Broad appeal to Asia scholars, architects, preservationists, art historians, sociologists, and the general reader interested in both the colonial past and recent post-colonial history

Yangon Echoes is a popular history of buildings used as homes in Burma's bustling, former capital.

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.

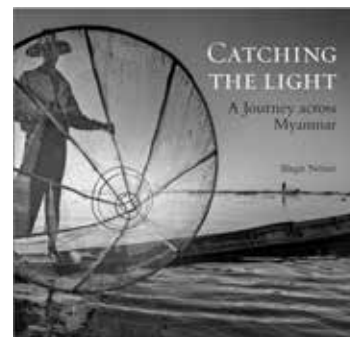
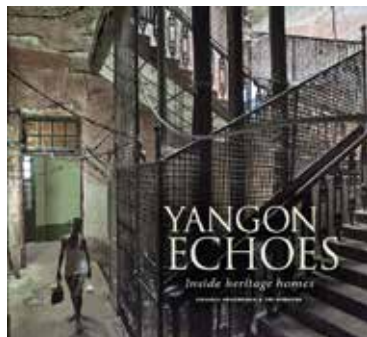
New Zealander Virginia Henderson has been based in Southeast Asia since 1990 and is an oral historian with a doctorate in heritage management. Tim Webster is a documentary photographer specializing in theatre, dance and architectural heritage photography.

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

~ Philip Davies, *English Heritage*

"The book is a pleasure to look at and read."

~ Thant Myint-U, *Yangon Heritage Trust*



Catching the Light

A Journey across Myanmar

Birgit Neiser

192 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Paperback, 144 b/w illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 83 2

£22/\$35/฿995

Much has changed in Burma since Birgit Neiser first visited in 1981. Returning in 2010, at the cusp of political and social change, Neiser began spending two months each year in Myanmar, documenting ways of life she knew would soon disappear and travelling 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 has exhibited in London, Munich, Sydney and the National Museum in Yangon. *"Although Myanmar is full of colour, I chose black & white images because they provide a deeper insight into the country's soul than colourful travel images of the main tourist attractions."*



Backstage Mandalay

Daniel Ehrlich

122 pages, 290 x 290 mm
Hardback, 290 photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 22 1

£19.95/\$40/฿1,295

This glimpse behind the curtain of 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 in a photo essay giving an insider's view of a fragile and mystical aspect of Burmese culture.

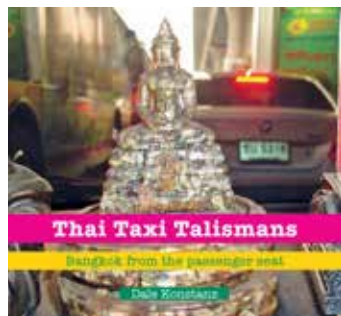


Thai Taxi Talismans

Bangkok from
the Passenger seat

Dale Alan Konstanz

160 pages, 230 x 250 mm
Paperback, 261 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 08 5
£20/\$30/฿550



Strings of beads and amulets hang from rearview mirrors, swaying as the driver negotiates his taxi through Bangkok's chaotic streets. Statuettes of the Buddha glued to dashboards sit patiently beside flower garlands and beribboned objects. Buddhist ritual patterns adorn the ceilings, and images of monks are everywhere. The author Dale Konstanz has spent over four years documenting the interiors of Bangkok taxis, photographing the iconography and asking what it means to the drivers. In *Thai Taxi Talismans*, he recollects and ruminates as to the meaning of these mini-altars, accompanied by colourful photographs and the explanations and philosophies of the Bangkok cabby. This book is a cultural study of Thai beliefs, an appreciation of Thai popular design and a document of the daily existence of Bangkok taxi drivers. It is fascinating, fun, and culturally significant.

New Thai Style

Rest of the World
Lawrence King

Kim Inglis
Photography by Michael Freeman

192 pages, 280 x 260 mm
Hardback, 306 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 7339 74 0
฿1,695



Thai Style is renowned throughout the world for its grace, form and colours. Whether in pavilion-style architecture, elegant interiors, or innovative use of textiles and materials, today's Thai style combines cultural traditions with skilled craftsmanship and modern interpretations.

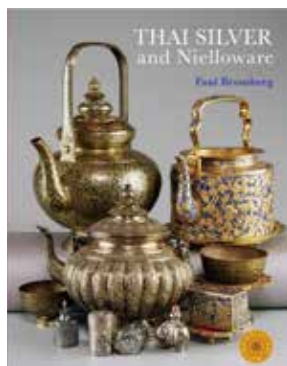
World-renowned photographer Michael Freeman showcases carefully selected homes, resorts, hotels and residences from the north, through Bangkok, to the islands in the south – a cornucopia of all that is new and exciting in Thailand's confident, eclectic and elegant design scene.

Decorative Arts Textiles

Thai Silver and Nielloware

Paul Bromberg

232 pages, 222 x 175 mm, hardback
320 photographs & 2 maps
ISBN 978 616 451 014 2
£25/\$35/฿1,200



Thai silver and nielloware display exquisite craftsmanship and design to rival better-known genres of silver from Asia, yet remains little understood. Examining its history from the early 19th century to the present, as well as the various forms and designs, Paul Bromberg provides a complete and beautifully illustrated survey of the subject.

Both everyday artefacts and rare pieces for the royal court are discussed and illustrated. The role of religious and devotional

silver objects is considered and, although dating Asian silverware is problematic, Paul Bromberg provides dating indicators and the first published compilation of Chinese and other marks.

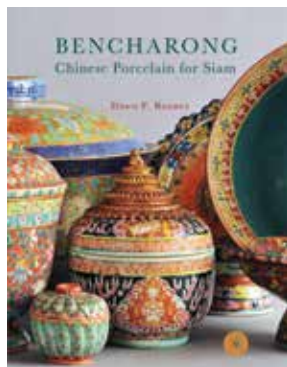
"Comprehensive, succinct and magnificent! This book will surely become the new standard for terminology and classification of this material in the English language." Dr. Paul Michael Taylor, Director, Asian Cultural History Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Discover Asian Art Bencharong Chinese Porcelain for Siam

Dawn F. Rooney

188 pages, 222 x 175 mm
Hardback, 217 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 68 9
£16.95/\$25/฿995

- First book in the exciting discover Thai Art series
- An accessible yet authoritative guide to these collectable and beautiful porcelains
- Examines the shapes, motifs and origins of each piece
- Exquisite items from previously unseen private collections

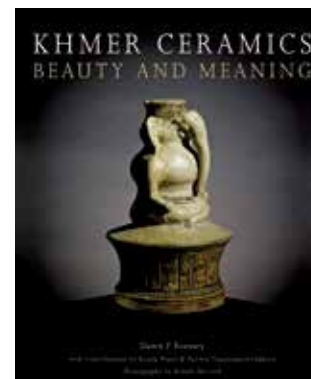


Bencharong, a unique class of Chinese export ware, was made exclusively for Thai royalty and the elite in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Enamelled porcelain pieces resplendent in the kaleidoscopic colours of tropical vegetation and *Lai Nam Thong* ("gold-washed"), are distinctively Thai in style and aesthetics.

The author traces the story 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, an art historian specialising in Southeast Asia, is the author of nine books, on the culture of the region.

A REVISED EDITION IS IN PREPARATION



This magnificent book explores the meaning of Khmer ceramics both in terms of their function and their aesthetics, drawing on the 160 superlative pieces in the Yothin Tharahirunchot collection.

Renowned ceramics expert, Dawn F. Rooney, provides an authoritative discussion of each piece, while the two Thai scholars, Krisda Pinsri and Pariwat Thammapreechakorn discuss hitherto understudied areas of Khmer ceramics. Renowned photographer, Robert McLeod, provides wonderfully evocative images.

Khmer Ceramics Beauty and Meaning

Dawn F. Rooney, Krisda Pinsri & Pariwat Thammapreechakorn
Photography by Robert McLeod

262 pages, 300 x 245 mm
Hardback, 300 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 974 9863 88 6
£40/\$85/฿1,995



The Ming Gap and Shipwreck Ceramics in Southeast Asia

Towards a Chronology
of Thai Trade Ware

Roxanna Maude Brown

Southeast Asian shipwrecks and their cargoes provide invaluable information on past trade networks. Here, the late Dr. Roxanna M. Brown traces the fluctuations of the hitherto little-studied ceramic trade between China and Southeast Asia, in particular the 14th-15th century period known as the 'Ming Gap' when export of Chinese ceramics was banned by the Ming Dynasty. As a result, Southeast Asian ceramics became the dominant trade ware. Analysing 120 shipwrecks, a chronology of ceramic production is proposed, along with a discussion of Sukhothai and Sawankhalok kilns, exported Burmese celadon wares and the location of Vietnamese production sites.

Dr Roxanna M. Brown, who died in 2008, was the founding director of the Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, Bangkok University.

208 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Hardback, 295 colour images
ISBN 978 974 9863 77 0
£30/\$50/฿895



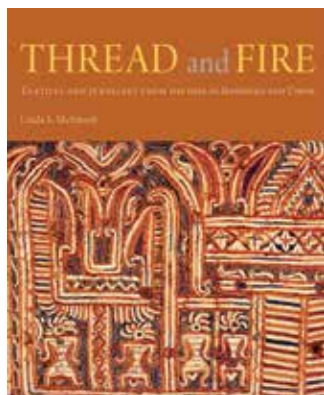
Thread and Fire

Textiles and Jewellery from the Isles of Indonesia and Timor

Linda S. McIntosh

344 pages, 285 x 235 mm, hardback
With 265 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 035 7

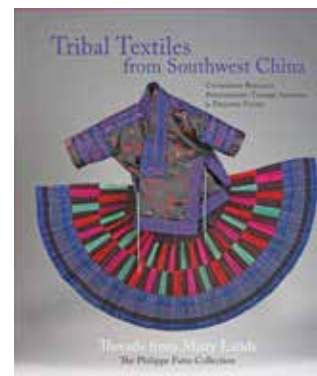
£70/\$95/฿2,800



Thread and Fire – Textiles and Jewellery from the Isles of Indonesia and Timor is a fascinating journey through centuries-old trade networks. Of the 18,000 islands, more than 900 are permanently settled by over 360 ethnic groups, speaking 700 languages and dialects. For centuries this vast and rich environment favoured local and regional exchanges. Then new connections integrated these archipelagos with the civilisations of continental Asia: first India, later China and from the 13th century onwards, the Islamic world. Finally, with the arrival of Europeans in the early 16th century, global trade grew rapidly. Spices and forest and sea products attracted foreign interests, and textiles were the currency for their acquisition. Imported textiles, complemented with ornaments and jewellery, soon became part of the region's social fabric, indispensable items of gift and exchange, essential for the enactment of ceremonies and signifiers of rank and prestige.

Thread and Fire explores and illustrates these ancient connections and traditions through Indonesian and Timorese textiles, regalia and jewellery from the Francisco Capelo Collection, assembled over a 20-year period.

Linda S. McIntosh's text explores the historical links that have played such a potent role in these traditional island societies. Her academic background includes a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of textiles, history, anthropology, linguistics and art history.

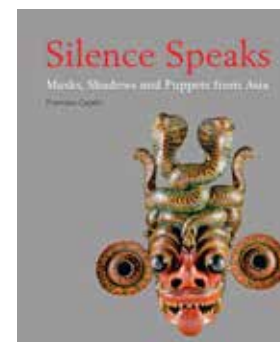


Philippe Fatin is a traveller, photographer and collector with a world-class collection of tribal textiles from southern China, featuring exquisite garments collected from tribes across southern China including the Bazhai, Zhouxi, Xijiang and Gedong amongst others. The distinctive styles, colours and motifs from each are looked at in turn and the remarkable photographs allow the reader to appreciate the intricacy of each piece and the tradition prized by each tribe.

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.

Silence Speaks – Masks, Shadows and Puppets from Asia explores the performances and ritual traditions in twelve regions and countries of Asia: the Himalayas, (Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal), India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia (Java, Bali), Vietnam and Japan.

These fragile objects were not used as a disguise or as forms of entertainment, but were ritual objects, worn in performances and ceremonies for unseen and unearthly spirits. They form part of traditions received since the first millennium C.E., via land and sea from India. Such dance narratives were adapted over time by the ancestors of the peoples now living in East and Southeast Asia. *Silence Speaks – Masks, Shadows and Puppets from Asia* illustrates 270 objects from the Francisco Capelo Collection, now part of the permanent collection of the Museu da Marioneta in Lisbon.



Tribal Textiles from Southwest China

Threads from Misty Lands

Catherine Bourzat,
Photography Thierry Arensma
and Philippe Fatin

262 pages, 300 x 255 mm
Hardback, 320 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 71 9

£40/\$64.95/฿2,500

- Lavishly illustrated with over 320 colour illustrations
- Photographs of weaving methods, traditional dyeing methods and ceremonies
- One of the world's great textile collections
- Written by acclaimed writer Catherine Bourzat whose previous works includes books on India and Sri Lanka

Silence Speaks Masks, Shadows and Puppets from Asia

Francisco Capelo

296 pages, 284 x 236 mm, paperback
ISBN 978 616 7339 62 7

£40/\$69.95/฿2,200



A Royal Treasure

The Javanese Batik Collection of King Chulalongkorn of Siam

Edited by Dale Carolyn Gluckman
Sarttarat Mudding
Piyanan Petcharaburanin

With Contributions by
Judi Achjadi, Dale Carolyn Gluckman
Sarttarat Muddin, Sandra Niessen



320 pages, 290 x 290 mm, hardback
Over 680 colour illustrations & 4 maps
ISBN 978 616 8044 05 6

£75/\$95/฿2,800

On each of his three visits to Indonesia, King Chulalongkorn returned to Siam with lengths of handmade batik. Preserved ever since in the royal palace, the collection totals over 300 pieces and today provides rare and exquisite examples of batik from West and Central Java from the later 19th century. This exquisite collection was exhibited at the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles in Bangkok in November 2018.

A Royal Treasure contains a detailed catalogue of the collection and is enhanced by rare archival photographs of the king's travels, the original notes about the piece, and the palace inventory tags. Lavishly produced, and written and researched by leading experts in the field, this book is major contribution to the field of Indonesian textiles and a visual feast for textile lovers worldwide.

Fit For a Queen

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Creations by Balmain

Melissa Leventon



With Contributions by
Judi Achjadi,
Dale Carolyn Gluckman
Sarttarat Muddin,
Sandra Niessen

232 pages, 285 x 230 mm
Hardback, 313 colour photographs
With 90 b/w images
ISBN 978 616 7339 63 4

£35/\$55/฿2,000

In 1960, King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand made a state visit to 15 Western nations and were received by statesmen, local and international celebrities, and many of the crowned heads of Europe.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit enchanted Europeans and Americans with her “fairytale” couture wardrobe. Designed primarily by Pierre Balmain, her regal attire was the result of a collaboration that was to last for more than two decades. The acclaim

accorded the beautiful Queen contributed greatly to that first tour's success and established her as an international taste-maker. Later, Her Majesty's dress from the tour evolved into modern Thai national dress.

Fit for a Queen charts the evolution of Her Majesty's royal style and her professional relationship with Balmain, showcasing more than 70 of the ensembles designed in the 1960s and 1970s.



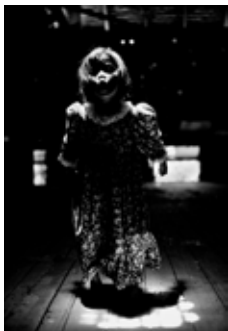
Travel Photography

The House of the Raja

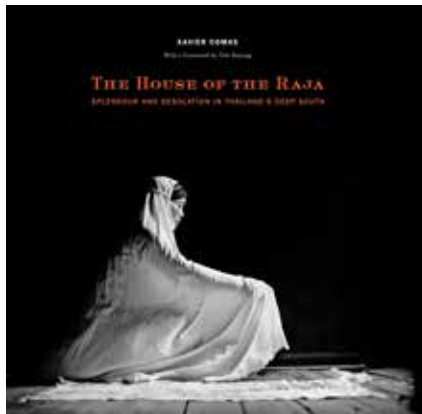
Splendour and Desolation in Thailand's Deep South

Xavier Comas

232 pages, 290 x 290 mm, hardback
86 black and white photographs
64 pages of text
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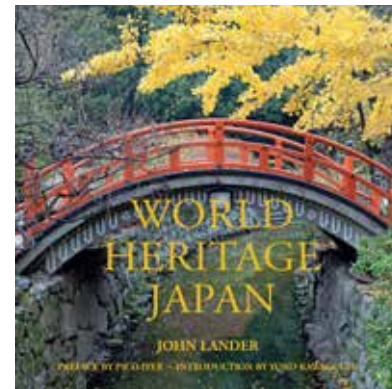
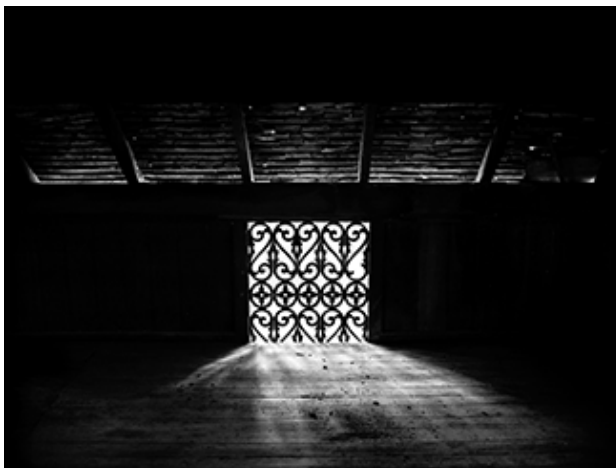


- Renowned Spanish photographer in Asia
- A new perspective on Thailand's Deep South
- 86 haunting black and white photographs
- Exquisite production with high density black duotones
- Evocative and intriguing text



Forgotten in Thailand's troubled Deep South, stands a dilapidated wooden palace once home to a Malay ruler, the last of his dynasty. Locals call it the "House of the Raja", a place suffused with loss and solitude, laden with the region's glorious past and tragic present. Intrigued by this demonised, yet little-known borderland, Xavier Comas chanced upon this mysterious house and felt compelled to delve into its past. The caretaker, a Muslim shaman who held rituals inside, initiated him into its hidden dimensions until the missing pieces of its history gently fell into place, revealing an ancient culture.

Comas' evocative black-and-white photographs take us into a realm of hauntings, mystic powers and fading memories. His first-hand account enralls the reader with vivid descriptions in which the real and the magical entwine. *The House of the Raja* provides a missing key to controversial issues of legacy, belief and identity in Thailand's Muslim South.



To capture the diverse essence of Japanese culture is almost impossible, but the magnificent UNESCO sites are a good place to start. Living in Japan for 35 years, author and photographer John Lander has visited almost every site, from temples and gardens to wild parks. Intangible world heritage is included, as cultural entities such as kabuki performances, Noh theatre, Japanese cuisine, float festivals, ancient court music add the human touch.

With a lyrical introduction by long-term Japanese resident and author, Pico Iyer, and the knowledgeable contribution of Japanese garden expert, Yoko Kawaguchi, the book is a photographic tribute to a beautiful and ancient culture.

John Lander's photography and feature stories have been published by *National Geographic*, *GEO*, *TIME* magazine, *Architectural Digest*, *Forbes*, *Lonely Planet*, *Rough Guides*, and the *Sunday Times*, among many others.



World Heritage Japan

John Lander
Preface by Pico Iyer
Introduction by Yoko Kawaguchi

236 pages, 228 x 228 mm
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- Covers Japan's UNESCO sites
- Tangible + intangible heritage
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- Introduction by Pico Iyer

The Shikoku Pilgrimage

Japan's Sacred Trail

John Lander

240 pages, 228 x 228 mm
Paperback, over 120 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 051 7
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The Shikoku Pilgrimage on the island of the same name is one of the few circular pilgrimages in the world. At 1,200 kilometres in length, the trail includes 88 temples and passes through diverse countryside such as idyllic bamboo groves, deserted beaches and ordinary Japanese neighbourhoods. There is a long tradition of pilgrimage in Japan, dating back at least to the time of the renowned monk, poet and philosopher Kobo Daishi (774-825) who is particularly associated with this trail.

The pilgrimage is undertaken for many reasons – to have a time of reflection away from everyday life, as a spiritual journey or as a healing period after a traumatic life experience. Along the way, pilgrims will encounter ordinary Japanese people and learn to understand the custom of o-settai, or charitable giving.

John Lander, long-time resident of Japan, author and photographer, has visited and recorded every temple in evocative images, as well as providing fascinating details about the origin of the trail and what the pilgrimage means to the thousands who undertake it every year.



- Evocative photographs of one of the world's most famous pilgrimages
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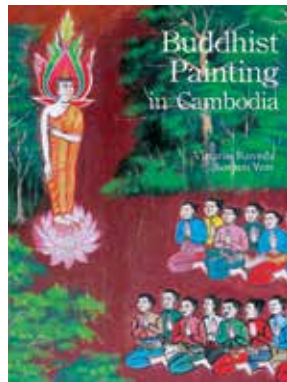


Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology

Buddhist Painting in Cambodia

Vittorio Roveda
and Sothon Yem

328 pages, 280 x 215 mm
Hardback, 630 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 974 9863 52 7
£40/\$80/฿1,995



This lavishly-illustrated book documents Cambodia's painted Buddhist heritage. The authors highlight the most important mural paintings, as well as the architecture of the temples which house them, painting techniques and narrative systems. Over 100 *viharas* with mural paintings are described, illustrated in 630 colour photographs many of which are hitherto unpublished.

This book is a beautiful and important record of Cambodian Buddhist painting, both traditional and modern.



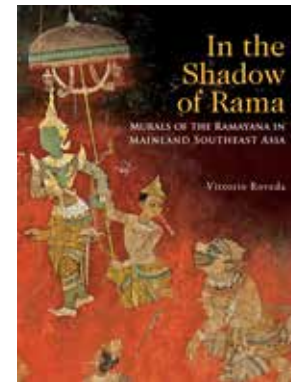
Preah Bot Buddhist Painted Scrolls in Cambodia

Vittorio Roveda and Sothon Yem

152 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Paperback, 172 colour illustrations
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Largely overlooked by art historians and museums, beautifully painted Buddhist scrolls, or *preah bot*, have been produced since the 19th century to manifest the faith of pious Cambodian lay people. They are an important part of a rich Buddhist cultural heritage.



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 evil ogre king Ravanna, her rescue and Rama's triumphant return to Ayodhya, was one which captured the imagination of the kings of Siam, Cambodia and the islands of the Indonesian archipelago. A story of the 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, long-standing expert in the *Ramayana*, Dr. Vittorio Roveda, examines the most beautiful examples still remaining to us. In Siam, we tour the famous murals of the Grand Palace in Bangkok and the intricacies of the shadow puppets, Nang Yai. In Cambodia, Roveda presents a special study of the delicate and expressive murals of Wat Bo, as well as commenting on the murals of the Silver Pagoda, Phnom Penh. He also explains how in Siam the *Ramayana* became the *Ramakien* and in Cambodia the *Reamker*.

This magnificent volumes is the culmination of Vittorio Roveda's 20 years of research and a visual feast for all those fascinated by the art of Southeast Asia.



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in Mainland Southeast Asia

Vittorio Roveda

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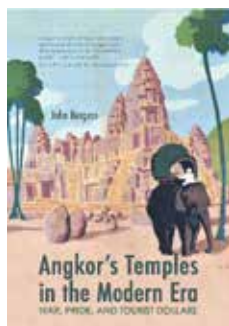
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John Burgess, a former *Washington Post* correspondent, who has visited Cambodia many times since 1969, has written five absorbing books about Angkorian civilisation, including two finely imagined novels. His latest, *Angkor's Temples in the Modern Era*, is deftly written, sumptuously illustrated, and highly recommended.

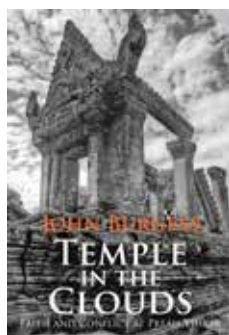
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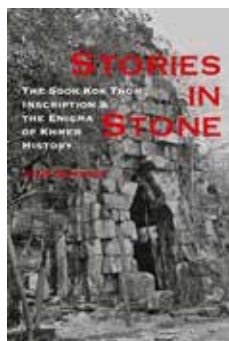
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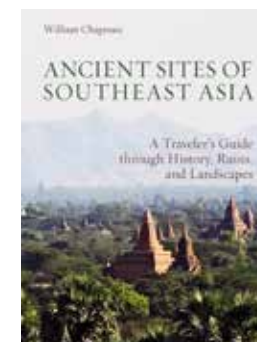


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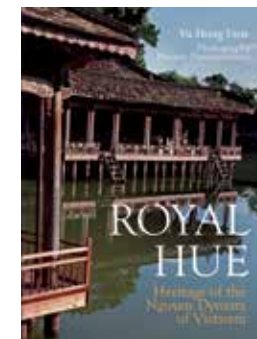
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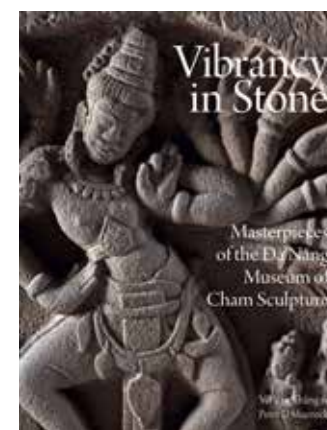
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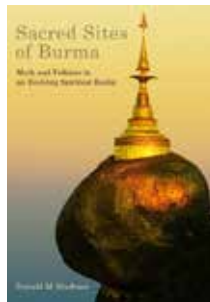
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The sacred sites of Burma are amongst the most beautiful in Asia. However, their fame and sacredness rest largely on their founding myths and legends. The author traces the development of these intricate myths across a swathe of sacred sites from Yangon 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.

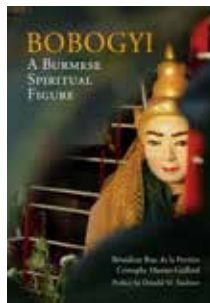
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Bénédicte Brac de la Perrière
Cristophe Munier-Gaillard
Preface by Donald M. Stadtner

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Bobogyi: A Burmese Spiritual Figure is the first book dedicated to this Burmese nat, or guardian spirit, who features prominently in contemporary Burma (Myanmar). From an ethereal tree spirit to an established pagoda guardian, bobogyi has been one of the main actors in Yangon's Buddhist landscape, from the founding legend of the iconic Shwedagon Pagoda through his growing prominence since the 1990s.

This unusual book chronicles the history and modern-day relevance of *bobogyi* and also charts the ever-evolving nature of sacred narratives.

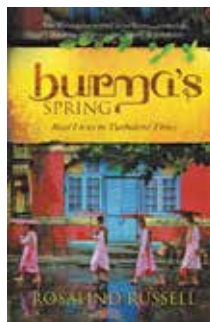
Burma's Spring

Real Lives in Turbulent Times

Rosalind Russell

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Burma's Spring documents the struggles of ordinary people made extraordinary by circumstance. Rosalind Russell, who lived 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.

Rosalind Russell is a journalist who worked for *Reuters* and then the *Independent* in Burma for two years during this important period and covering the elections of 2015.

In this unique memoir, Charles Higham describes the inside story of how his many excavations introduced Southeast Asia's past to a worldwide audience. For over fifty years, he and his Thai colleagues have explored the arrival of early humans, the impact of the first farmers, the remarkable rise of social elites with the spread of metallurgy and the origins of civilizations. Once seen as a cultural backwater, Southeast Asia now takes centre stage in understanding the human past.

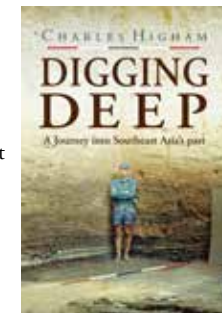
Professor Rasmi Shoocondej, Silpakorn University

Charles Higham – rugby player, talented excavator, and one of the great archaeologists of his generation – is an engaging raconteur. This is a fascinating, adventurous journey complete with academic debates, serious archaeology, its triumphs and minor disasters galore. Read this book if you aspire to be an archaeologist. It will inspire you to great deeds.

Brian Fagan, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara

Discoveries in the last two decades give new perspectives on Thailand's past. The book covers the first human settlement to the earliest civilisations, reappraising the early huntergatherers and rice farmers. A new chronology shows social change in the Bronze Age and the rapid foundation of early states, before the wealth of Iron Age chiefs led to the Angkorean and Dvaravati kingdoms.

This synthesis of the latest archaeological discoveries in Southeast Asia begins with the early hunter gatherers and concludes with the early states, in particular Angkor. New ideas abound: rice farming in the Yangzi Valley, or the reexamination of copper and bronze casting. Higham also reviews the Iron Age transition into early states. This is the only up-to-date account of such cultures and a vital compendium for those studying the region.



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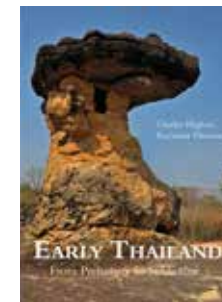
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This companion volume to the award-winning *Siamese Coins – From Funan to the Fifth Reign*, includes 100s of new coins – pressed silver, metallic ingots (*toks*), silver bars, bent ingots, tokens and pot duang (bullet money). The author examined and photographed thousands of specimens, conducted hundreds of assays, and includes images from museums, dealers and private collectors.

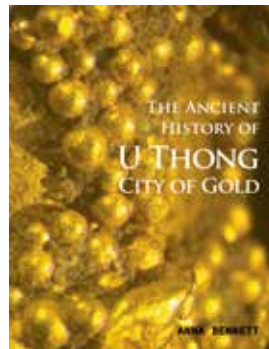
Legally trained Ronachai came to Thailand as an American Air Force Judge Advocate, becoming a Thai citizen in 1998. A leading coin expert, he has authored or consulted on many major coin books and exhibitions.

U Thong City of Gold

Anna Bennett

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- A wide-reaching and comprehensive study of U Thong
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- The world authority on this area of Thailand, at the forefront of archaeological research
- Includes ancient gold (six or seven centuries old) artefacts from U Thong National Museum and the National Museum Bangkok

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. Via the Chin river, the city could access international trade routes. The inhabitants of such early centres of Southeast Asian civilisation had so much gold that central and western mainland Southeast Asia including U Thong was known in Sanskrit as Suvarnabhumi, the Golden Land.

This book, by a trained metallurgy scientist brings a new perspective to the highly significant corpus of early gold artefacts found in and around the moated city of U Thong.

Fiction



Slow Steps to Love

Tew Bunnag

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- A moving novel chronicling when two sides of Bangkok come together
- A wonderful evocation of multi-faceted Bangkok
- Two unusual love stories



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Living in Baan Suan, a family mansion, Chai is a disillusioned writer, blocked physically and spiritually. Like the house, he has been both a witness and participant in the events that shaped modern Bangkok. A child of privilege, Chai has lived comfortably but without the passion and the depth of experience he had once craved. When he meets Yai Li – a healer from the slums grappling with her own past trauma – his inertia begins to shift.

Set in pre-pandemic Bangkok, *Slow Steps to Love* traces a gradual process of discovering love and healing that allows reconciliation with the past and acceptance of the present.

Like the aristocratic landlord in Satyajit Ray's "The Music Room", Tew Bunnag's ageing writer, Khun Chai, presides over his family house which his prosperous son has purchased for him. But it is Chekhov who seems to inspire both Bunnag and his protagonist, as his family's dramas and his own personal regrets engulf him. A rapidly changing country is the background to Bunnag's elegiac tale, whose spare and calm sentences accurately measure his characters' loves and foibles.

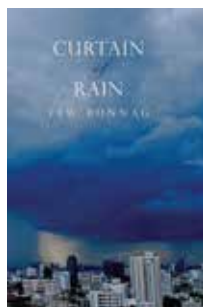
Khun Chai's emerging love for Yai Li, an ex-factory worker living in Jetsip Rai, brings together the two poles of Thai society in unexpected ways, offering them both an unforeseen salvation. Lawrence Osborne, author of *The Forgiven*



Curtain of Rain

Tew Bunnag

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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.

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A Night full of Stars is an award-winning novel by V. Vinicchayakul, one of Thailand's foremost writers, and the author of over a hundred novels, many adapted for film and television. It is named after a song penned by King Prajadhipok, or Rama VII, the seventh king of the Chakri Dynasty and the last absolute monarch of Siam. The song has special meaning for Gade, a young woman from Phetchaburi, whose life is turned upside down after her marriage to Nart, a dashing young army officer, otherwise known as Colonel Phraya Wisetsingnart. Her poignant life story unfolds against the turbulent backdrop of Siam's 1932 Revolution, which transformed the country to a constitutional monarchy, ushering in an era of social and political upheaval.

Besides giving the reader a profound insight into the Thai way of life during this tumultuous period, the novel's universal themes of love, loyalty, greed, anger, lust and jealousy will resonate with readers across all cultural backgrounds.

This collection of short stories linked to the Tsunami, was inspired by Tew's work in the South of Thailand with those who had suffered the devastation at first hand and were dealing with the loss of 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 born 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.



- Collection of short stories by acclaimed writer Tew Bunnag
- Includes the BBC Radio 4 short story Lek and Mrs Miller
- Moving stories united by the universal themes of loss, recovery and the finding the courage to carry on

A Night Full of Stars

V. Vinicchayakul
Translated by Lucy Srisuphapreeda

332 pages, 210 x 142 mm, paperback
ISBN 978 616 451 080 7
£10.99/\$14.99/฿495

November 2023



After the Wave

Tew Bunnag

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Memories of the Memories of the Black Rose Cat

Veeraporn Nitiprapha
Translated by Kong Ritthdee

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£10.99/\$14.99/฿495



When Great-Grandpa Tong emigrated from China to Siam as a young man in the early decades of the 20th century, he unwittingly brought with him a family curse...

Spanning three generations of a Chinese-Thai family in Thailand, *Memories of the Memories of the Black Rose Cat* is an epic saga of immigrant life. In her characteristic magical realist style, Veeraporn Nitiprapha chronicles the family's adventures and tragedies against the backdrop of a tumultuous century to create a unique, vivid and poignant portrayal of Chinese diaspora life.

A bestseller in Thailand, the original Thai-language edition of *Memories of the Memories of the Black Rose Cat* won the national SEA-Write Award in 2018. Earlier *The Blind Earthworm in the Labyrinth* (published in English by River Books) also won this award making Veeraporn the only woman writer to receive the award twice.

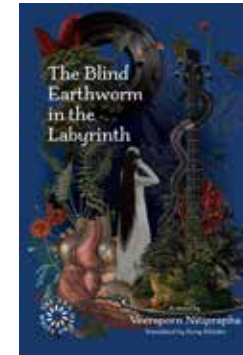
"Riveting! A fascinating melange of Marquezian magical realism and a 21st century version of *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Tragically sweet with a twisted ending that makes readers wonder – like the forgotten history of the Chinese Diaspora in Thailand – if we really exist."

– Wassana Wongsurawat, Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History, Chulalongkorn University

"Nitiprapha's Chinese-Thai family saga carries you on powerful tides of memory and yearning. Its many exquisitely written pieces bring together love, tragedy, and the magical to form a labyrinth across history in its meditation on the meaning of home and belonging."

– Pitchaya Sudbanthad, Author of *Bangkok Wakes to Rain*

- A wonderful evocation of a multi-generational Chinese family in Thailand
- A moving story full of twists and turns
- An exciting addition to modern Thai literature
- The translation by Kong Ritthdee captures every nuance of Veeraporn's exquisite prose



On the day Chareeya is born, her mother discovers her father having an affair with a traditional Thai dancer. From then on, Chareeya's life is fated to carry the weight of her parents' disappointments. She and her sister grow up in a lush riverside town near the Thai capital, Bangkok, captivated by trashy romance novels, classical music and games of make-believe. When the laconic orphan, Pran, enters their world, he unwittingly lures the sisters into a labyrinth of their own making as they each try to escape their intertwined fates.

The original Thai language edition of *The Blind Earthworm in the Labyrinth* won the prestigious South East Asian Writers ("S.E.A. Write") Award for fiction and was a best-seller in Thailand. It is translated into English by Thai film critic and recipient of France's *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, Kong Ritthdee.

Attuned to the addictive rhythms of a Thai soap opera and written with the consuming intensity of a fever dream, this novel opens an insightful and truly compelling window onto the Thai heart.

"Mesmerizing and unputdownable – a virtuoso translation of what must surely be one of the best Thai novels to make it into English."

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Praise for the Thai-language edition:

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– Tomorn Sukpreecha, writer & editor

"A celebration of the senses."

– Chamaiporn Saengkrajang, National Artist and S.E.A. Write Award Judge

The Blind Earthworm in the Labyrinth

Veeraporn Nitiprapha
Translated by Kong Ritthdee

208 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback, black & white
ISBN 978 616 451 013 5
£8.99/\$11.99/฿399

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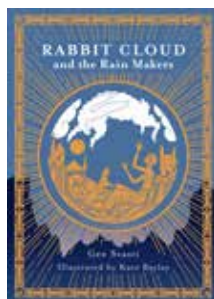
- Veeraporn Nitiprapha is a SEA-write a ward-winning novelist
- Kong Ritthdee, the translator, is an acclaimed script writer and film critic
- Lyrical language draws the reader into the intertwined lives of two sisters – Chareeya and Chalika

Rabbit Cloud and the Rain Makers

Gee Svasti
Illustrated by Kate Baylay

76 pages, 285 x 215 mm
Hardback, 33 colour photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 010 4

£15.99/\$22.99/฿795



Illustrated with beautiful scenes of imaginary worlds by accomplished artist Kate Baylay, this magical book (for children aged 8-12) draws on contemporary themes to tell of epic journeys, awesome battles and the bravery of one young boy and his loyal companions.

The last time it rained in the village of Karia was two years, six months, twenty-seven days and sixteen hours ago. When even the clouds start to disappear and a young boy called Solo loses his good friend Rabbit Cloud, Solo and his cat "Fox", set out to save his village and his Grandma's pot plant. But the Land of the Rainmakers is hard to reach and full of dangers. Will Solo succeed? And will he find his friend Rabbit Cloud again?



"He stared down at the dish in front of him, now wiped spotlessly clean. His face was smeared. At some point he must have pressed the plate close to his face and like some grubby alley cat licked the last residue from its surface. But despite such demeaning behaviour he remained baffled. Hidden and obscured within the deceptively simple food he had just eaten, something pure, unadulterated still escaped him. And behind that secret there had to be some craft, there had to be a cook."

Corran Brooks, celebrity chef and globe-trotting gastronaut, combs the world for the rarest recipes. But when travelling in Asia and chancing on a meal he cannot decipher, his struggle to unravel its secrets, draws him deeper into a mystery of intrigue and corruption. Thriller, adventure and satire, *A Dangerous Recipe* casts a wry eye over contemporary food culture.

256 pp, 196 x 128 mm, paperback, b/w 1 map
ISBN 978 616 7339 82 5

£7.99/12/฿395

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France 1918: With the war entering its last, critical chapter, a company of Thai drivers is late to the scene.

Commanded by uptight Captain Sumet and his hard-pressed deputy, Chai, the small Siamese contingent is thrown into the chaos of the Meuse-Argonne front, delivering shells to artillery batteries, fine wines to the high-command, and medicine to beleaguered platoons, before their trucks are stolen by an American tank Corps.

Last to the Front is about the clash of empires, and social and historical change. But it is also a personal story of young Siamese soldiers, thrown into the world's most brutal catastrophe and battling language, prejudice and intolerance.

"What the historian must describe factually, Gee Svasti brings to life through the experiences of Chai, Sumet and their comrades, who travelled to war-torn Europe to bring honour to their king. This is history made intimate, written in a gripping and heart-warming style." Stefan Hell, author of *Siam and World War I*.

Last to The Front

Gee Svasti

336 pages, 210 x 142 mm, paperback
ISBN 978 616 451 040 1

£9.99/\$14.95/฿495

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kindle edition



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kindle edition

1941. The war in Europe is now coming to Southeast Asia.

In Bangkok, Kate Fallon, an American nurse, escaping her past, and Lawrence Gallet, an English journalist, are trapped in the chaos of conflict, but believe their love can survive being torn apart.

Lawrence flees to China to escape the advancing Japanese army, while Kate, left behind in the Catholic hospital, is in danger and must hide her identity.

The sweeping saga moves from a country poised between Japan and the West to the battlegrounds of Burma and India and from the Thai domestic resistance movement to the deadly jungles of the Arakan. *Bangkok in Times of Love and War* is a story of life and death, passion, loyalty and loss, and of a man and a woman caught up in the upheaval of history.



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kindle edition

Siam in 1890. Blue-stocking Julie Gallet, an independent-minded Parisian, has made what seems to be an imprudent match. Following her husband to Bangkok, she lodges with her British diplomat cousin and is shocked by the colonial intrigues between France and England. Resisting calls to return home, Julie teaches French to the ladies of the Court and becomes deeply involved in Siamese life. Her irreverent journal recounts her growing political awareness and her new-found sensuality. Blending fact and fiction, *Siamese Tears* is a lively account of the events behind the 1893 Paknam incident when Siam was in grave danger.

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.

Bangkok in Times of Love and War

Claire Keefe-Fox

508 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 616 451 041 8

£11.95/\$14.95/฿595



Siamese Tears

The kingdom's struggle against the colonial superpowers

Claire Keefe-Fox

508 pages, 210 x 142 mm, paperback
ISBN 978 616 451 041 8

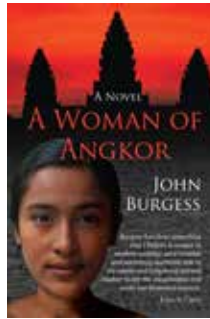
£11.95/\$14.95/฿595

- Brings the events leading up to serious Paknam incident to life in an exciting way
- Explains the Anglo-French rivalry the period and how Siam almost fell to rival colonial powers
- A compelling love story
- A evocative recreation of the late nineteenth century period

A Woman of Angkor

John Burgess

264 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 616 7339 25 2
£8.95/\$14.95/฿565



Also available on
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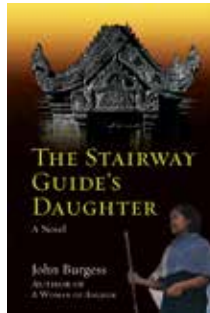
In a village in 12th century Cambodia, behind a towering stone temple, lives a young woman named Sray. Outwardly serene, she hides a dangerous secret. One rainy season afternoon, she is called to a life of prominence in the royal court, where her faith and loyalties are tested by the great king Suryavarman 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)

The Stairway Guide's Daughter

John Burgess

306 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback, 10 b/w photographs
ISBN 978 616 7339 87 0
£8.99/\$15/฿400



Also available on
kindle edition

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. Accidentally witnessing the furtive burning of sacred palm-leaf documents, she is drawn into a temple succession struggle and must 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 an incredible temple that is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Beads on a String

A Novel of
Southern Siam

Paul Wedel
Yuangrat Wedel

636 pages, 210 x 142 mm
Paperback
ISBN 978 616 451 048 7
£11.95/\$16.95/฿595



Also available on
kindle edition

Siam at the turn of the 19th century. Four families in the southern peninsula are tied together by ambition, revenge, love and tragedy.

A Malay boy, unjustly imprisoned, reinvents himself as a Siamese aristocrat in royal service. A beautiful young Thai woman takes over the family casino and, defying a gambling ban, runs an underground criminal operation. A guilt-ridden Thai-Chinese sailor seeks enlightenment as a wandering Buddhist monk. A former slave fights the domination of a Chinese gangster to rise in the increasingly powerful police force.

A recreation of life in southern Siam at a time of dramatic change, *Beads on a String* immerses readers in a gripping interwoven epic, full of intrigue and insight.

In Preparation



Turbulent Times

The Diaries of Prince Chakrabongse 1916-1920

Translation and commentary
by Narisa Chakrabongse

342 pages, 250 x 230 mm
Hardback, 200 photographs
ISBN 978 616 451 018 0
£25/\$40/฿1,895



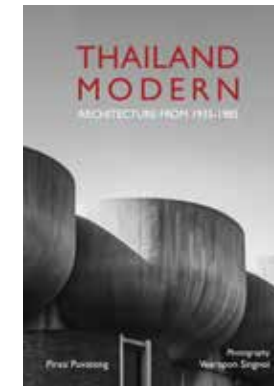
Spring 2024



Following the success of *Letters from St. Petersburg*, which recounts the early years of Prince Chakrabongse's life through his letters to his father, King Chulalongkorn, these diaries covering the last four years of his life are full of sadness and tumult. The Prince records all the facets of his daily life: his work as Commander-in-Chief of the army and his push to bring Siam into World War I, the conflicts within the royal family, the breakup of his marriage and the death of his beloved mother, Queen Saowabha. His account provides a rare first-hand insight into Siamese politics and governance at a turbulent time, as well as poignant glimpses of his divorce from his Russian wife, Katya.



- First-hand behind-the-scenes accounts of critical events during the First World War
- A fascinating insight into Siamese elite society
- Never-before published material
- Accompanied by evocative and intimate photographs from the Chakrabongse archive



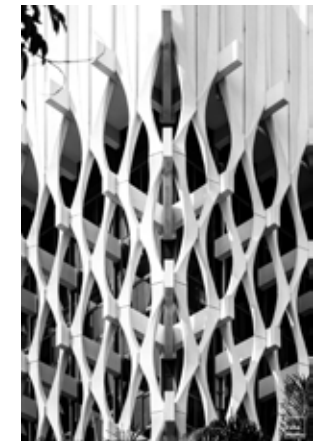
Thailand Modern

Architecture from 1935-1985

Pirasi Povotong
Photography Veerapon Singnoi

240 pages, 240 x 170 mm
Hardback, over 250 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 083 8
£35/\$45/฿1,500

Spring 2024



The popular image of architecture in Thailand is that of beautiful temples with soaring spires, but from the 1930s onwards innovative modern buildings reflected the country's new image. With eye-catching photographs by Veerapon Singnoi and a text by Pirasi Povotong, a professor at Chulalongkorn University, *Thailand Modern* showcases iconic buildings over a fifty-year period. The buildings range from government buildings to commercial centres, such as the General Post Office, the Nightingale Department Store, The Foundation of the Islamic Centre of Thailand, the Holiday Inn Silom, the Robot Building and many more. It also memorializes stunning buildings that have been demolished, like the Scala Theatre, the Royal Turf Club, the former House of Parliament, or the former Australian Embassy. Accompanying captions detail the ideas behind the architecture; the impact of World War II, the emergence of the New Brutalist movement, America's effort to modernize Thailand during Vietnam War, and the influence of Postmodern architecture.

Photographer Veerapon Singnoi, has spent 10 years roaming the country to capture the beauty of these buildings in unfamiliar ways, driven by a passion to preserve this vanishing architectural heritage which highlights a different aspect of Thailand's built environment.



- First book on modern Thai architecture
- Superlative photography
- Records vanished heritage

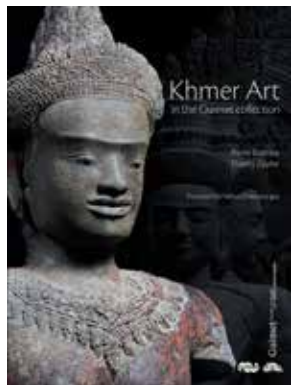
Khmer Art

In the Guimet collection

Pierre Baptiste and Thierry Zéphir
Translated by Narisa Chakrabongse

480 pages, 320 x 240 mm
Hardback, over 500 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 009 8

£50/\$70/฿2,395



Summer 2024

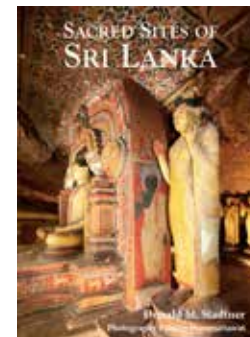


With more than one hundred works, the magnificent display of Khmer sculpture conserved at the Guimet Museum of Asian Art in Paris is the most complete collection in the world outside Cambodia. As such, it provides a full panorama of ancient Khmer art between the 6th and 19th centuries. However, it was not until 2008 that this exceptional group became the subject of an in-depth catalogue; 15 years later, for the first time, this exhaustive volume has been translated into English. Written by Pierre Baptiste, heritage curator in charge of Southeast Asia, and Thierry Zéphir, research fellow at the Guimet Museum, the book presents a large selection of chefs-d'oeuvre, illustrating the major stylistic divisions in Khmer art.

The catalogue begins with the history of these sculptures since their discovery in the 19th century and their subsequent life in France, followed by a detailed description of each work, shown in exquisite photographs from various angles. The book also has an appendix featuring vignettes of all 168 works with short captions, an extensive bibliography, an index, as well as maps and plans.



- First ever English language catalogue of the world-renowned collection
- Written by eminent scholars in the field
- New insights into 19th century collecting



Sacred Sites of Sri Lanka

Donald M. Stadtner
Photography Paisarn Piemmettawat

340 pp, 232 x 170 mm, paperback
Over 400 colour illustrations
ISBN 978 616 451 022 7

£20/\$30/฿895

Spring 2024

No country, apart from India, is as closely allied with the Buddha's travels as Sri Lanka, which was visited thrice by the Buddha and received corporal relics and a branch of the Bodhi tree after his death. Today the Buddha's eye-tooth is venerated daily by thousands in Kandy and regarded as a priceless relic.

Buddhism is not the only religion to have influenced the island, as another major pilgrimage spot is Kataragama, a site devoted to a Hindu god, while Christianity and Islam are also part of the mix. From Europe, the Portuguese, Dutch and English added new spiritual layers in a colonial period that stretched nearly three centuries. As a result, understanding the country through the lens of sacred sites provides a special glimpse into this unique civilisation.

Art historian, Donald Stadtner is the author of *Ancient Pagan: Buddhist Plain of Merit and Sacred Sites of Burma: Myths and Folklore in an Evolving Spiritual Realm*. He divides his time between the San Francisco Bay Area, India and Southeast Asia.



- An eminently readable account of the myths and beliefs of Sri Lanka's sacred sites
- A wonderful companion volume to Sacred Sites of Burma
- Featuring beautiful photographs of 50 famous sites

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