Recent Books from Thailand – July 2010

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Anthropology

Mapping Thai Muslims: Community Dynamics and Change on the Andaman Coast / Wanni W. Anderson Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2010 x. 185p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789749511923 \$ 25.00

This longitudinal, anthropological study challenges the single, dominant narrative of Muslim discourse in Thailand. It focuses on Thai Muslims in the Nipa Island (pseud.) community on the Andaman coast, whose economic and education aspirations, social relationships, and ethnic identity have been significantly altered through globalization and the religio-political unrest on the southeastern coast of Thailand. Nipa islanders seek to define themselves on their own terms as both Thai and Muslim. Their Muslim identity is uniquely interwoven with the particularities of time, locality, and specific ethnocultural history that links them to the Andaman coast.

Mapping Thai Muslims also traces Muslim socioreligious changes from two centuries ago to the 1980s, and through to the present. The ongoing redrawing of Islamic religiosity allows unique insight into Nipa islanders as local actors and agents with their own individual viewpoints and consequent life decisions.

Based as it is on extensive fieldwork, this study will be of great appeal to anthropologists, historians, Southeast Asian and Asian scholars, and readers interested in Islam and Muslim identity.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121364

Elephants in Thailand Volume 1: Mahouts and their Cultures Today / Joachim Schliesinger Bangkok: White Lotus Press, 2009 xvii. 182p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789744801586

\$ 28.00

Elephants in Thailand – Mahouts and their Cultures Today is the first of two volumes about Thai elephants. This volume portrays the plight of wild and domesticated elephants in modern Thailand. It shows how domesticated elephants are employed both in the timber industry and in the many elephant camps for tourists around the country.

It describes in detail the distinct elephant-keeping traditions of the various ethnic groups in the country that have an association with elephants, namely the Tai-speaking Thai (Central Thai), Southern Thai, Yuan Tai Yai (Shan), Tai Lue, Tai Yong, Tai Khoen, Lao Isan, Khorat Thai and Phuan; the Mon-Khmer-speaking Khmer, Kui, Mon, Khamu, Mpi and Lawap; as well the Sino-Tibetan-speaking Karen.

Architecture

Ruins and Reconstructed World Heritage Sukhothai, Si Satchanalai and Kamphaeng Phet 1 / Santi Leksukhum and staff Thailand: Amarin Printing and Publishing Public Company Limited, 2008 144p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789745926233 English and Thai Language \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121366

Panorama of Thai Royal Palaces Thailand: Amarin Printing and Publishing Public Company Limited, 2009 1v. : 17 x 25cm. ISBN-13: 9789749958322 English & Thai Language \$ 25.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121367

Art

Silpakorn – Guangzhou Art Exhibition and Seminar 2009 / 50 Thai Artists & 50 Chinese Artists

Thailand: Art Centre, Silpakorn University, 2009 & Organized by Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China 135p. ; 29cm. ISBN-13: 9789746412964 \$ 40.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121368

Thai – Vietnam Contemporary Art Exhibition 2009 / 50 Thai Artists & 38 Vietnamese Artists Thailand: Art Centre, Silpakorn University, 2009 & Organized by Ho Chi Minh University of Fine Arts, Vietnam 135p. ; 29cm. ISBN-13: 9789746413008 \$ 40.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121369

Cinema Studies

The Adventure of Iron Pussy / Directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul Bangkok: Pongsaap Public Company Limited DVD : Approx. 90 mins. In Thai with English Subtitles \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121370 Tropical Malady / Apichatpong Weerasethakul Bangkok: Pongsaap Public Company Limited DVD : Approx. 114 mins. Thai Language \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121371

Economics

Alternatives agricoles en Thailande de la riziculture a la globalization / Roland Poupon Pondicherry: Kailash Editions – IRASEC, 2010 420p. ; 22cm. ISBN-13: 9782842681890 French Language \$ 49.50 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121372

Environment

The Elephant-Lore of the Hindus: The Elephant Sport (Matanga-Lila) of Nilakantha / Franklin Edgerton Bangkok: White Lotus Press, 2010 First published by Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1931 xix. 129p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789744801555 \$ 13.00

The Elephant-Lore of the Hindus is a translation of the Matanga-Lila by Nilakantha. It is the best available Sanskrit work on Elephantology

The introduction covers the place of elephant-lore in Indian literature, both the theoretical and practical elements of the 'science', Modern elephant-lore like good and bad points of elephants, 'caste', catching of elephants and others

The 12 chapters deal with the origin of elephants, favorable and unfavorable marks, longevity, determination of measurements, details of price, marks of character, kinds of must, catching and keeping elephants, and on the qualities of elephant drivers

This reprint is the first volume in a series of elephant books on Thailand and neighboring countries. It gives the basic knowledge of the Indian traditions on which the culture in keeping and training of elephants in Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam is based

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121373

Des catastrophes naturelles au desastre humain: Consequences et enjeux de l'aide humanitaire après le tsunami et le cyclone Nargis en Thailande et Birmanie / Maxime Boutry & Olivier Ferrari Bangkok: IRASEC, 2009 116p. ; 19cm. ISBN-13: 9786119028210 Carnets de l'Irasec / Occasional Paper n°10 – 2009 French Language \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121374

General

Bangkok Guide 18th Edition / Karen Gray (Editor) Bangkok: Australian-New Zealand Women's Group (ANZWG), 2010 436p. ; 26cm. ISBN-13: 9789744016010 Bangkok Guide Telephone Directory and Survival Thai Language Guide & Map of Bangkok included \$ 45.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121375

History

Siam on the Meinam: From the Gulf to Ayuthia – Together with three romances illustrative of Siamese life and customs / Maxwell Sommerville Bangkok: White Lotus Press, 2009 First published by Sampson Low, Marston and Company Limited, 1897 First reprint by White Lotus , 1985 237p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789744801593 \$ 22.00

Siam on the Meinam from the Gulf to Ayuthia has 2 parts

The first part covers all aspects of life in Bangkok in 1897. The author describes his trip from Singapore to Bangkok; the hotel, the city, the bazaars, Wat Poh, evening on the Meinam, the library, the museum, Wat Cheng, prison and shop (with interesting remarks on who was kept in prison on what reasons), theaters and gambling houses, up the river and Ayuthia

The second part contains three romances illustrative of Siamese life and customs http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121376

Stories in Stone: The Sdok Kok Thom Inscription & The Enigma of Khmer History / John Burgess Bangkok: River Books, 2010 198p. ; 21cm.

ISBN-13: 9786167339016 \$ 27.50

The founding of an empire, the settling of frontier lands, a king's gifting of gold pitchers and black-eared stallions to a Brahmin priest – these and other remarkable stories come down to us in the Sdok Kok Thom Inscription, one of the world's most important ancient testaments. Recovered at a ruined temple in Thailand close to the Cambodian border, the 340-line chronicle unlocks the early history of the Khmer Empire. Yet temple and text have remained little known outside expert circles. In this full and highly readable account, former Washington Post correspondent John Burgess traces the impact of the great inscription, which was carved onto a sandstone monolith around 1052 AD, abandoned to the wild for centuries, then decoded by French colonialists. He relates the temple's surprise emergence in 1979 as a haven for Cambodian refugees and resistance fighters during the war in their homeland. Today Sdok Kok Thom is again at peace, its mission of preserving history accomplished.

Law

Tort, Custom, and Karma: Globalization and Legal Consciousness in Thailand / David M. Engel & Jaruwan S. Engel Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2010 xiii. 190p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9786162150012 \$ 19.95

Diverse societies are now connected by globalization, but how do ordinary people feel about law as they cope day-to-day with a transformed world? Tort, Custom, and Karma examines how rapid societal changes, economic development, and integration into global markets have affected ordinary people's perception of law, with a special focus on the narratives of men and women who have suffered serious injuries in the province of Chiangmai, Thailand.

This work embraces neither the conventional view that increasing global connections spread the spirit of liberal legalism, nor its antithesis that backlash to interconnection leads to ideologies such as religious fundamentalism. Instead it looks specifically at how a person's changing ideas of community, legal justice, and religious belief in turn transform the role of law particularly as a viable form of redress for injury. This revealing look at fundamentals shifts in the interconnections between globalization, state law, and customary practices uncovers a pattern of increasing remoteness from law that deserves immediate attention.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121380

Official Publications

Thailand: The 2009 Construction Industry Survey: Northern Region Bangkok: Statistical Forecasting Bureau, 2010 xxix. 176p. ; 29cm. ISBN-13: 9789741130443 \$ 25.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121381

Politics

Than Shwe: Unmasking Burma's Tyrant / Benedict Rogers Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2010 xiii. 256p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789749511916 \$ 31.25

Than Shwe is one of the world's most notorious dictators, presiding over a military regime that persists in repressing and brutalizing its own people. Until now, his story has not been told. Than Shwe: Unmasking Burma's Tyrant provides the first-ever account of Than Shwe's journey from postal clerk to dictator, analyzing his rise through the ranks of the army, his training in psychological warfare, his belief in astrology, his elimination of rivals, and his ruthless suppression of dissent. Drawing on the insights of Burma Army defectors, international diplomats, and others, Benedict Rogers provides a compelling account of the reclusive and xenophobic character of Than Shwe, and life in Burma under his rule. http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121382

Thailande Aux origins d'une crise / Oliver Ferrari, Narumon Hinshiranan Arunotai, Jacques Ivanoff & Arnaud Leveau Bangkok: IRASEC, 2010 115p. ; 19cm. ISBN-13: 9786169028253 Carnets de I'Irasec / Occasional Paper n°13 French Language \$ 15.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121383

Reinventing Thailand: Thaksin and His Foreign Policy / Pavin Chachavalpongpun Singapore: ISEAS, 2010 xix. 354p. ; 23cm. ISBN-13: 9789814279192 1. Thaksin Chinnawat, 1949-2. Thailand – Foreign relations – 1988-

\$ 49.90

From 2001 to 2006, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra transformed Thailand's international role from one of obscurity into a kind of regional hegemon. Thaksin's diplomatic ambitions were reflected in his myriad of grandiose foreign policy initiatives, designed to locate Thailand at the forefront of regional politics and reinstall the Thai sphere of influence over weaker neighbouring states. He abolished the traditional bending-with-the-wind foreign policy, revamped the Thai Foreign Ministry, and empowered Thai envoys through the CEO Ambassadors programme. But in this process, Thaksin was accused of exploiting foreign policy to enrich his business empire. Thaksin's reinvention of Thailand as an up-and-coming regional power was therefore tainted by conflicts of interest and the absence of ethical principles in the country's foreign policy.

http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120734

Chroniques d'Asie Tome II 2010 – Le Temps des turbulences / Jean-Claude Pomonti Phnom Penh: Les Edition du Mekong, 2010 275p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789995075095 French Language \$ 30.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121384

Religion

Religious Perspectives on Climate Change: Faith Communities in Action Bangkok: Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN), 2009 147p. ; 21cm. ISBN-13: 9789742359669 \$ 12.00

What is the role of religion in responding to climate change? In the face of impending manmade ecological disaster and a surprising number of people and governments who refuse to heed the warning signs, communities of faith ground us in the interconnectedness of life on earth and remind us that in destroying the natural world we destroy ourselves. <u>http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121385</u>

Religion – Buddhism

The Hevajra Tantra: A Critical Study / David Snellgrove Bangkok: Orchid Press, 2010 First published by Oxford University Press, London, 1959, 1980 xv. 188p. ; 23cm. ISBN-13: 9789745241282 \$ 50.00

In this groundbreaking work, the author presents a full translation of, and commentary on, the Hevajra tantra, providing not only deep insight into arguably the most important surviving tantric Buddhist text but also placing the entire corpus of such works into a more accurate context.

Snellgrove presents the Hevajra tantra, and tantric texts of this class, not as degenerate products of a faith at the time in terminal decline in India – as has often been claimed by puritanical scholars-but rather as a wholly legitimate expression of esoteric ritual and meditative practice developed as a natural evolution within the madhyamika tradition.

While based primarily on Nepalese manuscript editions of the text, Snellgrove makes extensive reference to the Tibetan translation as well as to extant Indian commentaries. The first half of the work comprises an introduction and the actual translation with detailed annotations, while the second consists of the Romanized original Sanskrit and Tibetan texts and an extensive glossary.

Religion – Christianity

A Man of Faith and Intuition : P. Martin Komolmas Thailand: Assumption University of Thailand, 2009 151p. ; 24cm. ISBN-13: 9789746153034 \$ 35.00 http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=121387

Sociology

Dead Drunk: Saving Myself From Alcoholism in a Thai Monastery / Paul Garrigan Ireland, Thailand : Maverick House Publishers, 2010 256p. ; 20cm. ISBN-13: 9781905379699 \$ 22.50

Pau Garrigan has written an honest (and often darkly humorous) account of the events that led him to travel the world and embark on a series of staggering drinking binges throughout the 1980s and 1990s. His adventures took him from the quiet suburds of Dublin to begging on the streets of London, getting paid to drink in Oxford and swigging illegal booze in Saudi Arabia, before finally ending up in a remote Thai village where he fully succumbed to his addiction, and was determined to drink himself to death.

Faced with the possibility of liver failure, and the breakdown of yet another relationship, Garrigan was ultimately forced to face his inner demons. While surfing the Internet one night he came across a highly unorthodox detox programme being offered by Buddhist monks, and in a last-ditch attempt at sobriety, he set out on what he was sure would be his strangest and most difficult journey yet.

In his extraordinary and thought-provoking debut book, Garrigan describes the physical and emotional effects of his alcohol abuse. With disarming honesty he documents his journey to Thailand's Thamkrabok temple, where he hoped to escape his addiction and turn his life around – for once and for all. Garrigan's book is a rare first-person account of treatment at Thamrabok temple.