

## Recent Books from Thailand – Aug 2018

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### Biography

The Daughter : A Political Biography of Aung San Suu Kyi / Hans-Bernd Zollner & Rodion Ebbighausen (Translated) Vipasha Bansal  
Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2018  
x, 342p. ; 75 illus., 1 map  
Includes Index ; Bibliography  
9786162151460  
\$ 25.00 / PB  
420gm.

As the Rohingya crisis exploded, observers of Myanmar were shocked to see Aung San Suu Kyi, champion for the causes of liberal democracy and human rights, stand by as atrocities tore apart the western reaches of her country. The Daughter is an in-depth exploration of this icon-turned-leader and of the people, ideas, and experiences that have shaped her political identity. What emerges is not a shift in ideology but a consistent picture of the contrasts and multidimensionality that have defined her-prisoner and leader, principled resistor and pragmatic politician, the Lady and Mother Suu. Translated and updated from the original German, The Daughter is essential reading for professionals, journalists, and other observers seeking to understand Aung San Suu Kyi's role in Myanmar.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408277>

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The long winding road to Nakhon Nowhere : When Thailand truly was the Land of Smiles / Roger Crutchley

Bangkok: DCO Books, 2018

258p.

9786164560024

\$ 25.00 / PB

In January 1969, at the age of 22, Roger Crutchley set out from London on an overland trip to the Far East. Just how 'far' East he was heading he wasn't entirely sure, although he did have Australia as his ultimate goal. After three months and a number of diversions, he found himself in Bangkok which was not on his planned route at all, not that anything about the entire trip was planned. So what happened next? Here he relates his eventful journey and the early experiences in Thailand, a kingdom he is still trying to figure out after working four decades on the Bangkok Post newspaper.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408280>

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## **History**

Khmer Rouge Nationalism and Mass Killing : Perception of the Vietnamese / Duong Keo

Bangkok: Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2018

xvi, 144p.

9786164073012

\$ 25.00 / PB

286gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408281>

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## **Religion - Buddhism**

Gender and the Path to Awakening : Hidden Histories of Nuns in Modern Thai Buddhism / Martin Seeger

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2018

xviii, 342p.

Includes Index

9786162151477

\$ 35.00 / PB

490gm.

In *Gender and the Path to Awakening*, Martin Seeger lays out the nuances and varying conceptions of female renunciation in modern Thai Buddhism. Centered on long-term textual and ethnographic research on six remarkable female practitioners, Seeger considers trends and changes over the last 140 years in the practices of female renunciants and their devotees. He also investigates understandings of female sainthood in Thai Buddhism, its expressions in material culture, and the importance of orality and memory in Thai Buddhist epistemology.

Supported by interviews and careful study of sermons, hagiographies, and hitherto untranslated and rare Thai sources, this book examines the social backgrounds, modes of expression, veneration, and historical contexts of Thai women pursuing the Buddhist ideal. Rich in ethnographic detail and with additional grounding in foundational Indian Buddhist texts, this book offers new insights into the complexities of female renunciation and gender relations in modern Thai Buddhism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=408283>

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Remembering the Present : Mindfulness in Buddhist Asia / J. L. Cassaniti  
Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2018

xviii, 298p.

Includes Index

9781501709173

1. Buddhism – Thailand – Chiang Mai – Customs and practices
2. Buddhism – Sri Lanka – Kandy – Customs and practices
3. Buddhism – Burma – Mandalay – Customs and practices
4. Mindfulness (Psychology) – Thailand – Chiang Mai
5. Mindfulness (Psychology) – Sri Lanka – Kandy
6. Mindfulness (Psychology) – Burma – Mandalay
7. Meditation – Theravada Buddhism

\$ 27.95 / PB

434gm.

What is mindfulness, and how does it vary as a concept across different cultures? How does mindfulness find expression in practice in the Buddhist cultures of Southeast Asia? What role does mindfulness play in everyday life? J. L. Cassaniti answers these fundamental questions and more through an engaged ethnographic investigation of what it means to "remember the present" in a region strongly influenced by Buddhist thought.

Focusing on Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar, *Remembering the Present* examines the meanings, practices, and purposes of mindfulness. Using the experiences of people in Buddhist monasteries, hospitals, markets, and homes in the region, Cassaniti shows how an attention to memory informs how people live today and how mindfulness is intimately tied to local constructions of time, affect, power, emotion, and selfhood. By looking at how these people incorporate Theravada Buddhism into their daily lives, Cassaniti provides a signal contribution to the psychological anthropology of religious experience.

*Remembering the Present* heeds the call made by researchers in the psychological sciences and the Buddhist side of mindfulness studies for better understandings of what mindfulness is and can be. Cassaniti addresses fundamental questions about selfhood, identity, and how a deeper appreciation of the many contexts and complexities intrinsic in sati (mindfulness in the Pali language) can help people lead richer, fuller, and healthier lives. *Remembering the Present* shows how mindfulness needs to be understood within the cultural and historical influences from which it has emerged.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=347778>

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