

Recent Books from Thailand – Feb 2020

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Anthropology

Defining Dvaravati / (Eds) Anna Bennet & Hunter Watson
Bangkok: DASTA, 2020
180p. ; 21 x 27 cm. ; 208 Color photograph ; 78 Black &
White photograph ; 12 maps, 17 drawings.
Includes Bibliography
9786162151576
\$ 65.00 / PB
950gm.

This volume summarizes the current scholarship of the earliest phase of Thai history — an exciting but little understood period that bridged the gap between protohistory and the fully developed historical period. Written by ten international scholars, it examines the inception of the Dvaravati period in the fifth century with chapters on archaeology; considers the art and architecture of the sixth to tenth centuries. The book provides an overview of the art historical characteristics of Dvaravati style; collates the epigraphic evidence, including previously unpublished texts; considers the importance of trade and religion in cementing relationships between early Southeast Asian societies and as paramount incentives for its expansion and development; and discusses the end of the period.

The volume dedicated to Ian Glover, a pioneer of Southeast Asian archaeology, edited by one of his former students Anna Bennett, together with her co-editor Hunter Watson.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685799>

Protecting Asia's Heritage Yesterday and Tomorrow /
The Siam Society Under Royal Patronage
Bangkok/Chiang Mai: The Siam Society Under Royal
Patronage & Silkworm Books, 2020
vi, 246p.
9786162151569
\$ 45.00 / PB
476gm.

Asia's splendid heritage is at risk—from rapid economic growth, government neglect, and poorly managed tourism. But some people have become deeply, passionately, and actively involved in protecting Asia's heritage—as activists, organizers, critics, teachers, artists, and entrepreneurs. In this book, twelve principal authors, all Asians, from eleven of the region's countries, present their experience of what has been done in the past, and their ideas on what should be done in the future.

The Western experience with managing heritage needs now to be extended with concepts and practices relevant to Asia. The legal framework for protecting heritage must be brought up to date. Intangible heritage deserve more attention. Citizens and local communities are often the best guardians of their own heritage. Organizations and campaigns that draw on both public and private resources can be very effective. The heritage and environmental movements can gain from cooperation. Protecting heritage can be good for business, but it requires discipline and vision.

This book records the start of a conversation which promises to transform the protection of Asia's heritage tomorrow.

Art

The Cycle of Life in the Paintings of Thai Artist Pichai Nirand / Philip Constable

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2020

viii, 108p. ; full color Size : 17x24cm. ; Color illustrations ; 37 color paintings ; 1 B&W photograph.

Includes Bibliography

9786162151552

\$ 30.00 / PB

268gm.

The paintings of contemporary Thai artist Pichai Nirand (b. 1936) are a vivid exploration of the interplay between Thailand's Buddhist roots and its modern aspirations and struggles. From his early application of the ideas of one of his mentors, Silpa Bhirasri (the Italian sculptor Corrado Feroci), to his thought-provoking and beautiful considerations of the role of Buddhism in modern Thai society, Pichai's story is one of an artist engaging fully with the world and belief system around him.

This book presents a colorful journey through almost half a century of Pichai's artistic output and contributes to the growing appreciation of contemporary artists in modern Thai society. Accompanying the thirty-seven full-color paintings is incisive examination of the Thai moral and social themes of Pichai's paintings in terms of the Buddhist cycle of life—a concept that appears throughout his work. Philip Constable's sensitive analysis of the social, political, economic, and moral dimensions affecting the artist and his oeuvre, coupled with careful reference to other contemporary Thai artists and their creations, illuminate the deep meaning and expression behind each painting. The artwork and insights in this book showcase the creativity and development of a celebrated Thai artist who has spent a lifetime providing

a Thai Buddhist perspective on the dilemmas and contradictions of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685801>

Literature

Brannan : The Movie / Stephen Cord
Bangkok: DCO Books (Proglen Trading Co. Ltd), 2019
180p.
9786164560239
\$ 22.50 / PB
245gm.

(Book Three in the Brannan Series)

Joe Brannan is living the good life; as skipper and owner of a charter dive-boat operating out of Thailand's sin city Pattaya he has everything. Everything that is, except the cash flow it takes to keep his beloved boat operating. Then, due to an unexpected twist of fate, he is approached by a beautiful movie starlet with a lucrative proposition that could change his fortunes forever. All he has to do is rescue a superstar hostage from the clutches of a gang of international terrorists. TROPIC HEAT. IMPOSSIBLE RESCUE. INSANE ODDS. Is Joe Brannan finally out of his depth?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=685802>
