

## Recent Books from Thailand – July 2020

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### Art

Vanishing Bangkok : The Changing Face of the City / Ben  
Davies (Eds) Nic Dunlop & Jim Pollard  
Bangkok: Asia Horizons Books, 2020  
144p.  
9786164510340  
\$ 90.00 / HB  
1340gm.

A unique angle on a city popular with tourists. This stunning  
black and white photographic book takes us on a journey  
through the forgotten backstreets and hidden neighborhoods  
of Bangkok revealing the fragile beauty and faded charm of  
the city that is about to disappear forever beneath a tidal  
wave of development.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=713260>

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In the Seeds of Design : Thai Designer of the Year 2004-2019  
Bangkok: Li-Zenn Publishing Limited, 2019  
424p.  
English, Thai  
9786164590243  
\$ 100.00 / HB  
1390gm.

Many design items are kept in private rare art collections. This is probably because they are meticulously created and each piece is embedded with traces of culture, tradition, lifestyle, and spirit of fineness. The hidden value and beauty, as well as a variety of meanings of these items, are reflected in the economic, social, technological, industrial environments and more. By decoding the creative design principles of Thai designers, in terms of their experience, idea, theory and unique expertise, the quality creative works have been created by the designers of the year for over 20 years in 7 disciplines: interior design, graphic design, illustration, product design, furniture design, jewelry design, and textile design. All represent values in various aspects: environment, life+style, culture, crafts, texture & surface, being Thai, details, process, arts, symbols, and innovation. You will definitely appreciate the fascination of these designs into which each designer finely sprinkles the seeds of florals. These works are collected in the book and ready to send out the inspiration, ideas, and aesthetics...impressively.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=702868>

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## History

A Luang Prabang Love Story / Manisamouth Ratana  
Koumphon (Ed) Narisa Chakrabongse  
Bangkok: River Books, 2020  
172p.  
9786164510425  
\$ 14.95 / PB  
206gm.

In 1930s Luang Prabang, the beautiful and demure Kham-Phiou was much admired. On a New Year's Day, the life of the aristocratic young woman changed when she caught the eye of a sophisticated older man - Prince Souvanna Phouma. The prince fell madly in love with Kham-Phiou and was determined to marry her against all odds. His family wanted a marriage within the dynasty, while her widowed mother feared Palace

intrigues. After the wedding, life in the prince's family home was difficult, but Kham-Phiou began to adapt until the prince decided they should move to Vientiane for the sake of his career. The tale of the 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 charming and moving personal account incorporating the social history of Laos, Manisamouth, granddaughter of Kham-Phiou, brings her grandmother's untold story to life, accompanied by evocative black and white photographs, family trees of the Luang Prabang Royals and Kham-Phiou's lineage, and includes a section on Lao history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=703164>

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Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the October 6, 1976, Massacre in Bangkok / Thongchai Winichakul  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: University of Hawaii Press, 2020  
322p. ; 11 b&w illustrations, 1 map  
9780824882341  
\$ 28.00 / PB

The massacre on October 6, 1976, in Bangkok was brutal and violent, its savagery unprecedented in modern Thai history. Four decades later there has been no investigation into the atrocity; information remains limited, the truth unknown. There has been no collective coming to terms with what happened or who is responsible. Thai society still refuses to confront this dark page in its history.

Moments of Silence focuses on the silence that surrounds the October 6 massacre. Silence, the book argues, is not forgetting. Rather it signals an inability to forget or remember—or to articulate a socially meaningful memory. It is the “unforgetting,” the liminal domain between remembering and forgetting. Historian Thongchai Winichakul, a participant in the events of that day, gives the silence both a voice and a history by highlighting the factors that contributed to the unforgetting amidst changing memories of the massacre over the decades that followed. They include shifting political

conditions and context, the influence of Buddhism, the royal-nationalist narrative of history, the role played by the monarchy as moral authority and arbiter of justice, and a widespread perception that the truth might have devastating ramifications for Thai society. The unforgetting impacted both victims and perpetrators in different ways. It produced a collective false memory of an incident that never took place, but it also produced silence that is filled with hope and counter-history.

Moments of Silence tells the story of a tragedy in Thailand—its victims and survivors—and how Thai people coped when closure was unavailable in the wake of atrocity. But it also illuminates the unforgetting as a phenomenon common to other times and places where authoritarian governments flourish, where atrocities go unexamined, and where censorship (imposed or self-directed) limits public discourse. The tensions inherent in the author's dual role offer a riveting story, as well as a rare and intriguing perspective. Most of all, this provocative book makes clear the need to provide a place for past wrongs in the public memory.

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## Literature

Kings in Love : Lilit Phra Lo and Twelve Months : Two Classic Thai Poems / (Translated & Introduced) Chris Baker & Pasuk Phongpaichit

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2020

vi, 338p. ; 14x21cm.

Includes Bibliography

9786162151613

\$ 35.00 / PB

394gm.

Lilit Phra Lo and Twelve Months (Thawathotsamat) are among the earliest works of Thai literature, over 500 years old, both on a theme of love, both distinctive, and both controversial. Lilit Phra Lo is a long narrative poem with an unusual romance, a contest of rival magic, an erotic climax,

and a blood-soaked ending. It has been condemned as feudal and indulgent, but celebrated for its flowing poetry and emotional power.

Twelve Months is a passionate lament for a lost lover, once greatly acclaimed, but quietly sidelined over the past century for being “too erotic.”

Though rooted in Thai culture, both speak to universal themes and have echoes in world literature.

These translations by an award-winning team aim to convey not only the meaning of the old Thai originals but also their beauty and emotional power.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=713266>

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The Story of King Lo : Lilit Phra Lo / (Translator) Robert J Bickner

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2020

x, 222p. ; 14x21cm.

Includes Bibliography

9786162151606

\$ 25.00 / PB

272gm

The Story of King Lo is highly regarded as an important part of the poetic heritage of Thailand. It received royal acclaim in 1914, and is included in official school curricula. Students of Thai literature all memorize parts of it and retain them for decades.

The story has been extolled as beautiful and deeply moving poetry, with admirable and virtuous protagonists. It has also been vilified as undignified vulgarity, as a piece of ancient titillation unworthy of attention in the modern day. And, for both admirers and critics alike, it has proven to be a source of great confusion and unresolvable obscurity.

Robert J. Bickner uses comparative and historical linguistics as the foundation for his examination and interpretation of the poem, and with this translation guides the reader through the many complexities of this fascinating text. It has its roots in the very distant past, long before Thailand as we know it today stepped onto the world stage. But the story, because of the

way it has been shaped and molded by modern tastes and attitudes, remains an enlightening example of the intellectual struggles of a once monolithic monarchy struggling to evolve into a modern nation state.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=713267>

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## Religion - Buddhism

Buddhist Tourism in Asia / (Eds) Courtney Bruntz & Brooke Schedneck (Series Ed) Mark M. Rowe

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: University of Hawaii Press, 2020  
x, 256p.

Includes Index

9780824881184

Contemporary Buddhism Series

1. Tourism – Asia – Religious aspects – Buddhism – Case studies.

2. Buddhist pilgrims and pilgrimages – Case studies

\$ 68.00 / HB

526gm.

This innovative collaborative work—the first to focus on Buddhist tourism—explores how Buddhists, government organizations, business corporations, and individuals in Asia participate in re-imaginings of Buddhism through tourism. Contributors from religious studies, anthropology, and art history examine sacred places and religious monuments as they have been shaped and reshaped by socioeconomic and cultural trends in the region.

Following an introduction that offers the first theoretical understanding of tourism from a Buddhist studies' perspective, early chapters discuss the ways Buddhists and non-Buddhists imagine concepts and places related to the religion. Case studies highlight Buddhist peace in India, Buddhist heavens and hells in Singapore, Thai temple space, and the future Buddha Maitreya in China. Buddhist tourism's connections to the state, market, and new technologies are explored in

chapters on Indian package tours for pilgrims, thematic Buddhist tourism in Cambodia, the technological innovations of Buddhist temples in China, and the promotion of pilgrimage sites in Japan. Contributors then situate the financial concerns of Chinese temples, speed dating in temples in Japan, and the diffuse and pervasive nature of Buddhism for tourism promotion in Ladakh, India.

How have tourist routes, groups, sites, and practices associated with Buddhism come to be possible and what are the effects? In what ways do travelers derive meaning from Buddhist places? How do Buddhist sites fortify national, cultural, or religious identities? The comparative research in South, Southeast, and East Asia presented here draws attention to the intertwining of the sacred and the financial and how local and national sites are situated within global networks. Together these findings generate a compelling comparative investigation of Buddhist spaces, identities, and practices.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701525>

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## Travel

Very Bangkok : In the City of the Senses / Philip Cornwel-Smith (Eds) Marc Pachter & Alex Kerr (Foreword) Lawrence Osborne

Bangkok: River Books Co., Ltd., 2020

360p. ; Maps

Includes Index

9786164510432

USD 25.00 / HB

1090gm.

Bangkok arrests the visitor with a bewildering juxtaposition of old and new, hi-tech and impromptu, sacred and profane.

While modernising apace under myriad outside influences, the Thai capital draws equal vigour from its historic communities, cultural diversity and contemporary urban tribes. Author of 'Very Thai' and 'Time Out Bangkok', Philip Cornwel-Smith takes an alternative look at the subcultures of his adopted town in

this practical thematic handbook. With the aid of maps, listings and references, the visitor can engage with Bangkok's contradictory character according to their mood or interest. Explore the city's contrasting environments, architectural fabric, ethnic patchwork and intertwined beliefs. Encounter distinct social scenes, whether hip or hi-so, local or bohemian and see how traditional roots infuse the current Thai flowering in arts and entertainments, fashion and food lifestyle and spas. Photography by Cornwel-Smith and others enhance this insider's guide to a city like no other.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=713270>

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