

Recent Books from Taiwan– July 2022

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Anthropology / Archaeology

Taiwan Maritime Landscape from Neolithic to Early Modern Times / (Eds) Paola Calanca, Liu Yi-Chang & Frank Muyard

Etudes Thematiques No. 34

Paris, France: Ecole française d'Extreme-Orient, 2022

392p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

ISSN: 1269-8067 ; 9782855392721

\$ 100.00 / PB

1192gm.

Taiwan Maritime Landscapes examines the maritime history and prehistory of Taiwan, with particular attention paid to the often neglected pre-17th century periods. It expands our understanding of the island's past and its nautical environment, and highlights the persistence of Taiwan's relationships with its neighbors, first through the maritime activities of Austronesian peoples, then around the 2nd millennium AD by way of the Minnan sailors. Supported by a multidisciplinary approach, the works presented herein showcase recent advances in archaeological and historical research on these issues. It documents the natural maritime and climatic environment of Taiwan, its first Neolithic communities, their diversification up to the 1st millennium AD, and the integration of the island into Chinese and European maritime networks. It illustrates and explores the island societies' cultural and commercial connections with populations and polities across the South and East China Seas as well as the nautical knowledge underpinning these relations. The articles presented in this book offer new insights and avenues for Asian maritime history research. ***Taiwan Maritime Landscapes revient sur l'histoire et la préhistoire maritimes de Taïwan, en se focalisant sur les périodes antérieures au XVIIe siècle, souvent ignorées par les chercheurs. L'ouvrage ouvre de nouvelles perspectives sur le passé de l'île et son environnement nautique en mettant, notamment, en évidence la

permanence des relations de Taïwan avec ses voisins, à travers, d'abord, les activités des peuples austronésiens puis celles des marins Minnan depuis les alentours du IIe millénaire. Pluridisciplinaires, les contributions présentent les avancées récentes de la recherche archéologique et historique sur ces questions : elles examinent l'environnement naturel – maritime et climatique – de Taïwan, les premières communautés néolithiques de l'île, leur diversification jusqu'au Ier millénaire de notre ère puis l'intégration de l'île dans les réseaux maritimes chinois et européens. Les auteurs analysent en particulier les liens, culturels et commerciaux, entretenus par les sociétés insulaires avec les populations et les entités politiques des mers de Chine du Sud et de l'Est et les connaissances nautiques nécessaires à l'établissement et à la poursuite de telles relations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=808473>

Literature

My Dear Ak'i, Please Don't Be Upset / Faisu Mukunana; (Ed) Cort Smith (Translator)
Yao-Chung Tsao
Taiwan: Serenity International, 2021
192p.
9789866245053
\$ 45.00 / PB
176gm.

Faisu Mukunana portrays various facets of the Tsou's centuries-old way of life prior to the 1950s and before the drastic modernization and urbanization that impacted them. She wishes to convey some messages to her grandpa, to current and future Tsou generations, to the Han Taiwanese, and to the relatively recent Chinese immigrants who fled from China to Taiwan after the Second World War.

Faisu, in her opening story bearing the same title as the book, talks to her grandfather at his grave. Through this spiritual communication, Faisu allows us an emotional and intimate glimpse into the lives of the native Tsou people of Taiwan, thus drawing us into the interesting anthropological lore contained in the chapters that follow. The similarities of Tsou spiritual beliefs and practices with those of many native Americans are striking. In her talk with her Ak'i (grandfather), Faisu expresses guilt that she and her family 'forgot' about him for 51 years, never sweeping or visiting his grave. She mentions to him that she realizes it had not been Tsou custom in the past to attend to the dead so devotedly and she seems to wonder about it, to the extent of apologizing to her Ak'i for seeming so 'uncaring.' Indeed, the reader may have those same thoughts. The parallels that may provide some explanation, both for the general reader and for other scholars on these subjects. For example, the Chumash of Southern California traditionally 'forgot' about the newly dead in order to help their dead break from the emotional ties to their past life and

physical pleasures. In Chumash tradition, Scorpion Woman assists souls, toward the end of their journey on the 'path of the dead,' by stinging them so they will forget the life they just left and be content while waiting in the celestial paradise to be reborn. Perhaps, like the Chumash, the Tsou deliberately ignored their dead, thus assisting them to continue on the 'path of the dead' toward reincarnation, when their family might see them again. This is a topic that would be fascinating to learn more about from the Tsou people.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=823591>

The Surveillance : Tales of White Terror in Taiwan / C.J. Anderson-Wu (Eds) Steven M. Anderson & Ginny Jaramillo
Taiwan: Kanda Yasuko Memorial Foundation, 2021
192p.
9789574389070
\$ 30.00 / PB
106gm.

The 13 stories in this book are about the lives of ordinary people without freedom of expression or complete political rights, and what decisions they might make while faced with a dilemma. Additionally, these stories investigate the role of literary works in a society with all kinds of political taboos.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=823592>

Unsinkable : Short Stories from Taiwanese Writers / Walis Nokan (et al.) (Translators)
Richard R.B. Chen & C.J. Anderson-Wu
Taiwan: Serenity International Publishing, 2020
144p.
9789869639330
\$ 30.00 / PB
80gm.

The tumultuous recent history of Taiwan surprisingly gave the islands unusually diverse cultures. People immigrated to Taiwan for all kinds of reasons, from missionaries sent to pass on their gospels, businessmen developing new markets, workers seeking bigger money, to refugees running from wars or dissidents looking for asylum. Thus memories of the lost past are a motif of Taiwanese literature and a powerful approach for writers to deal with issues inconvenient to confront face to face. These issues include regime transfer, political oppression, faiths, sexuality, family values, urbanization, fantasies, misunderstanding, cultural clashes and discrimination. Colonialism and poverty are still living experiences and simultaneously memories to many Taiwanese. In literary works, the (dis)continuation of tradition and values are the

ever present focus. In these four stories, the authors have successfully woven layers of messages through intriguing plots, characters and metaphors. With extraordinary artistry, they (re)present elaborate human natures.

These are the stories of ordinary people who refuse to succumb to hardship or inequality. They are unsinkable Taiwanese.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=823593>
