# Recent Books on South East Asia & from Indonesia – January 2005 Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd

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## Anthropology

Guardians of the land in Kelimado: Louis Fontijne's Study of a Colonial District in Eastern Indonesia / L. Fontijne ; Edited and Translated by Gregory Forth Leiden : KITLV Press, c2004 xiv, 266 p.; ill.; 25cm Includes Bibliography, Index and Maps. Koninklijk Instituut Voor Taal-, Land-En Volkenkunde Translation Series 27 90-6718-223-0 \$ 50.00

[In 1940, a Dutch colonial officer named Louis Fontijne (1902-1968) was commissioned to conduct an investigation of indigenous land tenure and leadership in the Residency of Timor and Dependencies. Dealing specifically with Kelimado, a region included in the Naga district of Central Flores, it main product was a remarkable study of society and culture and the effects of over three decades of Dutch administration and Christian proselytizing. In regard to ethnographic detail and analytical insight, the work, entitled 'Grondvoogden in Kelimado', resembles more an academic thesis than a government report; yet another interest is Fontijne's forthright critique of

colonial policy and recommendations for administrative reform. Incorporating an edited translation of the only comprehensive description of Nage society produced during the colonial period, as well as an evaluation by a modern ethnographer, this book will be of interest to anthropologists, historians and other scholars concerned with Indonesia and the Netherlands Indies.]

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A Merry Senhor in the Malay World : Four Texts of the Syair Sinyor Kosta – Vol.I and II / Edited by A.Teeuw, R.Dumas, Muhammad Haji Salleh, R.Tol and M.J.van Yeperen Leiden : KITLV Press, c2004 2vs.; 24cm Includes Bibliography and Index Bibliotheca Indonesica - Koninklijk Instituut Voor Taal-, Land-En Volkenkunde Series- 30 90-6718-216-8 \$ 85.00 (Set)

[Around a century ago a Malay poem was written which tells of foreigner in Southeast Asia, always indicated as Sinyor, who elopes with Lela Many Martine Buildek sellers South East Asia & Indonesia – January 2005 Page 15 a wealthy Chinaman. The Chinaman sets out in pursuit of the couple and engages in a naval battle with the Sinyor in an attempt to get his wife back. The Syair Sinyor Kosta, as the poem is known, presents us with fascinating pictures and glimpses of Malay society, in this case a nineteenth-century society in transition. This book presents editions of four versions of the Syair Sinyor Kosta, of which two are translated into English. The texts are preceded by a lengthy introduction, which deals with the manuscripts, their history and provenance, and their writers. The book closes with a detailed chapter with a comparative study of the four versions, an investigation of the historical setting, and an analysis of the language used in the texts.]

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Vietnam's Cultural Diversity: Approaches to Preservation / Edited by Oscar Salemink Paris : Memory of Peoples, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, c2001 282 p.; ill.; 27cm Includes a Map. Memory of Peoples Series 92-3-103800-1 \$ 95.00

[The cultural diversity of Viet Nam, a multi-ethnic society, is a fertile and compelling subject for reflection. The present work is based on an international meeting held in Hanoi, organized by UNESCO, on the intangible heritage of the nation's ethnic minorities. The varied experiences and differing points of view of the authors cut through the outer covering of Vietnamese society, resulting in a very useful interplay of contrasting perspectives for the reader. This makes it possible to focus on specific issues while at the same time providing an overall grasp of the complexity of societal phenomena in Viet Nam today. Music, oral epic, the legal protection of intangible culture: these are but a few of the many topics presented. This unique study, illustrated with over one hundred colour photographs, will appeal to those interested specifically in South-East Asian studies, anthropology, social studies or linguistics, and to a wide general audience. Extensive notes and bibliography provide guidelines for research on the many questions raised.]

Laos and Ethnic Minority Cultures: Promoting Heritage / Edited by Yves Goudineau Paris : Memory of Peoples, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, c2003 296 p.; ill.; 27cm Includes a Map. Memory of Peoples Series 92-3-103891-5 \$ 100.00

[It is thought that the Lao People's Democratic Republic is home to no fewer than forty-seven ethnic groups. The Lao, who live in the plains, form half the country's population, thereby constituting the country's predominant culture. Laos is also home, however, to many mountain minorities that live with their own languages, beliefs and aesthetic traditions. A large number of these local cultures, some of them of great antiquity, have managed to survive in spite of the ups and downs of regional history. None the less, this exceptional cultural diversity, which forms part of the rich national heritage of Laos, is currently under threat – in particular the intangible heritage of the oral, gestural, musical, and ritual kind that relies entirely on memory. The contributions collected here embody the fascinating and often contrasting exchange of experiences and views that took place between international experts and national officials on the subject of the cultural implications of multi-ethnicity in Laos.]

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Lacquerware in Asia, Today and Yesterday / Edited by Monika Kopplin Paris : Memory of Peoples, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, c2002 240 p.; ill.; 27cm Includes Bibliography and Index Memory of Peoples Series 92-3-103808-7 \$ 80.00

[Dating back several thousand years in Chinese History, the art of lacquer can claim to be one of the most ancient and venerable expressions of Asian culture. However, there is growing apprehension that this traditional knowledge, so firmly rooted in people's daily lives as part of their cultural expression, is under threat as never before. Over the past decades, the number of people employed in lacquerware workshops, and particularly the younger generation, has fallen dramatically all over Asia. Lacquerware in Asia : Today and Yesterday offers a comprehensive picture of both lacquer creative arts and craftsmanship, allowing the reader to compare the different methods and materials used in Cambodia, China, India, Korea, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

By Presenting an overview of the art of lacquer in Asia today, this book brings very different kinds of lacquerware. At the same time, it underlines the importance of documenting past and modern procedures, including knowledge of raw materials and techniques. This book will appeal to specialists and art connoisseurs who are concerned by the survival of an ancestral art doomed to disappear unless proper actions are taken to help it overcome the challenges it faces today.]

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### Architecture

Constituting Unity and Difference : Vernacular Architecture in a Minangkabau village / Marcel Vellinga Leiden : KITLV Press, c2004 xiv, 338 p.; ill.; 25cm Includes Bibliography, Index and Maps Verhandelingen Van Het Koninklijk Instituut Voor Taal-, Land-En Volkenkunde Series - 220 90-6718-230-3 \$ 70.00

[The vernacular architecture of the Minangkabau in Sumatra constitutes one of the most popular and well-known building traditions in contemporary Indonesia. Yet, despite its fame, Minangkabau architecture has received remarkably little scholarly attention. What is known about the building tradition does not go beyond the romanticized popular image (of high-rising roof spires, floor elevations, and colourful woodcarvings) promoted by the government, the tourist industry, and the media. This image leaves too many questions about the meaning of Minangkabau architecture unanswered. Constituting unity and difference refines, supplements, and revises the popular image. Focusing on the construction, design, and special use of vernacular houses in one region of West Sumatra, and taking into account historical

developments and geographical variation, the author explores how vernacular Minangkabau houses are instrumental in the constitution, perpetuation, and manipulation of socio-political relationships and identities. He concludes that the current popular image of Minangkabau architecture is seriously in need of revision. Anthropologists, architects, and those interested in Indonesian cultural history or vernacular architecture studies will value this in-depth analysis of one of the country's most striking and popular building traditions.]

## **Communication and Journalism**

Cultural travel and migrancy : The artistic representation of globalization in the electronic media of West Java / Edwin Jurriëns Leiden : KITLV Press, 2004 200 p.; 90-6718-222-2 \$ 41.90

[This book examines how people in West Java use modern media such as radio, television, and cassettes to give expression to their thoughts and feelings about problems of contemporary life. It describes artistic approaches to globalization, one of the problems that has been felt most pressing during the late New Order and early Reformation. Situating itself at this remarkable turning-point in Indonesian history, it shows that local artists have not been mere victims or products of globalization, but virtual migrants who self-consciously steer the electronic media on their worldwide travels.]

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## History

Southeast Asia : An Introductory History / Milton Osborne 9th Edition (first edition – 1979) New Southwales : Allen & Unwin, c2004 xiv, 350 p.; ill.; 23cm Includes Index and Maps 1.Asia, Southeastern—History 1-74114-448-5 \$ 20.00

[The first edition of Southeast Asia : an introductory history immediately filled a need for travelers and students interested in a tantalizingly different part of the world. Subsequent editions have continued to document with great perception the enormous changes and dramatic growth experienced in the region. Dr. Milton Osborne has been a resident, student and fascinated observer of Southeast Asia for over 40 Years. This familiarity has resulted in a highly readable and lively chronicle. While giving due regard to the early history of the region, Osborne concentrates on the changes that have taken place since the eighteenth century: the impact of colonial rule, economic transformations of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the emergence and triumph of the independence movements, the impact of social change and the pivotal roles played by religion, ethnic minorities and immigrant groups. He also provides an introduction to the art of the region and a comprehensive guide to literature about Southeast Asia. Clearly written and extensively illustrated, this ninth edition of Southeast Asia : an introductory history remains a classic in the field.]

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Karaton Surakarta / Edited by Marleen Heins ; General Editor : John Miksic Jakarta : Yayasan Pawiyatan Kabudayan Karaton Surakarta, c2004 412 p.; ill.; 31cm. 979-98586-0-7 \$ 150.00

[In 1945 the ancient kingdoms were superceded by the newly-formed Republic of Indonesia. The courts with their panoply of ancient traditions gave way to a new political ethos in which individual achievement replaced aristocratic birth as the main criterion for success. Overnight the courts were reduced to political irrelevance. Their rulers lost both inherited power and traditional sources of income. Many simply disappeared, while others clung to a precarious existence as tourist attractions or cultural centers.

The court of Surakarta was led by one man from 1945 to 2004. Paku Buwono XII. This ruler managed to maintain much of the ceremony associated with the traditional role of Javanese cultural identity. He was been at the forefront of efforts to find a new role for the court as stabilizing influence in Indonesia's search for modernity. The Surakarta palace continues to strive to find new ways to achieve the harmony between change and tradition which Javanese philosophy has always emphasized as one of its main goals.]

Contents

Introduction The Foundation and Development of Karaton Surakarta Hadiningrat The Court of Surakarta – Architecture and Symbolism Beyond the Palace Walls Court Traditions – Literature, Rituals, Ceremonies and Performing Arts Present and Future – Ideals and Motivation

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#### **Performing Arts**

Tone Measurements of Outstanding Javanese Gamelan in Yogyakarta and Surakarta / Wasisto Surjodiningrat, P.J.Sudarjana, Adhi Susanto ; Translated from the Indonesian Language by the authors Second Revised Edition (First Printing-1972) Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, c1993 xi, 56p. ; 21cm. Includes Bibliography 979-420-273-8 \$ 17.00

[Contents: Introduction by the of Rector Gadjah Mada University Preface to the First Edition Preface to the Second Edition I.Introduction II.The Sampling
III. Technique of Measurements
IV. Data of Tone-Measurements
V. Some notes, comparisons and conclusions
Bibliography
Tables No. 1 - 10
Appendix 1
Appendix 2.]

An Introduction to Javanese Gamelan Music / R.M. Wasisto Surjodiningrat Yogyakarta : Gadjah Mada University Press, c1996 xvi, 88p.; 29cm. Includes Bibliography and Index 979-420-386-6 \$ 50.00

[Contents: Preface Introduction I. Gending Ladrang II. Gending Bibaran III. Gending Sabrangan IV. Gending Gangsaran V. Gending Katawang VI. Gending Ageng Tengahan/Alit VII. Gending Lampah VIII. Kendangan Appendix 1. Bonangan Appendix 2. Sempung Imbal Glossary Bibliography Index.]

## Politics

The Invisible Palace: The True Story of a Journalist's Murder in Java / Jose Manuel Tesoro Jakarta, Singapore : Equinox Publishing (Asia) Pte.Ltd., c2004 326 p.; 23cm 979-97964-7-4 \$ 14.95

[One August night in 1996, on a rural highway in Java, an investigative journalist was beaten to death by unknown assailants. Two months later, police arrested a high-school drop-out and put him on trial for the reporter's murder. One problem: the accused killer bad never met his alleged victim. Entwined in local rivalries, media intrigues, and the long-held beliefs of many Javanese in fate, myth and magic, the killing of Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin spawned an unprecedented criminal investigation, a gripping courtroom drama and a nationwide controversy that signaled the iron rule of Indonesia's longtime president, Suharto, was ending. Researched and written over two years from confidential documents, court records and exclusive interviews with police, investigators, lawyers, witnesses and survivors,

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this unique account reconstructs the legal and political drama surrounding one of Indonesia's most famous unsolved murders. Combining Journalism, travel writing and true crime, The Invisible Palace is an engrossing and deeply described study of media, politics and justice in the contemporary developing world.]

Seri Peraturan Perundang-undangan Republik Indonesia – 1999 (Bagian II) Indonesia : Pt Wikrama Waskitha, 1999 v.; 28 cm.

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