

## Recent Books from Thailand – Sept 2023

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](mailto:info@marymartin.com)  
[www.marymartin.com](http://www.marymartin.com)

### Biography/Memoirs

My Father from Semarang : Crossing Horizons as of an Overseas Chinese with a Triple Identity / Yap Kioe Bing  
Bangkok: White Lotus Co. Ltd, 2023  
x, 222p.  
Includes Index  
9789748496184  
\$ 28.00 / PB  
300gm.

My Father from Semarang tells the story of the eldest son of a Chinese family who resides in Semarang, in Central Java, Indonesia. He has a desire to explore the world beyond his hometown, his traditional Chinese culture, and the colonial society of Indonesia before independence. In 1936, he enrolls in the pharmacy program at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands.

In May 1940, Germany invades that country, severing all communication with his family. When the occupiers close the university; he relocates to different places in the Netherlands and meets his future Dutch wife. In the midst of the blossoming romance, he is keenly aware that his family back home would disapprove of this relationship. After the war, they marry, and he returns to Indonesia with his wife and son in 1948, to rejoin his family and help build the new country. However, it is a dangerous time for the Chinese Dutch couple, who consider moving on to another country such as Australia. Eventually, they decide to return to the Netherlands. Throughout his life, he grapples with the question of his identity. Is he Chinese, Indonesian, or Dutch? By the end of his life, he still has no definitive answer, but he finds contentment in embracing all these cultures.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856149>

---

### History

Postcards of Fleuve Rouge River Transport : Dieufils Bilingual Yunnan Railway Series, Car Race Peking - Paris Cars in Indochina / Diethard Ande  
Bangkok: White Lotus Co. Ltd, 2023  
vi, 234p.  
9789747534467  
Old Postcard Series, Vol. 10 : Transport  
\$ 55.00 / PB

826gm.

Postcards of Fleuve Rouge River Transport is a continuation of volume 8 on Mekong traffic covering three parts: upper Mekong from Khone Island to Luang Prabang, Cambodia up to Khone and Cochindia trade with endpoint Saigon.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856150>

---

The Empire Looks South : Chinese Perceptions of Cambodia Before and During the Kingdom of Angkor / Peter Harris (Preface) David Chandler

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2023

9786162151965 (HB)

xii, 388p.

Includes Index

\$ 55.00 / HB

668gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856151>

---

The Empire Looks South : Chinese Perceptions of Cambodia Before and During the Kingdom of Angkor / Peter Harris (Preface) David Chandler

Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2023

9786162151989 (PB)

xii, 388p.

Includes Index

\$ 45.00 / PB

542gm.

The most famous first-hand account of the Kingdom of Angkor was left to us by the imperial Chinese envoy Zhou Daguan. But Zhou's was not the only portrait of Angkor and the kingdoms that came before it. *The Empire Looks South* draws on other early Chinese sources to provide new and engrossing perspectives on early Cambodia up to and including the time of Angkor.

These sources include accounts in official Chinese histories, descriptions by Buddhist monks, the reflections of Daoists searching for immortality, and reports by Chinese merchants in pursuit of perfumes and other exotic goods.

Many of the accounts are of the first kingdom of Cambodia, Funan, centred on the lower Mekong. Long regarded as a major centre of regional trade, the book makes clear that Funan was also a major source of Buddhist learning. *The Empire Looks South* provides portraits of Funan's first queen and kings, its people, its prosperous land, its boats shaped like fish, and its arduous trials by ordeal.

After Funan's mysterious demise in the seventh century, it was succeeded by the state or states of Zhenla, the Chinese name for Cambodia until the time of Zhou Daguan. *The Empire Looks South* describes the royal government and customs of Zhenla, while taking account of Cambodia's likely fragmentation during the early centuries of Zhenla into several polities. From the ninth until the eleventh century the Chinese record falls silent, just as the Kingdom of Angkor was taking shape.

Various reasons for this 'freeze' are considered, among them the nature of Angkor as an inland agricultural society. The book concludes with accounts of Angkor in its final centuries, including an updated translation of Zhou Daguan's record, and Ming dynasty descriptions of Angkor during its decline.

The book tells its story through readable translations of important texts, some of them done in English for the first time, and all of them set in historical context. The work concludes with several informative appendices, among them a portrait of Linyi,

the pre-Vietnamese kingdom that was early Cambodia's neighbour, again drawn from Chinese sources.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856152>

---

*Sociology*

Merit and a Sense of Home : Emerging Thai Buddhist Communities in Germany /  
Nokchachom Cheskhun Stier

Insights from Southeast Asia – Multidisciplinary Approaches Towards the Region,  
Volume 8

Glienicke, Germany: Garda Verlag, 2023

xxiv, 312p.

Includes Bibliography

9783962033064

\$ 95.00 / PB

574gm.

This book provides an insight on the Buddhist way of Thai temple life in German diasporic context. It is based on input from several Thai Buddhist communities in Germany where the first-generation Thai transmigrants construct and form a sense of belonging by actively participating in temple life. It also explores the multifaceted role that Thai temples play in the lives of Thai transmigrants. Moreover, this book combines the anthropology of diasporas with Buddhism and identity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856154>

---