

Recent Books on Vietnam – April 2018

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Anthropology

Mythbusting Vietnam : Facts, Fictions, Fantasies / (Ed) Catherine Earl
Copenhagen K, Denmark: NIAS Press, 2018
xii, 234p.
Includes Index
9788776942441
Nordic Institute of Asian Studies – Studies in Asian Topics, No. 65
\$ 32.00 / PB
370gm.

Vietnam is studied and understood in myriad ways. Even so, much of this knowledge is framed by a limited number of dominant paradigms. The concern of this volume – which applies a postmodern approach to knowledge production in area studies – is to highlight the value of knowledge diversity by challenging some of these paradigms and the myths that are shaped within them. It recognizes that myths are not simply mistakes and thus it does more than simply focus on debunking a dominant paradigmatic view of 'Vietnam'. Rather, and more complexly, it aims to explore myths as dynamic yet incomplete representations of Vietnam understood as a multiplicity that can never be captured as an entirety and which will continually undergo revisions as knowledge of Vietnam develops.

The purpose of this volume, thus, is twofold: first, to identify problematic axiomatic knowledge and raise alternative possibilities and, second, to highlight the value of interdisciplinarity and methodologically diverse approaches in expanding and enhancing knowledge production. The collective effort of the contributors to achieve these aims stem from their own recent and robust empirical research from a variety of disciplinary approaches and perspectives. As a collective effort their contributions

present an inconclusive, unfinished and partial set of pictures of 'Vietnam' that illustrates the value of multiple ways of knowing within and beyond academic knowledge making endeavours, and the risks of not doing so.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=367880>

Art

Vibrancy in Stone : Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture

/ (Author) Tran Ky Phuong, Vo Van Thang & Peter D. Sharrock

(Photographs) Paisarn Piemmettawat

Bangkok: River Books Co. Lt., 2018

288p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9786167339993

\$ 65.00 / HB

1890gm.

This catalogue assembles sumptuous photographs of the world's leading collection of Cham sculpture, along with the most recent insights of Vietnamese and international scholars.

This catalogue assembles sumptuous photographs of the world's leading collection of Cham sculpture, along with the most recent insights of Vietnamese and international scholars. The Champa culture thrived in magnificent temples, sculpture, dance and music along the central and southern coast of today's Vietnam from the 5th to the 15th centuries. A focused exploration here uncovers this brilliant yet almost lost culture to newcomers as well as experts. To mark its centenary, the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture has been expanded and refurbished to appropriately house the world's leading collection of Cham art. The museum staff, supported by the Southeast Asia art programme of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SoaS), London University, funded by the Alphawood Foundation, worked in concert with researchers from around the world to present these masterpieces.

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