

## Recent Books on Myanmar (Burma) - Oct 2014

**Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd**  
**Blk 231, Bain Street**  
**#03-05, Bras Basah Complex**  
**Singapore 180231**  
**Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204**  
**Fax : +65-6883-2144**  
[info@marymartin.com](mailto:info@marymartin.com)  
[www.marymartin.com](http://www.marymartin.com)

### History

Among the Burmese in 1902 : French Impressions of a Buddhist Country / Andre Chevrillon ; Translated and with an Introduction by Walter E.J. Tips  
Bangkok : White Lotus Co., Ltd., 2014  
xii, 127p.  
9789748495620  
\$ 18.50 / PB  
300gm.

Among the Burmese in 1902. French Impressions of a Buddhist Country documents the travels of a Frenchman, member of the Académie française, undertaking a journey towards understanding the religions and customs of the peoples of the Indian Empire. This book gives an overview of his thoughts on the religious groups he meets in Burma. First he travels in Rangoon, where he visits various temples and areas of the city, then in Mandalay and further northwards on the Irrawaddy. His critical impressions are described in an unusual, impressionistic style without losing empathy for the plight of the ordinary Burmese. His insights also deal on a fundamental level of philosophical and religious inquiry with the influences exerted by western colonization, by the energetic onslaught of Chinese and Indian traders and a budding materialism among the Burmese. This is an unusual description by an unusually sensitive author.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=169458>

---

A French Engineer in Burma and Siam (1880) With a Discussion on the Kra Canal Controversy / Comte A. Mahe de la Bourdonnais; Translated and with an Introduction by Walter E.J. Tips  
Bangkok : White Lotus Co., Ltd., 2014  
xxii, 249p.  
1 pp. Folded Map.  
9789748495064?  
\$ 22.50 / PB

A French Engineer in Burma and Siam (1880), With a Discussion on the Kra Canal Controversy contains a number of discussions on all that a French engineer, hired by the English in Burma, met with during his stay. He was a municipal engineer in Bassein to deal with the aftermath of an earthquake, an engineer undertaking the construction of a telegraphic line between Siam and Burma, a political commentator on the Kra Canal on the Malay Peninsula and an engineer in charge of mines in English Burma. He was also a keen observer of what the English had been achieving or not in Burma just before they staged a Third War in Burma. Chapters on history—of a politically tainted, pro-French variety—offer a sound perspective on the colonial politics of the time. Where he was residing and travelling he was also a keen observer of local customs so different and new for a European in the Far East. The author describes the high status of women in Burma and marriage customs too. The ethnic groups of Burma are especially in his focus. Of special interest too are his observations on work and travel in Burmese jungles and the prevalence of large animals such as tigers, leopards and panthers, the hunting of which was necessary to protect workers. After King Thibaw had been deposed he was eager to revise the first editions of his book, playing in the period 1880-81, with new material and political commentary. In this discussion the role of Siam and the great valley of the Chao Phraya or Menam River as a route to Yunnan, figure prominently. For the third revised and expanded edition, which is presented here, he also updated the discussion on how best to realize the shortcut offered by the narrowness of the Kra Isthmus. A project he presented to King Chulalongkorn. F. de Lesseps, of Suez Canal fame, worked on the pilot study contained in this book

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=169459>

---