

Recent Books from Vietnam – May 2021

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Anthropology

The Religion of the Four Palaces : Mediumship and Therapy in Viet Culture / Nguyen Thi Hien
Hanoi: The Gioi Publishers, 2019
388p.
9786047756049
\$ 45.00 / PB
414gm.

The monograph approaches the Tứ Phủ, the Religion of the Four Palaces of the Viet via an ethnography of its practice of Hầu Bổng spirit possession ritual. It relies on fieldwork data collected mainly in the alluvial plains of northern Viet Nam from 1998-2000. It uses a combination of performance and ethnographic methods, focusing on the life histories and personal interviews of informants, which are vehicles for them to tell their life stories and to describe their motivations to become spirit mediums. The book provides an understanding of the mediums of a complex and increasingly important and popular religious system. For them the spirit possession rituals are vital, even life-saving, and beneficial work. Through Hầu Bổng rituals, practitioners construct Viet traditional culture and keep it alive in traditional and imaginative ways. This work serves as an important resource for students and

researchers interested in understanding the Vietnamese popular religion and traditional culture.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755208>

History

Classic Wooden Fishing Boats of the Vietnamese Coast : Their Design, Construction, Rigging and Fisheries / Ken Preston (Ed-in-Chief) Khuc Thi Hoa Phuong

Hanoi: Vietnam Women's Publishing House, 2019

328p. ; 29.5x2cm.

9786045678589

\$ 65.00 / HB

1430gm.

Why You Should Read This Book? Culturally, historically and geographically, Vietnam stands in a remarkable place in the world. Both as a trading destination in itself, and as a way point along the most important trade routes linking East Asia to Europe, Arabia and Africa, Vietnam has seen the ships of many nations calling in her ports since at least the 1500's, and surviving colonial efforts by Chinese, Japanese, French and American forces, Vietnamese boat builders and sailors have had opportunity to see techniques and designs from all over the world and to adopt and adapt the best of them to their own native traditions. So today's boats and boat yards in Vietnam offer a unique look into boat and ship building and design traditions reaching back hundreds of years and thousands of miles, while also offering a study in the evolution of design and function from the age of sail and oar to the modern world of diesel engines, fiberglass and steel. More than that though, the Vietnamese builders and sailors have a fine eye for the working shape of their boats and the lines and colors to bring out their best. There are a few ugly boats in Vietnam, but not many. Most of them are beautiful, and they catch fish.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=766759>

Ha Noi Reminiscences of Thousand Years : Pop Up Book / Le
Chi (Ed) Nguyen Viet Ha (Translator) Xuan Hong

Hanoi: NXB Kim Dong. 2020

22p. ; ill. ; 21cm.

9786042191111

1. Historical geography

2. Hanoi.

3. Pop-Up Book.

\$ 40.00 / HB

690gm.

“Hanoi: Reminiscences of Thousand Years”, the first of a series of 3D books about Hanoi not only provide useful information but also new and vivid visual experiences of landmarks of the capital.

With over a thousand years of history, Hanoi has changed a lot. The young generation can today search for the images of old Thang Long - Hanoi through traces of famous historical works that have been associated with the ups and downs of the land. The iconic images of the heroic and beautiful history of Thang Long - Hanoi will be popped-up in the book, giving readers a new visual experience with Hanoi’s familiar symbols such as the Temple of Literature, Thang Long Imperial Citadel, Hanoi Flag tower, the image of dragons in Ly Dynasty (1009-1225), Hanoi streets, among others.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=766760>
