NEW TITLES

ITINERARY OF AN ORDINARY TORTURER
Interview with Duch, Former Khmer Rouge Commander of S-21

Christophe Peschoux and Haing Kheng Heng

2016. 14x21 cm, 208 pp. 29 b/w illustrations 20 color illustrations
THB625

Kaing Guek Eav was an ordinary young man growing up in Cambodia in the mid-twentieth century. He showed promise as a student, excelled in school, got a job as a math teacher, and experienced the political awakening common to young adulthood. But then he became a revolutionary, adopting the alias “Duch,” and took charge of S-21, the infamous secret security center of the Khmer Rouge where in less than four years at least 14,000 “enemies” of the revolution were incarcerated, interrogated, tortured, and executed. After the sudden collapse of the government, Duch fled to the Cambodian frontier, where he took yet another name and lived in workaday anonymity until he was finally unmasked and sentenced to life in prison for his involvement in the heinous crimes of S-21.

This is the last interview Duch gave as a free man, taking place just days before his arrest in May 1999. In it he describes, with remarkable and sometimes chilling precision, the workings of the Khmer Rouge movement and his own role and actions in the startling irrationality of that harrowing and haphazard regime. The interview is supported by an introduction and epilogue that delve unflinchingly into Duch’s character and motivations, our own humanity, and the sometimes uncomfortable implications of global justice.

CHRISTOPHE PESCHOUX and KHENG HAING HENG have worked for many years together in Cambodia as human rights investigators for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, documenting numerous crimes of the current regime. Out of this rich experience grew their friendship, this interview, and this book.

PENCASK SILAT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
My Training Guide to Keluarga Pencak Silat Nusantara Techniques

O’ong Maryono

2016. 27x21 cm, 268 pp. b/w illustrations
THB595

This manual lays out techniques of the Keluarga Pencak Silat Nusantara (KPSN), one of the leading pencak silat organizations in Indonesia. Moving from the fundamental elements—stances and strikes—to exploring complex series of moves for exercise, self-defense, and competition, the manual shows the richness and uniqueness of this still relatively unknown martial art. The concise text and attractive illustrations provide an easy learning tool for beginners or enthusiasts looking to expand their knowledge of pencak silat.

The late Master O’ong Maryono was a world champion, international trainer, and recognized martial arts expert. Author of the seminal book Pencak Silat in the Indonesian Archipelago, he was an indomitable advocate for the preservation and development of pencak silat.
SCHOLARSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Oscar Salemink, Editor
2016. 14x21cm, 264 pp.
THB650

This book contains nine contributions at the intersection of scholarship, activism, and sociocultural politics in mainland Southeast Asia, inspired by the remarkable career of Achan Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, an academic who has worked tirelessly in Thailand and beyond to foster critical social-science scholarship that engages with marginalized communities. The research in this volume is both highly personal and academically rigorous, born out of the authors’ experiences studying and working with communities and individuals who are too easily pushed to the margins of mainstream politics and culture. This willingness to support such underprivileged groups through meticulous scholarship is a hallmark of the engaged scholarly activism Achan Chayan has spent a lifetime encouraging. The volume also contains a biographical sketch of Chayan as scholar and activist, and an afterword by Michael Herzfeld.

OSCAR SALEMINK is Professor in the Anthropology of Asia at the University of Copenhagen.

“This volume demonstrates convincingly that, rather than compromising or trading off against one another, engagement and intellectual endeavor can be mutually reinforcing. The quality and breadth of the contributions in this book reflect and build on the totality of Achan Chayan’s work as one of Southeast Asia’s most engaged scholars.”—Philip Hirsch, University of Sydney

“This wide-ranging collection is a fitting tribute to a legendary Thai scholar whose energy and engaged vision have inspired so many academics and community advocates to pursue committed scholarship on Southeast Asia.”—Philip Taylor, Australian National University

THE WAY THAIS LEAD
Face as Social Capital

Larry S. Persons
2016. 14x21cm, 256 pp.
THB625

This fascinating study explores how face functions as social capital for leaders in Thai society. It examines the anatomy of Thai face, ways to gain and lose face, patron-client dynamics, and the sources and paradigms of power. Ethnographic research gives voice to Thai leaders as they describe face behaviors and the flow of power in their society. The author compellingly reveals an indigenous but little-used pathway to virtuous leadership that empowers both leaders and followers, to the benefit of all.

Written with academic rigor in a popular style, this book presents insights that are crucial to understanding and building strategic relationships in Thai society.

LARRY S. PERSONS was born and raised in Thailand and lived in Southeast Asia for more than thirty years. He earned a PhD from Fuller School of Intercultural Studies and cofounded a non-profit organization that develops Thai leaders. He teaches anthropology and urban cultures.

“An exceptional exegesis of the anatomy of Thai face and the paradigms of power available to Thai leaders. Working from a rich body of ethnographic interview data, and a clear grasp of Thai concepts and metaphors of facework and leadership, Persons displays the complex facets and remarkable dynamics of local, regional, and national leadership in Thailand.”—Sherwood G. Lingenfelter, Senior Professor of Anthropology and Provost Emeritus, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Dr. Persons deliberately engages serious readers as he looks at the interplay of face and leadership in our society. He has masterfully nailed the topic.”—Pongrapee Buranasompob, bestselling author of “Dr. Tong the Filter” and former secretary to the chief ombudsman of Thailand

“If you want to learn in-depth about leadership, power, and communication in Thai culture, read this invaluable source of wisdom. Based on original research and written in crisp prose, it is a well-crafted gem—a luminous dissection of Thai face that is accessible, relevant, and deeply insightful, a must read.”—Stella Ting-Toomey, Professor of Intercultural Communication, California State University at Fullerton
THE TEN GREAT BIRTH STORIES OF THE BUDDHA
The Mahānipāta of the Jātakattibacanṇā

Translated and introduced by Naomi Appleton and Sarah Shaw

Cloth ISBN 978-616-215-112-5 Boxset THB3,000

Vol. 1: 15x23 cm, 77 color illustrations
Vol. 2: 15x23 cm, 338 pp., 86 color illustrations

This is the first complete English translation in over a century of the ten great jātaka tales that form the Mahānipāta, covering the Bodhisatta’s ten final adventures in the human realm before his ultimate life and enlightenment as the Buddha. Replete with subterfuge, magic, and intrigue, the tales showcase Buddhist philosophy and morality in the multi-life quest of the Bodhisatta to achieve the Ten Perfections—virtues that must be refined before he can reach his final goal of awakening.

These vivid and definitive translations reestablish the ten stories as treasures in the ancient literature of South Asia. Introductory comments before each story provide important background information and analysis. A general introduction addresses key themes in the collection and exploring the stories’ role in Buddhist art and practice. Each volume contains a section of colour images that exemplify the stories’ central position in the Buddhist visual landscape and imagination of Southeast Asia.

Eminently authoritative and readable, these new translations will delight general readers and specialists with captivating plots and penetrating philosophical insight that reveal deep roots in the religious and cultural world of the Buddha.
THE TALE OF KHUN CHANG KHUN PHAEN

Abridged

Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit, translators

2015. 14×21 cm, 380 pp. 32 line drawings, 1 map, glossary
THB595

This outstanding classic of the Thai language is an entertaining folk epic set in the social panorama of traditional Siam. The tales is a spectacular love story rich in romance, adventure, violence, farce, and magic, and ending in the tragic and enigmatic death of its heroine.

Written in lively prose, this new, abridged edition retains every scene, incident, and significant dialogue from the full prize-winning English translation, except for one short section.

The great Thai linguist William Gedney believed that “if all other information on traditional Thai culture were to be lost, the whole complex could be reconstructed from this marvelous text.”

Chris Baker formerly taught Asian history at Cambridge University and has lived in Thailand for over thirty years. Pasuk Phongpaichit is professor of economics at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Together they have written A History of Thailand, Thailand: Economy and Politics, Thaksin, and published several translations.

The translators are winners of the A. L. Becker Southeast Asian Literature in Translation Prize (2010).

THE BAREFOOT ANTHROPOLOGIST

The Highlands of Champa and Vietnam in the Words of Jacques Dournes

Andrew Hardy

2014. 14×21 cm, 160 pp., 10 illustrations
THB450

French anthropologist Jacques Dournes lived in Vietnam for twenty-five years, from 1946 to 1970, studying the culture of the Jarai and other highland ethnic groups. He became a renowned ethnographer and the Jarai people became his lifelong passion.

In part 1 of this study, Andrew Hardy explores Dournes’s challenging monograph Pôtao, une théorie de pouvoir chez les Indochinois jörai and his views on the role of the highlanders in ancient Champa. In part 2, Dournes speaks animatedly with the author about the Jarai, his feelings about culture and economics, his understanding of Vietnam’s history, and his personal experience of living in the Central Highlands. The French transcript of the interview is presented in the appendix.


EFEO–Silkworm Books Series
LUK THUNG
The Culture and Politics of Thailand’s Most Popular Music

James Leonard Mitchell

2015. 14×21 cm, 208 pp., 39 b/w illustrations
THB695

Since the 1960s, the hybrid popular music called luk thung has embodied the aspirations, frustrations, and sorrows of Thailand’s working class. Global scholarship, however, has been slow in examining this seminal genre. In this pioneering book, ethnomusicologist James Mitchell explores the many facets of luk thung through ethnographic research with singers, songwriters, fans, and other professionals. The groundbreaking final chapter refutes the widespread opinion that luk thung is an apolitical genre by examining its role in recent political turmoil and tracing currents of protest and sociopolitical commentary back to the music’s origins.

The book includes links to many songs online so that readers can hear for themselves the music that came to express the triumphs and hardships of everyday working Thais.

James Leonard Mitchell currently lectures at Khon Kaen University in Thailand and is an adjunct research fellow at Monash University, Australia.

MEKONG KIDS

Khemachat

THB395

Mekong Kids is the heartwarming story of a fifth-grade boy named Boom, who lives in northeastern Thailand in a village along the Mekong River. As Boom struggles to make friends with the other boys in his community, he learns to take responsibility for his actions, overcome his fears, bridge barriers, and help rivals become friends. We see that genuine friendship based on caring for others is enduring and can override all social and national barriers. The distinctive culture of northeastern Thailand and the friendship that evolves with Lao boys across the river add rich multicultural themes.

Mekong Kids is a translation of Luk Mae Nam Khong (2001), the award-winning Thai-language novel.

Khemachat (Khem Chutthong) grew up on the Mekong River in Nong Khae Province of northeastern Thailand. After working as a civil engineer for many years, he began a career in writing. In 2001, he won the Waen Kaeo award for the original Thai edition of Mekong Kids, the first in a trilogy of novels. His second and third novels have each won two awards, in 2005 and 2008.
THE WEB OF BUDDHIST WISDOM
An Introduction to the Psychology of the Abhidhamma

Frits Koster
2015. 14x21 cm. 278 pp.

Long before people in the West started to study the workings of the human mind, Buddhism was trying to understand body and mind through introspection and meditation. This knowledge has grown to be a very thorough and detailed classification and analysis of mental and physical phenomena. This refined study is known as the Abhidhamma (literally: ‘Higher Teachings’). In Southeast Asia students normally spend more than seven years studying these teachings.

Frits Koster has lived as a Buddhist monk in Thailand and Burma, where he had the privilege to study parts of the Abhidhamma. In The Web of Buddhist Wisdom he explains important themes such as consciousness, mental concomitants, physicality and the experience of Enlightenment in a clear and accessible way. In addition, he addresses the law of kamma, the process of dying and rebirth, the four Noble Truths and the value of the Abhidhamma.

The Web of Buddhist Wisdom, which is illustrated with drawings by Fop Smit, offers a rich and accessible guide for anyone who is interested in the working of the human mind. It offers a clear and simple acquaintance with the world of the Abhidhamma and an old yet very accurate mirror of our existence.

Frits Koster is a vipassana meditation teacher and qualified mindfulness teacher. He has also trained and worked as a psychiatric nurse. He has taught mindfulness in mental health settings, including clinics and hospitals for many years. He is a teacher and member of the faculty of the Institute for Mindfulness-Based Approaches (IMA) as well as other training institutes across Europe. He has been practicing Theravada Buddhism for 35 years and was a Buddhist monk for six years in the 1980s, during which he studied Buddhist psychology at various monasteries in Southeast Asia. He has been leading vipassana retreats and courses since then. He has written several books, three of which have been translated into English and published by Silkworm Books.

MASKED
The Life of Anna Leonowens, Schoolmistress at the Court of Siam

Alfred Habegger
2015. 14x21 cm. 556 pp.

A brave British widow goes to Siam and—by dint of her principled and indomitable character—inspires that despotic nation to abolish slavery and absolute rule: this appealing legend first took shape after the Civil War when Anna Leonowens came to America from Bangkok and succeeded in becoming a celebrity author and lecturer. Three decades after her death, in the 1940s and 1950s, the story would be transformed into a powerful Western myth by Margaret Landon’s best-selling book Anna and the King of Siam and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical The King and I.

But who was Leonowens and why did her story take hold? Although it has been known for some time that she was of Anglo-Indian parentage and that her tales about the Siamese court are unreliable, not until now, with the publication of Masked, has there been a deeply researched account of her extraordinary life. Alfred Habegger, an award-winning biographer, draws on the archives of five continents and recent Thai-language scholarship to disclose the complex person behind the mask and the troubling facts behind the myth. He also ponders the curious fit between Leonowens’s compelling fabrications and the New World’s innocent dreams—in particular the dream that democracy can be spread through quick and easy interventions.
SELECTED TITLES

AN IU-MIENH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY
With Cultural Notes
Herbert C. Purnell
ISBN 978-0-9856616-0-1
2012. 896 pp., 17x24 cm, hardback, THB950

THE BUDDHIST MONASTERY
A Cross-Cultural Survey
Edited by Pierre Pichard and François Lagirarde
2014. 442 pp., 17.5x27.5 cm, 113 b/w illustrations, 19 maps, notes, paper, THB975

A CIVILIZED WOMAN
M.L. Boonlua Debyasuvarn and the Thai Twentieth Century
Susan Fulop Kepner
2013. 448 pp., 14x21 cm, 20 illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, paper, THB725

BANGKOK BOUND
Ellen Boccuzzi
2012. 192 pp., 14x21 cm, footnotes, bibliography, index, paper, THBS95

THE “BARE LIFE” OF THAI MIGRANT WORKMEN IN SINGAPORE
Pattana Kitiarsa
2014. 198 pp., 14x21 cm, 300 g, notes, bibliography, index, paper, THBS95

DIVERSIFYING RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION IN THAILAND
Endo Gen
2013. 288 pp., 14x21 cm, 41 tables, 5 illustrations, paper, THB725

ETHNICITY, BORDERS, AND THE GRASSROOTS INTERFACE WITH THE STATE
Edited by John A. Marston
2014. 292 pp., 14x21 cm, notes, bibliography, index, paper, THB650

THE FACE OF RESISTANCE
Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma’s Fight for Freedom
Aung Zaw
2013. 160 pp., 14x21 cm, 24 b/w photos, endnotes, name index, paper, THBS25

DAI LUE–ENGLISH DICTIONARY
William J. Hanna
2012. 548 pp., 14.8x21 cm, 1 map, introduction, appendixes, source list bibliography, paper, THB695

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Ruth Pearson and Kyoko Kusakabe
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Peter A. Jackson and Nerida M. Cook, Editors
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THE GREAT ELEPHANT ESCAPE
Antoinette van de Water and Liesbeth Sluiter
ISBN 978-974-9511-64-0
2009. 162 pp., 14x21 cm, 56 color illustrations, 400 g, paper, THB550

IN BUDDHA’S COMPANY
Thai Soldiers in the Vietnam War
Richard A. Ruth
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JUNGLE BOOK
Chang Noi (pseudonym)
ISBN 978-974-9511-63-3
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Homan van der Heide and the Origin of Modern Irrigation in Siam
Han ten Brummelhuis
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Male and Female Homosexualities in Contemporary Thailand
Peter A. Jackson and Gerard Sullivan, Editors
ISBN 978-974-7551-44-6
2000. 238 pp., 14x21 cm, 400 g, paper, THB550

LEGITIMACY CRISIS IN THAILAND
Marc Askew, Editor
ISBN 978-974-9511-97-8
2010. 340 pp., 15x23 cm, 400 g, paper, THB695
A RECORD OF CAMBODIA
The Land and Its People
Zhou Daguan
Peter Harris, Translator
ISBN 978-974-9511-24-4
2007. 182 pp., 14×21 cm,
300 g, paper, THB595

A SHORT HISTORY OF
CAMBODIA
From Empire to Survival
John Tully
ISBN 978-974-93619-1-7
2005. 282 pp., 14×21 cm,
600 g, paper, THB725

STAY ALIVE, MY SON
Pin Yathay
ISBN 978-974-7551-26-6
1999. 267 pp., 14×21 cm,
400 g, paper, THB495

AMBIGUITY OF IDENTITY
The Mieu in North Vietnam
Nguyen Van Thang
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CONVERSATIONAL VIETNAMESE
An Intermediate Text
Include 3 CDs
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2002. 528 pp., 21.5×28 cm, 1,200 g, paper, THB990

THE DUST OF LIFE
America’s Children Abandoned in Vietnam
Robert S. McKelvey
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POPULATION AND
ETHNO-DEMOGRAPHY IN
VIETNAM
Khong Dien
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QUAGMIRE
Nation-Building and Nature
in the Mekong Delta
David Biggs
2011. 318 pp., 14×21 cm,
400 g, paper, THB695

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