



# HOTAKA BOOK NEWS

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SW01.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

*My Steps through Insein*

Ma Thida

ISBN 978-616-215-123-1

2016. 256 pp., 140x210 mm., 10 b/w illus., Paperback

THB 625.00

This is the stirring prison memoir of Ma Thida—surgeon, activist, writer, and recipient of several international human rights awards. From childhood, Ma Thida dreamed of helping others—caring for the sick, not bowing to the threat of censorship, and standing up for people’s rights. She became an indomitable supporter of efforts to stand against the political oppression that had been stifling the country’s progress for decades. She joined Aung San Suu Kyi and the many other activists in the National League for Democracy, campaigning for the cause of freedom despite intimidation, harassment, and worse. Because of her efforts, the regime sent her to Insein Prison, where she faced serious illness and bleak conditions. However, it was in fighting the obstacles of her imprisonment and following the Buddha’s teachings that Ma Thida found what it means to be truly free. In this memoir, readers join Ma Thida on her path through captivity and witness one remarkable woman’s courageous quest for truth and dignity.

Ma Thida is a medical doctor, writer, human rights activist, and leading intellectual in Myanmar. She is the founder and elected president of PEN International’s Myanmar Center.



## SW02. HISTORY OF TIMOR-LESTE

Frederic B. Durand

ISBN 978-616-215-124-8

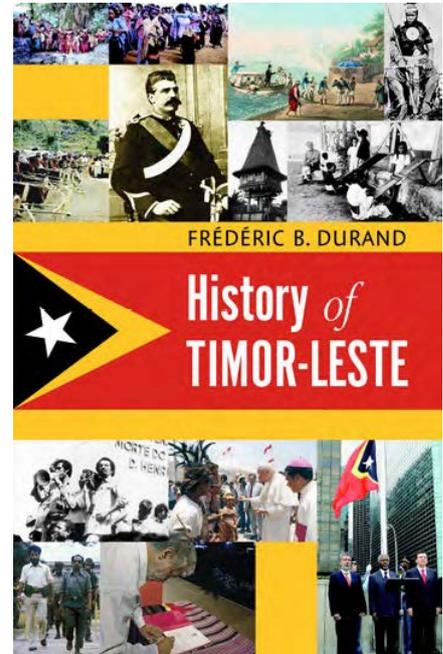
2016. 194 pp. 150x230 mm., 43 maps,

1 figure, 150 b/w illus., Paperback

THB 550.00

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, a former Portuguese colony occupied by Indonesia from 1975 to 1999, became in 2002 the first new sovereign state of the twentyfirst century. Its modern nationhood belies its ancient history. Archaeological data found on the island can be traced back at least 42,000 years, beyond most ancient European artifacts. The book provides a readable overview of the history of the country from the first traces of human habitation through Timor-Leste's independence in May 2002.

Structured chronologically, the account begins with the earliest legends and moves quickly and concisely through the defining events that created and shaped the modern nation of Timor-Leste. The text is richly illustrated with over two hundred maps, engravings, and photographs. A detailed historical time line follows the text.



## SW03. YUAN PHAI, THE DEFEAT OF LANNA

*A Fifteenth-Century Thai Epic Poem*

Translated and edited by Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit

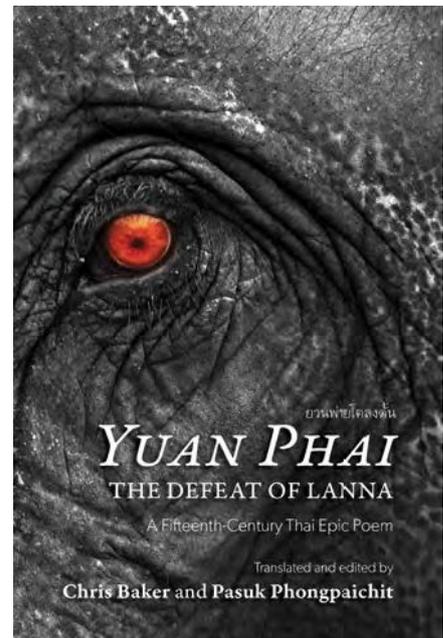
ISBN 978 616 215 125 5

2017. 200 pp., 14x21 cm, 3 illus., Paperback

THB 495.00

*Yuan Phai*, the Defeat of Lanna, may be the oldest work of literature from Siam, most likely written after a battle fought in approximately 1475. The poem recounts many details of fifteenth-century events not found elsewhere. It has the earliest and most detailed description of a Siamese army, the most elaborate eulogy of an early Thai monarch, and a fascinating discussion of the concept of loyalty. The scenes of personal treachery, quiet heroism, bloody combat, and looting after victory give an absorbing image of early Siam and its ethos.

This translation by a prize-winning team shares a remarkable but littleknown work with a wider audience. It is fully annotated to explain many obscure words and concepts, and it is rendered in blank verse to convey the rhythm and atmosphere of the original. The introduction and afterword provide historical background, analyze the poem's form and content, and discuss its literary and historical significance.



SW04.

## ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES AND INTEGRATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Edited by Ooi Keat Gin and Volker Grabowsky

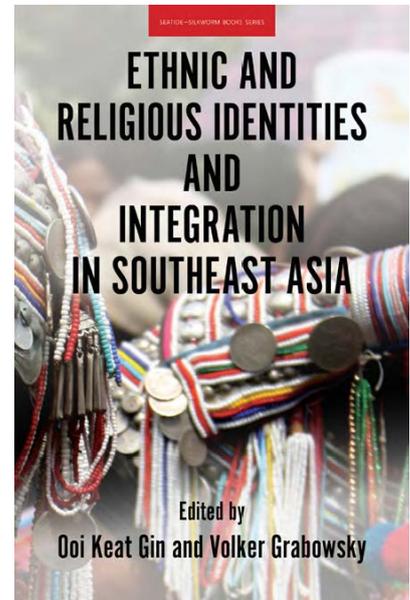
ISBN 978 616 215 126 2

2017. 520 pp., 15x23 cm, 43 illus., Paperback

THB 950.00

This stimulating volume analyzes the impact of ethnic change and religious traditions on local, national, and regional identities. Through the lens of identity, the authors explore and appraise the level of integration within the political borders of Southeast Asian nationstates and within the region as a whole. Case studies include the Bru population in Laos/Vietnam, hill tribe populations without citizenship in northern Thailand, the Lua also in northern Thailand, the Pakistani community in Penang, the Rohingya in Myanmar, the Karen Leke religious movement in Thailand/Myanmar, political Islam in Indonesia, Sufi Muslims in Thailand, pluralism in Penang, the Preah Vihear dispute between Thailand and Cambodia, and hero cult worship in northern Thailand.

Historians and social anthropologists variously tackle these issues of identity and integration within the kaleidoscope of ethnicities, religions, languages, and cultures that make up Southeast Asia. The result is a rich, multifaceted volume that is of great benefit to students and specialists in unraveling the complexities of national and transnational dynamics in the region.



SW05.

## FIVE STUDIES ON *KHUN CHANG* *KHUN PHAEN*

*The Many Faces of a Thai Literary Classic*

Edited by Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit

ISBN 978 616 215 131 6

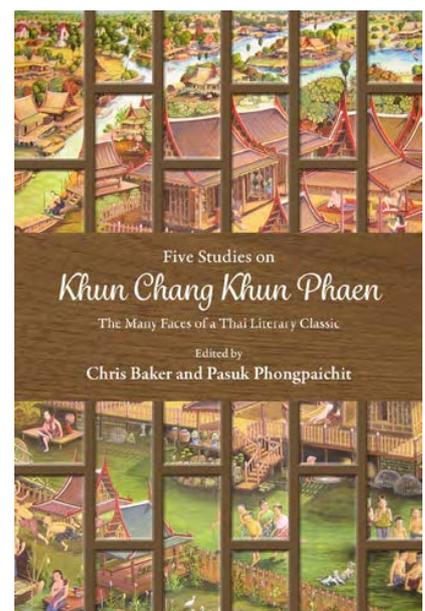
2017. 214 pp., 14x21 cm, 6 illus., Paperback

THB 595.00

Siam's great folk epic *The Tale of Khun Chang Khun*

*Phaen* has entertained readers and audiences down through the centuries, with its rich and earthy portrayal of life and relationships. Here, a mix of Thai and Western scholars present five critical essays that uncover hidden layers and expose new themes using theories and approaches developed mainly within the field of Western literary criticism.

The first two essays arose out of the crucible of Thailand's social upheaval and student protest movement in the early 1970s, while the remaining essays are more recent. Contributors are M.L. Boonlua Debyasuvam, Cholthira Satyawadhna, Warunee Osatharom, David C. Atherton, and Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit.



SW06.

## THE BIG BUDDHA BICYCLE RACE

Terence A. Harkin

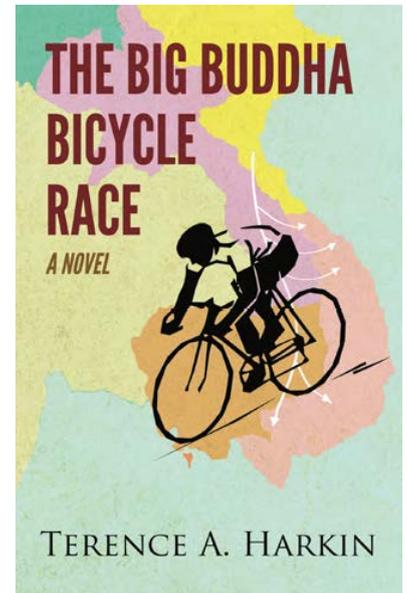
ISBN 978 616 215 132 3

2017. 396 pp. 13.9x21.59 cm, Paperback

THB 495.00

When he is pulled into the Vietnam War, Brendan Leary figures he'll be working in an airconditioned trailer editing combat footage for his Air Force photo squadron in northern Thailand. He expects to return unscathed from what he knows is a screwed-up war—but Brendan is wrong. He is soon flying at night over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in a secret air war that turns the mountains of Laos into a napalm-scorched moonscape. His heart and mind are divided between awe at the courage of his fellow airmen and pity for the convoys of Vietnamese soldiers he sees slaughtered. As his moral fiber crumbles, he is seduced by a netherworld of drugs, booze, and a strung-out masseuse named Tukada. *The Big Buddha Bicycle Race* is a last gasp of hope, a project he dreams up that will win hearts and minds in rural Thailand—and make him and his underpaid buddies a pile of money.

*The Big Buddha Bicycle Race* transports the reader to upcountry Thailand and war-ravaged Laos late in the Vietnam War. On one level a cross-cultural wartime love story, it is also a surreal remembrance of two groups who have been erased from American history—the brash active-duty soldiers who risked prison by joining the GI anti-war movement and the gutsy air commandos who risked death night after night flying over the Ho Chi Minh Trail.



SW07.

## BUDDHIST COSMOLOGY

*The Study of a Burmese Manuscript*

James Emanuel Bogle

ISBN 978-616-215-122-4

2016. 176 pp., 9x12 in., 164 illus., 107 in color, Hardback

THB 2,000.00

Asian religious manuscripts have long been venerated as objects of worship and valued as teaching tools for the transmission of Buddhist teachings, philosophy and practice. Here, a Burmese Buddhist manuscript from the mid-nineteenth century is the catalyst for a study of the multifaceted Buddhist cosmos. The manuscript, which has several rare and remarkable features, not only lays out the complex array of realms in the Buddhist universe but also ventures into a number of esoteric and little-understood aspects of the Theravāda cosmological system and its inhabitants. By presenting translations and narration of much of the manuscript's text and sharing his careful analysis of its vivid illustrations, the author uncovers fascinating details of the Theravāda Buddhist cosmos. Enlivening this investigation are detailed color and black-and-white illustrations, including a complete reduced-scale reproduction of the manuscript, newly conceived didactic diagrams, and examples from other sources that help clarify and explain the complex and segmented Buddhist cosmology.

