

Recent Books from Hong Kong – August 2010

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
www.marymartin.com
SAN : 136-5517

Art

Chinese Landscape Painting as Western Art History / James Elkins
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xxvi. 180p. ; 26cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622090002 (HB)
\$ 35.00

This is a provocative essay of reflections on traditional mainstream scholarship on Chinese art as done by towering figures in the field such as James Cahill and Wen Fong. James Elkins offers an engaging and accessible survey of his personal journey encountering and interpreting Chinese art through Western scholars' writings. He argues that the search for optimal comparisons is itself a modern, Western interest, and that art history as a discipline is inherently Western in several identifiable senses. Although he concentrates on art history in this book, and on Chinese painting in particular, these issues bear implications for Sinology in general, and for wider questions about humanistic inquiry and historical writing.

Jennifer Purtle's Foreword provides a useful counterpoint from the perspective of a Chinese art specialist, anticipating and responding to other specialists' likely reactions to Elkins's hypotheses.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122258>

Friendship in Art: Fou Lei and Huang Binhong / Claire Roberts
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xv, 232p.;
Includes Index
9789888028405
\$ 38.00

[This book documents in letters, photos, and paintings a special friendship between two highly creative individuals who helped shape Chinese culture in the twentieth Century—the revered traditional painter Huang Binhong (1865-1955) and the young, cosmopolitan critic and translator Fou Lei (1906-66). As one of China's oldest and most distinguished artists in the 1940s and 1940s, Huang Binhong was committed to artistic continuity and reinvigoration of brush-and-ink painting. Fou Lei was a child of the New Culture Movement which repudiated *manu literati* tradition, but reached out to Huang Binhong to discuss the possibilities for contemporary Chinese art amid the tides of war and Communist dictates of socialist realism as the guiding priority for cultural workers. Both were cultural mediators and translators of ideas and cultural expressions. Both had deep appreciation of the common origins of calligraphy and painting, rendering complex feelings with brush and ink.]

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122269>

Cinema Studies

Melancholy Drift: Marking Time in Chinese Cinema / Jean Ma
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
viii. 203p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028061
\$ 22.50

"*Melancholy Drift* in fact drifts scarcely at all; rather it rides the films of three Chinese auteurs right into the heart of its subject, the mismatch between private feeling and collective history. Nor is the book melancholy, for these crucial films, set carefully beside one another, begin to pulse anew under the deft touch of Jean Ma's analyses. Drawing on a deep reservoir of historical and critical knowledge, she helps us hear these films speak of our times, then speak of time itself and of its dislocations. *Melancholy Drift* reminds us that films can reach such depths, and that cinema studies at its best can travel with them."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122259>

Cinema at the City's Edge: Film and Urban Networks in East Asia / Yomi Braester & James Tweedie (Edited)
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xii. 204p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622099845
\$ 25.00

This anthology presents a number of leading voices on contemporary Asian cinema studies, including Ackbar Abbas, Chris Berry, Emilie Yueh-yu Yeh, Darrell William Davis, Dudley Andrew, Yomi Braester, Susie Jie Young Kim, Akira Mizuta Lippit, James Tweedie, Yiman Wang and Zhang Zhen. Through a range of interdisciplinary responses that simultaneously investigate film practices and technologies, the contributors offer a timely look at the ever-shifting cities in East Asia and their portrayal in cinema.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122260>

Communication & Journalism

Investigative Journalism in China: Eight Cases in Chinese Watchdog Journalism / David Bandurski & Martin Hala (Edited)
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
184p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622091740
\$ 25.00

Despite persistent pressure from state censors and other tools of political control, investigative journalism has flourished in China over the last decade. This volume offers a comprehensive, first-hand look at investigative journalism in China, including insider accounts from reporters behind some of China's top stories in recent years. While many outsiders hold on to the stereotype of Chinese journalists as docile, subservient Party hacks, a number of brave Chinese reporters have exposed corruption and official misconduct with striking ingenuity and often at considerable personal sacrifice. Subjects have included officials pilfering state funds, directors of public charities pocketing private donations, businesses fleecing unsuspecting consumers — even the misdeeds of journalists themselves. These case studies address critical issues of commercialization of the media, the development of ethical journalism practices, the rising spectre of "news blackmail," negotiating China's mystifying bureaucracy, the dangers of libel suits, and how political

pressures impact different stories. During fellowships at the Journalism & Media Studies Centre (JMSC) of the University of Hong Kong, these narratives and other background materials were fact-checked and edited by JMSC staff to address critical issues related to the media transitions currently under way in the PRC. This engaging narrative gives readers a vivid sense of how journalism is practiced in China.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122261>

History

Elusive Pirates, Pervasive Smugglers: Violence and Clandestine Trade in the Greater China Seas / Robert J. Antony

Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010

xiii. 201p. ; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789888028115 (HB)

\$ 45.00

Piracy and smuggling are as great a problem today as they were several hundreds of years ago. The studies in *Elusive Pirates, Pervasive Smugglers*, for the first time, carefully describe and critically analyze piracy and smuggling in the Greater China Seas region from the sixteenth century to the present. Because piracy and smuggling involve complex historical processes that are still evolving, to fully understand contemporary problems it is important to place them in larger historical and comparative perspectives.

The essays in this book add significantly to the scholarship on East and Southeast Asian history, and in particular to the maritime history of the region we call the Greater China Seas. This is the first book to analyze the whole region from Japan to Southeast Asia as a single, integrated historical and geographical area. This book takes a radical departure from the standard terra-centered histories to place the seas at the center rather than at the margins of our inquiries. By focusing on the water we are better able to stitch together the diverse histories of Japan, China, and Southeast Asia. Although often dismissed as historically unimportant, the contributors to this anthology show that in fact pirates and smugglers have played significant roles in the development of the modern world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122262>

Southern District Officer Reports: Islands and Villages in Rural Hong Kong, 1910-60 / John Strickland (Edited)

Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010

xiv. 343p. ; 24cm.

ISBN-13: 9789888028382 (HB)

Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series

\$ 40.00

This is a collection of administrative dispatches from the 1910s through the early 1960s which illuminate not only rural life in Hong Kong but also Hong Kong government policies during the post-World War II period. The authors of the reports include such notable figures as Eric Hamilton, Walter Schofield, S. H. Peplow, Paul Tsui, Austin Coates, and James Hayes. The volume is another important addition to the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies series, which has played a vital role in reviving and sustaining local history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122263>

The Happy Valley: A History and Tour of the Hong Kong Cemetery / Ken Nicolson
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
vii. 136p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028108
\$ 22.00

Hong Kong's oldest Western cemetery garden is located in Happy Valley.

This history and tour highlights the need for urgent action to conserve the built and natural heritage resources of this important cultural landscape. The author challenges the reader to reconsider the basic approach to heritage conservation adopted in Hong Kong where a false dichotomy persists between natural and built heritage conservation initiatives. The Hong Kong Cemetery provides an excellent example of a precious cultural landscape which is deteriorating because simplistic approaches to site management have failed to understand and protect the complex interrelationship between the natural (flora and fauna habitats) and built (monuments and memorials) heritage resources.

The first three chapters introduce the cemetery garden concept as it evolved in early nineteenth-century Europe, and was eventually established in Hong Kong by the British. The second half of the book provides a self-guided tour of the cemetery highlighting its resources as well as explaining the main conservation problems and possible solutions to protect the cemetery.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122264>

Law

Tort Law in Hong Kong: An Introductory Guide / Stephen D. Mau
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
160p. ; 216 x 140 mm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028597
\$ 16.50

This is one in a series of books providing readers with an overview of the more frequently encountered legal principles. This book focuses on the common law tort principles which apply in the territory. As a basic version, this publication provides a general introduction. This book's organizational structure reflects this intention. The text is kept short and easy to read with Chinese translations provided of most legal terms. An extensive endnote section provides readers who seek more details with comprehensive and in-depth explanations. A detailed Table of Contents serves as a convenient outline while the exhaustive Index seeks to make the book more user-friendly and convenient to use.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120670>

Contract Law in Hong Kong: An Introductory Guide / Stephen D. Mau
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
144p. ; 216 x 140 mm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028580
\$ 16.50

This is one in a series of books seeking to introduce the reader to the more frequently encountered common law principles which apply in Hong Kong. This book presents an introduction to contract principles. Contracts affect everyone, from simple daily activities as buying groceries to more complicated and formal agreements such as renovation. As a basic version intended for general use, this publication aims to be an overview. The organizational

structure reflects this goal: the text is kept short and easy to read (with Chinese translations of most legal terms used in the text) while the extensive endnote section provides much more comprehensive and detailed explanations for those readers who seek such information. The Table of Contents conveniently provides an overview in an outline format of the subject. The extensive Index makes the book more user-friendly.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122265>

Property Law in Hong Kong: An Introductory Guide / Stephen D. Mau
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
244p. ; 216 x 140 mm
ISBN-13: 9789888028603
\$ 22.00

This is one in a series of books seeking to introduce the reader to the frequently encountered legal rules in Hong Kong. This publication, in particular, focuses on the rules regulating property and conveyancing which apply in the territory. The book is intended for use by the non-lawyer. The organizational structure reflects this goal: the text is kept short. For readers desiring additional information, an extensive endnote section provides much more comprehensive and detailed explanations. The endnote sections also includes Chinese translations of the legal terms used in this publication. The Table of Contents is detailed and serves as a convenient outline. An Index contributes to making this book easy to use.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120669>

Performing Arts

The Soul of Beijing Opera: Theatrical Creativity and Continuity in the Changing World / Li Ruru
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xvi. 335p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622099951
\$ 25.00

Any traditional theatre has to engage the changing world to avoid becoming a living fossil. How has Beijing opera — a highly stylized theatre with breath-taking acrobatics and martial arts, fabulous costumes and striking makeup — survived into the new millennium while coping with a century of great upheavals and competition from new entertainment forms?

Li Ruru's *The Soul of Beijing Opera* answers that question, looking at the evolution of singing and performance styles, make-up and costume, audience demands, as well as stage and street presentation modes amid tumultuous social and political changes. Li's study follows a number of major artists' careers in mainland China and Taiwan, drawing on extensive primary print sources as well as personal interviews with performers and their cultural peers. One chapter focuses on the illustrious career of Li's own mother and how she adapted to changes in Communist ideology. In addition, she explores how performers as social beings have responded to conflicts between tradition and modernity, and between convention and innovation. Through performers' negotiation and compromises, Beijing opera has undergone constant re-examination of its inner artistic logic and adjusted to the demands of the external world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122266>

Politics/International Studies

Electing Hong Kong's Chief Executive / Simon N. M. Young & Richard Cullen
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xvii. 254p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028399 (HB)
\$ 38.00

In 2007, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region held its first-ever contested election for Chief Executive, selected by 800 members of an Election Committee drawn from roughly 7% of the population. The outcome was a foregone conclusion, but the process allowed a pro-democracy legislator to obtain enough nominations to contest the election. The office of Chief Executive is as unique as the system used to fill the office, distinct from colonial governors and other leaders of Chinese provinces and municipalities. The head of the HKSAR enjoys greater autonomous powers, such as powers to nominate principal officials for Chinese appointment, pardon offenders and appoint judges. Despite its many anti-democratic features, the Election Committee has generated behavior typically associated with elections in leading capitalist democracies and has also gained prominence on the mainland as the vehicle for returning Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress. This book reviews the history and development of the Election Committee (and its predecessor), discusses its ties to legislative assemblies in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and reflects on the future of the system.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=120306>

Sociology

Hong Kong Culture: Word and Image / Kam Louie (Edited)
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xi. 312p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789888028412
HKD175.00 / \$25.00

Hong Kong as a world city draws on a rich variety of foundational "texts" in film, fiction, architecture and other forms of visual culture. The city has been a cultural fault-line for centuries — a translation space where Chinese-ness is interpreted for "Westerners" and Western-ness is translated for Chinese. Though constantly refreshed by its Chinese roots and global influences, this hub of Cantonese culture has flourished along cosmopolitan lines to build a modern, outward-looking character. Successfully managing this perpetual instability helps make Hong Kong a postmodern stepping-stone city, and helps make its citizens such prosperous and durable survivors in the modern world. This volume of essays engages many fields of cultural achievement. Several pieces discuss the tensions of English, closely associated with a colonial past, yet undeniably the key to Hong Kong's future. Hong Kong provides a vital point of contact, where cultures truly meet and a cosmopolitan traveller can feel at home and leave a sturdy mark. Contributors include John Carroll, Carolyn Cartier, David Clarke, Elaine Ho, Douglas Kerr, Michael Ingham, C. J. W.-L. Wee, Chu Yiu-Wai, Gina Marchetti, Esther M.K. Cheung, Pheng Cheah, Chris Berry, and Giorgio Biancorosso.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122267>

As Normal As Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong
/ Yau Ching (Edited)
Aberdeen, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010
xi. 218p. ; 23cm.
ISBN-13: 9789622099876
\$ 25.00

Drawing from the fields of ethnographic and sociological studies, cultural activism, public health and film studies, this volume poses new and exciting challenges to queer studies and demonstrates the study of Chinese sexuality as an emergent field currently emanating from multiple disciplines.

The essays here showcase the work of emerging and established scholars working mostly outside Euro-America and focus on cities including Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. This book is one of the first sustained collections on Chinese non-normative sexual subjectivities and contemporary sexual politics published in English. It highlights the various ways in which different individuals and communities—including male sex workers, transsexual subjects, lesbians and Indonesian migrants—negotiate with notions of normativity and modernity, fine-tuned according to the different power structures of each context, and making new and different meanings.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=122268>
