

Recent Books from Myanmar – September 2006
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Art

Myanmar Painting : From Worship to Self Imaging / Khin Maung Nyunt, U Sein Myo Myint ; Edited by Ma Thanegi

Vietnam : Education Publishing House (EPH), c2006

192 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

Includes Bibliography

\$ 55.00

[The book, focusing on the history and development of art in Myanmar, has been written by a team of Myanmar scholars who are experts in this field and is the first comprehensive book covering Myanmar art of this scope.

Myanmar art has recently begun to emerge as a force within the ASEAN art scene, with artists demonstrating the role that art can play in forging an identity in the 21st century. The artists and traditions that have shaped contemporary Art in Myanmar are discussed in detail and the impact they have had on today's artists is demonstrated through discussions of the work of the leading artists in Myanmar today.]

Old Myanmar Paintings in the Collection of U Win / Hla Tin Htun

Bangkok : Thavibu Gallery Co.Ltd, c2006

104 p. : ill. ; 27 cm.

974-9931-82-3

\$ 40.00

[Myanmar (Burma) has a long artistic tradition. Early works include frescos and mural paintings in temples and pagodas, and in the 18th and 19th centuries, both Myanmar and foreign artists were appointed to serve at the court, and the arts flourished. The emergence of Myanmar modern art at the turn of the 20th century can be sighted through the works of U Ba Nyan (1897-1945) and his contemporaries. This book highlights works from the large collection of paintings accumulated by U Win. He was an avid collector for over forty years who recognized the importance of

preserving part of the country's heritage. The paintings by fifty-three artists shown in this book are part of probably the best and most comprehensive collection of paintings in Myanmar.]

Biology

TIL : Myanmar Medicinal Plant Database 2006 : Til, Myanmar / Edited by U Kyaw Tun
Myanmar : Partly Sponsored by Nanwinpadamyar (Royal Ruby Manufacturing Co.,
Ltd.), 2006
1 CDROM
\$ 10.00

History

Disease and demography in colonial Burma / Judith L. Richell
Singapore : NUS publishing [NIAS press], c2006
xiv, 327 p. ; 23 cm.
Includes bibliography and index.
9971-69-301-1
\$ 33.00

[Disease and demography in colonial Burma is an examination of the factors that shaped demographic change in Burma between 1852 and 1941. Despite increasing contemporary interest in the historical demography of the non-European world, there has been little detailed exploration of Burma's extensive but problematic population records. Judith Richell developed a demographic framework for Burma by analysing late nineteenth to analyse population changes within the country. Colonial Burma experienced relatively high rates of mortality, and Richell related this phenomenon to nutrition, the development of sanitary and health services, the impact of migration from India, and agricultural change. She also assessed infant, child and adult mortality, the incidence of endemic diseases such as beri beri and malaria, and outbreaks of plague and cholera as well as influenza pandemic of 1918. The data the author collected and her discussion of these topics provide an exceptionally valuable resource for scholars interested in Burma, demography and public health in Southeast Asia.]

Official Publications

Mass Meetings in Support of National Convention
Yangon: Ministry of Information, 2006
159p, 28cm,
\$ 24.00

A record of mass meetings in support of National Convention held in eight divisions and nine states in January 2006. Provides facts and figures of all-round development of every state and division from 1988 to 2006.

Politics

Myanmar's long road to national reconciliation / Edited by Trevor Wilson
Singapore : Institute of Southeast Asian studies, c2006
xxxiv, 310 p. ; 24 cm.
Includes index.

981-230-362-6

1. Burma-politics and government-1998-Congresses
2. Burma-Economic conditions-1948-congresses
3. Agriculture-economic aspects-Burma-Congresses
4. Civil society-Burma – congresses.

\$ 25.90 (PB)

\$ 39.90 (HB)

[In late 2004, Myanmar's best-known general and long-serving leader of the military regime, general Khin Nyunt, was suddenly dismissed. This shock development, perpetrated by a regime that has defied all predictions of its demise and disintegration, generated widespread uncertainty both inside and outside the country. Official re-assurances about continuing the 2003 "Road Map" process left many questions about the path ahead unanswered. Would political dialogue with opposition groups be resumed? How would increasingly restive ethnic groups respond? Would nascent civil society groups be able to play a role in national reconciliation? How would the new leadership deal with the flagging economy? What are the prospects for the large by under-funded and highly regulated agricultural sector? This book addresses these issues.]

Burma – Women's voices for freedom – English edition / Edited by Thanakha Team
Bangkok : Alternative Asean network on Burma (Altsean-Burma), 2005

vi, 144 p. ; 21 cm.

974-93143-6-0

\$ 15.00

Myanmar's Foreign Policy : Domestic Influences and International Applications /
Jurgen Haacke

London : Routledge for The International Institute for Strategic Studies, c2006

128 p. ; 24 cm.

Includes a Map

Adelphi Paper 381

0-415-40726-5

ISSN : 0567-932X

\$ 32.25

[In view of its problematic human-rights record and the military regime's continued extra-constitutional rule, Myanmar has faced mounting diplomatic pressure from the international community since the renewed detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in May 2003. This Adelphi paper examines Myanmar's foreign policy, which is predicated on state-building and development, as well as on defending the regime's priority of establishing an enduring constitution over democratization. It discusses how the regime has been able to take advantage of the economic, security and geostrategic interests of both China and India in the country to achieve developmental and security goals. As Western capitals have sought to place Myanmar under the scrutiny of the UN Security Council on the grounds that its domestic circumstances have regional security implications, the paper highlights how its relations with Beijing in particular have assumed ever greater significance. It discusses the regime's aims, disappointments and concerns in its relations with the US, Japan and Europe; details the difficult decisions facing the leadership as ASEAN has started to relax its application of the non-interference norm when dealing with Myanmar; and examines its interaction with the UN, particularly the secretary-

general and his special envoys. The paper concludes by analyzing the likely regional and international implications of intensified political pressure on the regime.]

A Failing Grade : Burma's Drug Eradication Efforts
Bangkok : Alternative Asean Network on Burma, c2004
xiii, 250 p. ; 21 cm.
Includes Bibliography and Index.
974 92433 4 8
\$ 20.00

The truth that cannot be concealed and selected articles
Rangoon : U Soe Win, 2003
261 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.
\$ 15.00

Restless Souls : Rebels, Refugees, Medics and Misfits on the Thai-Burma Border /
Phil Thornton
2nd Printing
Bangkok : Asia Books Co. Ltd., c2006
xiv, 220 p. ; 18 cm.
974-8303-91-8
\$ 15.00

[Betrayed by the British, the Karen of Burma have been locked in a titanic, sixty-year struggle for survival against the Burmese military regime, their story ignored by the rest of the world. Journalist Phil Thornton spent five years on the Thai-Burma border, crossing illegally into the Karen State scores of times to find the families, freedom fighters, teachers, and medics resisting the regime.]

The White Shirts : How the USDA will Become the New Face of Burma's Dictatorship
Thailand : Network for Democracy and Development, c2006
90 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
\$. 10.00

Performing Arts

Burmese puppetry / Axel R. H. Bruns
Bangkok : White Lotus Co. Ltd., c2006
xiii, 156 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.
974-4800-88-7
\$ 20.00

[Burmese puppetry is based on the author's PhD thesis analyzing puppets. He expanded the topic to include the wider framework of this art. As a long term resident of Rangoon he has close contacts with the craftsmen who make these beautiful marionettes, the puppeteers who perform with them and their modern brothers on state as well as the audiences who watch the shows. This book is the most comprehensive work on the subject in any language other than Burmese. He describes Burmese puppetry's glorious past, as well as its more recent situation. Once the most important dramatic art form, sponsored by the kings, it nearly fell

into oblivion in the 20th century due to competition from rival performing arts and the introduction of cinemas, and more recently video and finally DVD. In addition to vivid descriptions of traditional characters and themes of Burmese puppetry, the author draws parallels to related arts in neighbouring countries such as China, Indonesia, and Thailand. He also covers the impact of tourism and its influence on the revival of the marionette theatre. The aspect of craftsmanship involved in producing puppets is covered in detail making it of special value for museum curators and collectors of Burmese puppets. Photographs, line drawings, a detailed glossary, and references complete the text.]

Religion – Buddhism

The World Buddhist Summit
Yangon: Department of Research & Compilation, 2004
428p, 20cm
\$ 40.00

A documentary book of the World Buddhist Summit held in Yangon, Myanmar on 9th to 11th December, 2004. Includes speeches and messages group panel discussions and papers.

The Mogok Sayadaw
Yangon: U Aung Chi, 2000
68p, 19cm,
Biography
\$ 12.00
