

Office

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

Buddhist Narrative in Asia and Beyond : In Honour of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on Her Fifty-Fifth Birth Anniversary-2 Vols / Peter Skilling and Justin McDaniel (eds)

Institute Of Thai Studies, Chulalongkon University, Bangkok 2012

2 Vols. ; 30cm.

9786165515733 (V.1), 9786165515719(V.2)

\$ 90.00 / PB

1610 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=154797>

The Buddhist Monastery : A Cross-Cultural Survey / Pierre Pichard and Francois Lagirarde (ed)

Silkworm Books, Thailand 2013

442p. ; 28cm.

9786162150685

\$ 50.00 / PB

1000 gm.

What is a Buddhist monastery? We might define it as a long-term residence of monastics, whether monks or nuns. But even this basic definition fails to cover the whole Buddhist world. There are ritual centres considered to be monasteries where no monks reside, for instance in the Newar community of Nepal. Here married Buddhist followers, having received temporary ordination as young boys, live around but not inside their monastery and are collectively in charge of its maintenance, rituals and activities. Furthermore, in all periods and regions the scale of the monastery has varied considerably, from many hectares to a single building, from several hundred monks sharing the great monasteries of China and Japan or the royal monasteries of Bangkok, to the single caretaker monk of a Bhutanese or Singhalese village monastery.

This book is the result of an international research program conducted by the Bangkok branch of the École française d'Extrême-Orient between 1997 and 2003. The simple and straightforward title belies the uniqueness of the work, for this is the only comprehensive study presenting a clear geographical and historical overview of Buddhist monasteries throughout Asia, especially Southeast Asia, and particularly in Thailand.

Designed to provide a precise description of the architectural, social and religious organization of places of worship and monastic residence, The Buddhist Monastery is an essential work of reference for both students and scholars.

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Buddhism in a Dark Age : Cambodian Monks Under Pol Pot / Ian Harris

Silkworm Books, Thailand 2013

ix. 242p. ; 21cm.

9786162150692

\$ 22.00 / PB

302 gm.

This pioneering study of the fate of Buddhism during the communist period in Cambodia puts a human face on a dark period in Cambodia's history. It is the first sustained analysis of the widely held assumption that the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot had a centralized plan to liquidate the entire monastic order. Based on a thorough analysis of interview transcripts and a large body of contemporary manuscript material, it offers a nuanced view that attempts to move beyond the horrific monastic death toll and fully evaluate the damage to the Buddhist sangha under Democratic Kampuchea.

Compelling evidence exists to suggest that Khmer Rouge leaders were determined to hunt down senior members of the pre-1975 ecclesiastical hierarchy, but other factors also worked against the Buddhist order. Buddhism in a Dark Age outlines a three-phase process in the Khmer Rouge treatment of Buddhism: bureaucratic interference and obstruction, explicit harassment, and finally the elimination of the obdurate and those close to the previous Lon Nol regime. The establishment of a separate revolutionary form of sangha administration constituted the bureaucratic phase. The harassment of monks, both individually and en masse, was partially due to the uprooting of the traditional monastic economy in which lay people were discouraged from feeding economically unproductive monks. Younger members of the order were disrobed and forced into marriage or military service. The final act in the tragedy of Buddhism under the Khmer Rouge was the execution of those monks and senior ecclesiastics who resisted.

It was difficult for institutional Buddhism to survive the conditions encountered during the decade under study here. Prince Sihanouk's overthrow in 1970 marked the end of Buddhism as the central axis around which all other aspects of Cambodian existence revolved and made sense. And under Pol Pot the lay population was strongly discouraged from providing its necessary material support. The book concludes with a discussion of the slow re-establishment and official supervision of the Buddhist order during the People's Republic of Kampuchea period.

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