

## Recent Books from Hong Kong – April 2021

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### Art

Artistic Confluence in Guangdong : Selected Painting and Calligraphy from Ming to Mid-Qing China / Dr. Peggy Pik-ki Ho  
Collection of the Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2021

432p.

English & Chinese Language

9789881949363

\$ 120.00 / PB

2140gm.

本書由文物館何碧琪博士編撰，這是從靜水流深至廣納百川的回溯與重塑的歷程，透過館藏廣東書畫精品及深入淺出的文字，引領讀者重新思考廣東文化精英的思想源流與藝術、文化及歷史的關係。在文物館金禧館慶之際，特此紀念廣東先賢們為實踐經世致用、爭取在全國知識界佔一席位所付出超乎常人的努力和熱誠。

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Written and compiled by Dr. Peggy Pik-ki Ho of the Art Museum of CUHK, this publication is a journey of retrospection

and reconstruction of Guangdong painting and calligraphy from CUHK's collection with in-depth and original research. It leads the readers to delve into the mindset of Guangdong cultural elites in relation to arts, culture, and history. On the occasion of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Art Museum, we hereby commemorate the unparalleled efforts and enthusiasm of these pioneers in their quest for applying their learned knowledge of statecraft to practical affairs and contributing to the nation's intellectual legacy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760934>

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### **Biography/Memoirs**

Spring Flower, Book 1 : 1935 – 1951 : A Tale of Two Rivers /  
Jean Tren-Hwa Perkins MD (Ed) Richard Perkins Hsung PHD  
Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2021

186p.

9789888552849

\$ 26.99 / PB

622gm.

The story of one woman's journey from poverty to privilege to persecution, and her determination to survive as history and circumstance swirled around her. Tren-Hwa ("Spring Flower") was born in a dirt-floored hut near the Yangtze River in central China during the catastrophic floods of 1931. Her father was so upset she was a girl that he stormed out of the hut, and she was given up for adoption to a missionary couple, Dr. Edward Perkins and his wife Georgina. Renamed Jean Perkins, she attended English-speaking schools in China, went to high school in New York near the Hudson River, and after World War II returned to China with her parents. Spring Flower is both eyewitness history and the memoir of a young girl growing up in extraordinary times, including the brutal Japanese occupation of China, and the communist takeover and its aftermath. Jean's story incredibly includes chance encounters with the most important figures of the era Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his wife Soong Mei-ling,

Eleanor Roosevelt, Mahatma Gandhi, and Mao Tse-tung. In 1950, with the Korean War raging, Jean's adoptive parents had to flee China, leaving her behind...

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760935>

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Made in China : A Memoir of Marriage and Mixed Babies in the Middle Kingdom / Simon Gjeroe

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

208p.

Includes Bibliography

9789888552856

\$ 23.99 / PB

252gm.

Simon Gjeroe became a father in China and suddenly had to deal with serious questions: Can you live with your wife if she has not showered for a month? Can you take your wife seriously if she starts wearing X-ray aprons? Do you really have to eat the placenta? In this extraordinary memoir, Simon answers all those questions and many more, highlighting the weird and wonderful world of cross-cultural marriage and parenthood in the Middle Kingdom. Made in China is a humorous narrative that reveals Simon's love for a country wonderfully full of contradictions and absurdities. He went to China as a language student, married the teacher and made both a family and a new life for himself.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760936>

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All At Sea : A Memoir / Alan Loynd

Hong Kong: Proverse Hong Kong, 2021

336p.

Includes Index

9789888492190

\$ 22.00 / PB

420gm.

*All at Sea* describes the career of a ship captain and salvage master from the time when he joined his first vessel to his present status as a marine consultant in Hong Kong. He writes of the remarkable changes he has seen and experienced in a career which has spanned more than half a century. By turns amusing and thought-provoking, this is an enjoyable tale of a most interesting life.

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“Much of what Alan describes is now part of the past, whether that be the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in large part itself, life around and aboard the inefficient but interesting ‘tweendeck cargo vessels in which he explored much of the Western Pacific, or the occasional eccentricity of marine operations before modern risk assessments. ... [He] has done readers a service by putting on record so many of his experiences in such a charming & accessible manner. ... those who are interested in recent maritime practice should ... find within its pages much to intrigue & delight them. / Alan Loynd joined the Swire Group in 1976, and worked for businesses within it for most of thirty years.... it is both an honour and a pleasure to commend this volume to almost any curious & enthusiastic reader.” –

**Barnaby Swire. Chairman, the Swire Group**

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760937>

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Shanghai 1935 : An American Lady's Account of the City and It's High-Society / Ruth Day (Intro) Andrew Field

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2019

150p.

9789888552610

\$ 23.00 / PB

186gm.

American socialite Ruth Day visited Shanghai for several weeks in 1935 and left one of the most sparkling descriptions of the city in this book, published in a limited edition the following year and only brought to the wider world in this new edition published more than 80 years later. Ruth was the step-

daughter of a prominent American financial expert who held a senior post in the Chinese government, and during her whirlwind trip, she met with absolutely everyone who was anyone, and went everywhere the high-society crowd frequented – dancehalls and night-clubs, parties and the best private homes. She describes it all with a rare flair, leaving us with a valuable and unique record of Shanghai high society and the panorama of human experience in the city during its decadent heyday. This is truly a lost classic brought back to life.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760938>

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## **Cinema Studies**

Milkyway Image : Producing Hong Kong Film Genres For  
Global Consumption / Sun Yi  
Singapore : Springer, 2021  
xxi,221p.  
9789813365773  
\$ 109.99 / HB

This book adopts an integrative research framework that primarily combines industrial and discourse analysis to investigate the company Milkyway Image, drawing upon literature that studies film studios and the practices of film production, distribution, and reception. The history of the Hong Kong-based film production company Milkyway Image from its founding in 1996 to the present exemplifies the metamorphosis of the post-handover Hong Kong film industry to an era characterised by Hong Kong's integration into a Chinese national context and the transnationalisation of world cinema. It shows that contemporary Hong Kong cinema's transition resists a monolithic chronicle and instead represents a narrative combining the perspectives of different interest groups and a complex process of compliance and resistance, negotiation and contestation. The meaning of Milkyway's films shifts as they are circulated across cultures and viewed within diverse frameworks, and our

understanding of Hong Kong cinema is subject to varying contexts and historical configurations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=753632>

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Hong Kong Popular Culture : Worlding Film, Television, And Pop Music / Klavier J Wang

Singapore : Springer, 2021

xxi, 523p.; 34 illus.

9789811388194

\$ 74.99 / HB

This book traces the evolution of the Hong Kong's popular culture, namely film, television and popular music (also known as Cantopop), which is knotted with the city's geo-political, economic and social transformations. Under various historical contingencies and due to the city's special geo-politics, these three major popular cultural forms have experienced various worlding processes and have generated border-crossing impact culturally and socially. The worlding processes are greatly associated the city's nature as a reception and departure port to Sinophone migrants and populations of multiethnic and multicultural. Reaching beyond the "golden age" (1980s) of Hong Kong popular culture and afar from a film-centric cultural narration, this book, delineating from the dawn of the 20th century and following a chronological order, untangles how the nowadays popular "Hong Kong film", "Hong Kong TV" and "Cantopop" are derived from early-age Sinophone cultural heritage, re-shaped through cross-cultural hybridization and influenced by multiple political forces. Review of archives, existing literatures and corporation documents are supplemented with policy analysis and in-depth interviews to explore the centennial development of Hong Kong popular culture, which is by no means demise but at the juncture of critical transition

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=753698>

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**Economics/Development Studies**

Social Unrest And The Poverty Problem In Hong Kong : Growth Imbalance And Sustainable Development / Paul Siu Fai Yip  
Singapore : Springer, 2021  
xix, 261p.; 78 ill. 74 ill in Color  
9789813366282  
\$ 74.99 / PB

This book discusses the policy and public health challenges in Hong Kong from the perspective of economic and social welfare challenges, specifically focusing on the poverty and inequality research supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Charities Trust. Conducted by Prof Yip and his research team at the HKJC's Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention at the University of Hong Kong across a five-year period, the book presents analyses based on high quality statistical data to explore some of the socioeconomic roots of the civil unrest in 2019, while also acknowledging the limitations and challenges of trying to build a stronger society under the constraints of the One Country Two Systems policy. Building on extensive research done by the research team and some governmental data, it provides concrete, evidence-based suggestions for reducing poverty in a high-income society, which are useful not only for Hong Kong but also for other societies experiencing similar challenges. It makes an original contribution to research into inequalities, poverty and social policies, and will be of interest to those seeking to understand the ongoing political challenges in Hong Kong and how they relate to the socioeconomic challenges and policies that affect the everyday lives of ordinary people there. It is relevant to academics, students and policymakers concerned with social inequalities and policy intervention.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=753821>

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## **History**

Fighting For Two Kings : Danish Volunteers in the Defence of  
Hong Kong 1941 / Frode Z. Olsen  
Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2019  
vi, 386p. ; 216x185mm.  
9789888552566  
\$ 26.00 / PB  
554gm.

There were just a handful of Danish people in Hong Kong when the Japanese attacked in December 1941, and they had to decide - would they fight? The Danish consul in Shanghai forbade them to swear allegiance to the British crown - required of the soldiers who joined the Hong Kong volunteer force - but they ignored him. They fought, and some of them died for the British King and for Hong Kong. The rest were confined in prisoner-of-war camps or shipped to work in coal mines in Japan.

This is the story of those Danes and of their families in the British colony on the coast of China, told with heart-breaking detail from letters and interviews with the survivors. It is a story which transcends nationalities and eras, a story of heroism and tragedy, cruelty and courage.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760939>

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The Landscape of Historical Memory : The Politics of Museums and Memorial Culture in Post-Martial Law Taiwan / Kirk A. Denton  
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2021  
x, 274p. ; 152.4x228.6mm.  
Includes Index ; Bibliography  
9789888528578  
\$ 79.00 / HB  
550gm.

*The Landscape of Historical Memory* explores the place of museums and memorial culture in the contestation over historical memory in post-martial law Taiwan. The book is particularly oriented toward the role of politics—especially political parties—in the establishment, administration, architectural design, and historical narratives of museums. It is framed around the wrangling between the “blue camp” (the Nationalist Party, or KMT, and its supporters) and the “green camp” (Democratic Progressive Party, or DPP, and its supporters) over what facets of the past should be remembered and how they should be displayed in museums. Organized into chapters focused on particular types of museums and memorial spaces (such as archaeology museums, history museums, martyrs’ shrines, war museums, memorial halls, literature museums, ethnology museums, and ecomuseums), the book presents a broad overview of the state of museums in Taiwan in the past three decades. The case of Taiwan museums tells us much about Cold War politics and its legacy in East Asia; the role of culture, history, and memory in shaping identities in the “postcolonial” landscape of Taiwan; the politics of historical memory in an emergent democracy, especially in counterpoint to the politics of museums in the People’s Republic of China, which continues to be an authoritarian single party state; and the place of museums in a neoliberal economic climate.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745919>

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Empowered by Ancestors : Controversy Over the Imperial Temple in Song China (960-1279) / Cheung Hiu Yu

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2021

xiv, 218p. ; 152.4x228.6mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789888528585

\$ 79.00 / HB

466gm.

*Empowered by Ancestors: Controversy over the Imperial Temple in Song China (960–1279)* examines the enduring tension between cultural authority and political power in imperial China by inquiring into Song ritual debates over the Imperial Temple. During these debates, Song-educated elites utilized various discourses to rectify temple rituals in their own ways. In this process, political interests were less emphasized and even detached from ritual discussions. Meanwhile, Song scholars of particular schools developed various ritual theories that were used to reshape society in later periods. Hence, the Song ritual debates exemplified the great transmission of ancestral ritual norms from the top stratum of imperial court downward to society. In this book, the author attempts to provide a lens through which historians, anthropologists, experts in Chinese Classics, and scholars from other disciplines can explore Chinese ritual in its intellectual, social, and political forms.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745920>

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Locating Chinese Women : Historical Mobility Between China and Australia / (Ed) Kater Bagnall & Julia T. Martinez

Crossing Seas Series

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2021

x, 278p.

Includes Index

9789888528615

\$ 72.00 / HB

552gm.

This ground-breaking edited collection draws together Australian historical scholarship on Chinese women, their gendered migrations, and their mobile lives between China and Australia. It considers different aspects of women's lives, both as individuals and as the wives and daughters of immigrant men. While the number of Chinese women in

Australia before 1950 was relatively small, their presence was significant and often subject to public scrutiny.

Moving beyond traditional representations of women as hidden and silent, this book demonstrates that Chinese Australian women in the twentieth century expressed themselves in the public eye, whether through writings, in photographs, or in political and cultural life. Their remarkable stories are often inspiring and sometimes tragic and serve to demonstrate the complexities of navigating female lives in the face of racial politics and imposed categories of gender, culture, and class.

Historians of transnational Chinese migration have come to recognize Australia as a crucial site within the 'Cantonese Pacific', and this collection provides a new layer of gendered comparison, connecting women's experiences in Australia with those in Canada, the United States, and New Zealand.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760940>

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The Complete Court Cases of Magistrate Frederick Stewart as Reported in "The China Mail", July 1881 to March 1882 / Gillian Bickley

Hong Kong: Proverse Hong Kong, 2021

708p.

9789888228775

\$ 46.00 / PB

934gm.

- Useful for historians and students of colonial law and colonial administration, Hong Kong (China) legal and social history.
- Carefully edited and annotated transcription of newspaper reports of magistrate's court cases at a particularly lively period in Hong Kong history, with analyses and background documentation of specific offences, detailed references to historical Ordinances, and a careful index.
- Illuminates the interface and parallels between the establishment of a colonial education system and the

introduction of colonial law. •Extends our knowledge and understanding of nineteenth century Hong Kong family and social life, law, policing, and court practice. Provides information about hundreds of individuals. •Throws additional light on the Irish Roman Catholic Governor of the time, John Pope Hennessy and the Founder of Hong Kong Government Education, Frederick Stewart.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760941>

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## Literature

Tales of Ming Courtesans / Alice Poon

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

x, 350p.

9789888552672

\$ 23.99 / PB

442gm.

From the author of *The Green Phoenix* comes a riveting tale of female friendship, honor, and sacrifice for love, set in 17th Century China and featuring the intertwined stories of three of the era's most renowned courtesans, escorts skilled in music, poetry and painting who could decide themselves whether or not to offer patrons bed favors. Inspired by literary works and folklore, *Tales of Ming Courtesans* traces the destinies of the three girls from the seamy world of human trafficking and slavery to the cultured scene of the famously decadent pleasure district of the city of Nanjing, evoking episodes in *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

The girls all existed – Rushi was a famous poet, Yuanyuan became the concubine of a general who changed the course of Chinese history by supporting the Manchu invasion in 1644 and Xiangjun challenged the corruption of court officials to try to save her lover. Rushi's daughter, Jingjing, gradually pieces together the stories of the three from a memoir left to her by

her mother. Betrayal, tenacity and hope all come together in a novel that brings to life an important era in China's history, and particularly highlights the challenges faced by independent-minded women.

"Tales of Ming Courtesans is a poignant and captivating exploration of the lives of three extraordinary women. As with her courtesans, Poon handles the tumultuous fall of the Ming Dynasty with grace and nuance that evokes the underlying beauty beneath the violence of this period of Chinese history. Ultimately an enduring tale of the power of sisterhood and the bonds between women." — Jeannie Lin, USA Today  
Bestselling author of *The Lotus Palace*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=748749>

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*Dragons and Boxers : An American Caught in the Martial Arts Whirlwind of the Boxer Rebellion* / Kyle Fiske

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2019

380p.

9789888552597

\$ 20.00 / PB

464gm.

Northern China in 1900. The nation is in turmoil; the failing Manchu dynasty struggles to survive in the face of poverty. Facing social disintegration coupled with foreign encroachments, the ancient traditions of China seem powerless against the onslaught of the modern world. From the countryside comes a response: the brutal, quasi-religious movement of Chinese peasants known as Boxers, who seek to rid the country of foreign influence by any means necessary. American missionaries James and Dorothy Cooper have been in China for five years, maintaining their small school and clinic and laboring to spread the gospel, but the Boxers' violent fury cuts short their mission, and their son Wayland is left barely clinging to life. Rescued by a kindly Chinese passerby, Wayland begins his recovery, but tensions remain high in the still-simmering city of Tianjin, and Wayland's new Chinese

family has dark secrets of their own. He soon finds himself in the middle of a deadly dispute between two martial arts masters, and his own fate will hinge on the outcome. Wayland must navigate between two worlds, and arms himself with the powerful secrets of Chinese martial arts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760942>

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The Lacquered Talisman : The Great Ming House of Zhu,  
Volume One / Laurie Dennis

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2019

x, 320p.

9789888552467

\$ 20.00 / PB

414gm.

A sweeping coming-of-age epic, *The Lacquered Talisman* launches the story of one of the most influential figures in Chinese history. He is the son of a beancurd seller and he will found the Ming Dynasty, which ruled China from 1368-1644. Known as "Fortune" as a boy, Zhu Yuanzhang has a large and doting family who shepherd him through hardship until drought ravages the countryside and heralds a plague. Left with nothing but a lacquered necklace from his grandfather, Chen the Diviner, Fortune is deposited in the village temple and is soon wandering the countryside as a begging monk. He encounters pockets of resistance to the ruling Mongol dynasty, studies the stars, and tangles with Taoists as he seeks to understand his destiny. Signs and dreams leave him convinced that he has a special fate. Is he to be the abbot of a monastery? A general? What matters most is that he prove himself to be a filial son.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760943>

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Chinese Brothers, American Sons : An Historical Novel / Ed  
Shew

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

318p.

9789888552689

\$ 23.99 / PB

396gm.

Tens of thousands of men from southern China changed the course of American history with their tireless work in the California gold fields in the 1850s and their crucial contribution in the building of the first Transcontinental Railroad in the following decade. Chinese Brothers, American Sons tells the little-known story of these brave adventurers through the eyes of two brothers, Li Chang and Li Yu, who arrive in San Francisco in 1854 in search of the Gold Mountain. Their hope is to make some money to take back to China, but they also encounter violence and discrimination and, yes, American food.

This apocryphal tale celebrates and illuminates the struggles and achievements of a largely-ignored group in the rich history of the United States of America – the Cantonese men who conquered the toughest part of the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad – the tunnels through the granite of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Despite their efforts, Asian-Americans were the target of racism for a century beyond the opening of the railroad in 1869, and the poison has yet to fully disappear. The author’s own story, of trying to “fit in” to his hometown birthplace of St Louis, is one of the many rich strands to this broad narrative. But the story in the end is one of hope and triumph – the Chinese brothers are no longer invisible, they are now American sons.

“This story reminds the world of an unforgettable feat accomplished by hard-working Chinese from southern China. It makes me proud as someone who was born in China of the same Cantonese stock as the brave souls in this book. I learned so much by reading it, but it is the emotional connection which

is unforgettable.” — Margaret Sun, author of *Betwixt and Between*.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760944>

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The Eunuch : A Novel / Jonathan Kos-Read

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2021

342p.

9789888552870

\$ 23.99 / PB

404gm.

The Emperor has brutally killed one of his concubines, something which, everyone admits, he has every right to do... | Or did he? | In the bitterly cold winter of 1153, the Eunuch Gett senses there is something more to this concubine’s murder. But when he is ordered by the Emperor to investigate, he is trapped. With all clues pointing towards the Emperor himself, Gett knows that any misstep will mean his very own death by execution. | As he carefully makes his way through the maze of harem sexual politics, invisible and ferocious court wars and the seething city outside the palace walls, he must answer one question: Why frame a man who is above punishment? | This gripping novel by Jonathan Kos-Read, China’s top foreign actor with over a hundred films to his credit, delves deep into the imperial past, its machinations and superstitions, and sexual customs that remain alive even today. Customs that can kill a woman. Or bring down an Empire...

Skewers you from page one with a sharply drawn mystery. China is a character here. Absolutely fascinating read, full of twists and turns. The solution will leave your jaw on the floor.”

– Ying Da, Director, *Loving My Family*

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760945>

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The Rise of Lord Zhuang of Zheng : First Ten Chapters of  
Chronicles of the Eastern Zhou Kingdoms / Feng Menglong

(Translator) Erik Honobe (Series Ed) Lawrence Wang-chi  
Wong & Theodore Hutters

Hong Kong: Research Centre for Translation, The Chinese  
University of Hong Kong, 2021

xxxiv, 198p.

9789627255482

Renditions Paperback Series

1. Chinese literature – Fiction – Translation into English.

\$ 28.00 / PB

290gm.

This volume consists of the first ten chapters from the popular historical novel *Dongzhou lieguo zhi*, or *Chronicles of the Eastern Zhou Kingdoms*, by the renowned late Ming dynasty writer Feng Menglong. The stories, themselves adaptations of earlier texts, vividly recount the end of the Western Zhou and the rise of the cunning, ambitious Lord Zhuang of Zheng, the first overlord to have seized overarching power during the breakdown of order. Wise or fatuous rulers, loyal or renegade ministers, ill-fated beauties, and valiant generals take turns appearing on the stage of that chaotic yet thrilling era, their lives interwoven into this romanticized history which has been widely read for hundreds of years and will continue to attract future generations of readers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760946>

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Mistress Miao : A Novel / Yun Rou

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

288p.

9789888552757

\$ 23.99 / PB

358gm.

In the latest adventure from Yun Rou, author of the best-selling *Turtle Planet* and award-winning *Mad Monk Manifesto*, an American faces down a heady concoction of reincarnation,

magical wasps and violence to save his Chinese wife, while in a parallel world in ancient China, an astonishing woman single-handedly keeps a world of warriors at bay. This is an intimate portrait of madness and love with an Asian twist, Yun Rou has been called the “Zen Gabriel Garcia-Marquez” for his works of magical realism.

“It explodes like a shifting kaleidoscope, I was gripped from the very first page. Strong female characters, the mystery of China, and two intertwined stories that are both fascinating. Well done!” — Yue-Sai Kan, best-selling author and entrepreneur “A genuinely magical trip with a dazzling writer.” — Dennis O’Flaherty, author of *King of the Cracksmen* and *The Calorium Wars* “An intense and enthralling story of paper and tigers, it flies like a spear from modern Los Angeles to ancient China, from an underground temple to an icy lake in a moonlit forest.” — Ilaria Serra, Professor of Italian and Comparative Studies, Florida Atlantic University.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760947>

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Rumors From Shanghai : A Novel / Amy Sommers

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

300p.

9789888552771

\$ 23.99 / PB

358gm.

It’s 1940 when Tolt Gross, an African-American law graduate, arrives in booming Shanghai from the provincial backwater of Seattle. He takes on a senior role managing the Asia operations of a US flour company, a position with responsibility and status rarely available to a Black man in America. But the job comes with a humiliating precondition – he must report to a man who despises him. Tolt is introduced to the delights of Shanghai’s social and nightlife, flourishing despite Japan’s invasion of China three years earlier, but in the middle of the hard work and hard play, Tolt stumbles on a secret plan that

Japan is developing to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which could destroy his life and much much more. How to give the alarm? Would anyone believe a warning from a Black man in Shanghai?

“Shanghai in 1940 – an international city where anything was possible. Amy Sommers atmospherically recaptures Shanghai on the eve of one of its major turning points and snares the reader in a tale of war, international intrigue and a time when personal decisions were crucial.” – Paul French, author of *Midnight in Peking*

“This is a story about the gifts that come with cultural exchange, the perils of refusing them, and what it’s like to lose them. An African American businessman finds freedom and respect in a city where money rules over race. His cosmopolitan life in Shanghai includes nights on the town with his beloved friends from China and Japan. As nationalism and war draw ever closer, the group’s public embrace of equality puts them in peril. By deftly shaping historical details, Amy Sommers has written a story for our precarious times.” – Nancy Rawles, author of the *Raven Chronicles*

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760948>

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## **Sociology**

Chinese Marriage And Social Change : The Legal Abolition Of Concubinage In Hong Kong / Max WL Wong

Singapore : Springer, 2020

224p.

9789811516436

\$ 99.99 / HB

This book provides a comparative account of the abolition of concubinage in East Asia, offering a new perspective and revised analysis of the factors leading to – and the debates surrounding – the introduction of a new Marriage Reform Ordinance in Hong Kong in 1971. It uses this law as a platform to examine how the existence of concubinage – long preserved

in the name of protecting Chinese traditions and customs — crucially influenced family law reforms, which were in response to a perceived need to create a ‘modern’ marriage system within Hong Kong’s Chinese community after the Second World War. This was, by and large, the result of continued pressure from within Hong Kong and from Britain to bring Hong Kong’s marriage system in line with international marriage treaties. It represented one of the last significant intrusions of colonial law into the private sphere of Hong Kong social life, eliminating Chinese customs which had been previously recognised by the colonial legal system’s family law. This book contextualizes the Hong Kong situation by examining judicial cases interpreting Chinese customs and the Great Qing Code, offering a comprehensive understanding of the Hong Kong situation in relation to the status of concubines in Republican China and other East Asian jurisdictions. It will be of particular interest to teachers and students of law, as well as researchers in gender studies, post-colonialism, sociology and cultural studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=760950>

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## **Travel**

Hiking in China : The Joys of Exploring the Middle Kingdom on Foot / Mable-Ann Chang

Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2020

xii, 182p.

9789888552702

\$ 19.99 / PB

326gm.

For hikers, China offers a unique combination of varied terrains, depth of history and culture, and also safety. Far beyond its massive cities, the Middle Kingdom has huge areas of fascinating natural territory for hiking, including bamboo forests, alpine lakes, sacred mountains and spectacular valleys.

This book guides you as you step into another world, rich in history and culture, dating back thousands of years. A curated list of the best places, practical guidance on every aspect of the adventure, and lots of stories to provide context to the whole experience. Whether you are looking for challenging trails, tranquil paths or a walk through history, China has it all.

“A guide that makes me want to lace up my hiking boots and start exploring all that China has to offer.” — Gareth Powell, writer and publisher

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=727204>

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