Announcing a significant new publication of Southeast Asian literature

In the Shadow of Angkor
An Anthology of Contemporary Literature of Cambodia

Edited by
Frank Stewart & Sharon May

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illustrated with photos by Richard Murai

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Anthology of Contemporary Cambodian WritingMarks 25th Anniversary of Fall of Khmer Rouge

Just released, In the Shadow of Angkor is the first collection of contemporary literature of Cambodia to appear since the 1979 defeat of the Khmer Rouge regime. The genocidal regime attempted to destroy the country’s literary heritage, murder its authors, and make the population illiterate. With determination and resilience, however, Cambodians have succeeded in recovering the work of a generation of lost writers and continuing a vibrant literary tradition.

Says Dith Pran, president of The Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project, and compiler of Children of Cambodia’s Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors, “In the Shadow of Angkor does a commendable service to Cambodia’s people. It reminds the world of the strength of character that has enabled Cambodians to courageously bear witness to intolerable suffering—and now, aided by the renewal of the country’s arts and literature, to begin a nationwide healing based on experience, wisdom, and compassion.”

The collection presents not only fiction, poetry, personal essays, and memoirs, but also lyrics by the young Cambodian American rap artist Prach, a modern spiritual fable by Nobel Prize nominee Maha Ghosananda, and the shooting script of Bophana: A Cambodian Tragedy, by award-winning documentary filmmaker Rithy Panh. Also included are interviews with Cambodian and Cambodian American authors and a portfolio of photographs of Angkor Wat by Northern California artist Richard Murai.

In the Shadow of Angkor is the latest volume in the MĀNOA series of new writing from Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas. Edited by Frank Stewart and Sharon May, the book is published by the University of Hawai‘i Press and may be ordered by calling the Press toll free at 1-800-650-7811 or visiting MĀNOA’s site at http://manoajournal.hawaii.edu.
Advance Praise for *In the Shadow of Angkor*

*In the Shadow of Angkor* exposes us to the vibrant, multi-faceted written culture that flourishes in Cambodia today. The poets and storytellers collected here are justly proud of Cambodia’s distant past. Many of them are also shadowed by its devastating recent history. Yet they all display the spirited resilience with which Cambodians so often face the world, using the rich resources—seen here in lively translation—of their ancient, expressive language.

—David Chandler, author of *A History of Cambodia* and *Brother Number One: A Political Biography of Pol Pot*

*In the Shadow of Angkor* does a commendable service to Cambodia’s people. It reminds the world of the strength of character that has enabled Cambodians to courageously bear witness to intolerable suffering—and now, aided by the renewal of the country’s arts and literature, to begin a nationwide healing based on experience, wisdom, and compassion. Genocide is not the problem of the people to whom it happened, it is everyone’s problem. Only when we recognize our responsibility in ending this recurring tragedy, will there be hope of it never happening again. This wonderfully inspiring book will increase the reader’s awareness of the responsibility we have towards one another.

—Dith Pran, Founder and President of The Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project, compiler of *Children of Cambodia’s Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors*

A beautiful tribute to the Cambodian spirit, this remarkable collection reveals the heart-breaking tragedy and the heart-healing hope that fall within the recent Cambodian experience.

—Carol Wagner, author of *Soul Survivors: Stories of Women and Children in Cambodia*

I feel excited and hopeful after reading *In The Shadow of Angkor* that Cambodian literature will have a chance of a bright future. Cambodians students or readers from my generation who survived the genocide, feel lost in finding good Khmer material for reading for ourselves and our children. I am hoping for more books like this in both languages, Khmer and English. *In the Shadow of Angkor* is extremely important and must be read by Khmer children outside Cambodia for pride of being a Cambodian and better understanding of their roots. This book will open the door to Westerners who are interested in Cambodia, to better understanding of the Cambodian culture and thinking. *In the Shadow of Angkor* will encourage Khmer like myself to write, to contribute and rebuild our literary lost for our next generation.

—Teeda Butt Mam, co-author of *To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family*

This book shows that the light of literature has not been extinguished in Cambodia, and is growing brighter.

—Loung Ung, author of *First They Killed My Father*
In the end, they can only hope that enough of the picture will eventually materialize to tell a story of an enigmatic highland people who, long forgotten in the shadow of Angkor, lived their lives on the margin. * Nancy Beavan, “Burial Practices in the Cardamom Mountains,” interviewed by Kathryn Ryan, Nine to Noon, Radio New Zealand, July 20, 2012. ** Nancy Beavan, et al., Radiocarbon Dates from Jar and Coffin Burials of the Cardamom Mountains Reveal a Unique Mortuary Ritual in Cambodia’s Late-to-Post-Angkor Period (15th-17th Centuries AD); Radiocarbon, 54: 1-22, 2012. *** Nancy Beavan, “At the age of 14, Ponheary Ly died and came back to life. At least, that’s how she describes it. The year was 1977, and the Khmer Rouge was on its deadly rampage in Cambodia. After seeing her father killed, along with 13 other family members, Ly was on the run and in hiding when some soldiers accused her of stealing food. They marched her deep into the woods and forced her to dig her own grave. The ground was very hard, she recalls. I only got a few inches down, and then I don’t remember what happened. The next thing she was aware of was waking up in the shallow pit, covered with dirt. Ly recalls. Book Shadow Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap on Tripadvisor: See 61 traveler reviews, 40 candid photos, and great deals for Shadow Angkor Hotel, ranked #148 of 600 B&Bs / inns in Siem Reap and rated 4.5 of 5 at Tripadvisor. Discover a sanctuary in the heart of Siem Reap. Shadow of Angkor Inn is located adjacent to the Siem Reap River, within a close walking distance to the old market, Pub St and the central shopping area of Siem Reap. Shadow of Angkor Inn is also only a 15 minute ride from the splendor of the magnificent Angkor temples and 15 minutes to the amazing floating village on the Ton Le Sap. The ruined temples of Cambodia’s medieval empire became symbols of a people who had forgotten their history. In reality, they demonstrate an inherent continuity. Joanna Wolfarth | Published in History Today Volume 71 Issue 2 February 2021. Bayon Temple, 1866, by John Thomson © British Library Board/Bridgeman Images. To continue reading this article you will need to purchase access to the online archive. Buy Online Access Buy Print & Archive Subscription. If you have already purchased access, or are a print & archive subscriber, please ensure you are logged in. Please email digital@hist