

Publishing Circumstances

All articles in *Publishing Circumstances*, some in more detail, are available on-line at "Trends in Books and Reading" (<http://www2.accu.or.jp/02/02-02/02.html>) of APPREB Internet Website (<http://www.accu.or.jp/appreb>).

Australia

The Future of the Book

Much money and time has been spent in the last few years trying to persuade readers to buy and use various forms of hand-held electronic books, but they have failed to catch on in the way that, for instance, DVD players have. This may be because print lends itself more to paper than to a flickering screen.

However, while no one has yet managed to create a device to supplant the book, technology is having a vast impact on the production of the book as it is traditionally known.

A joint project between Common Ground Publishing and RMIT University, based on research funded under the Australian government's Infrastructure and Industry Competitiveness Scheme, has identified several possibilities for the future.

It may become possible to print one book at a time at the moment it is ordered. There may be immediate and simultaneous mixed-medium publication from a common source file. Both a physical book and an electronic file may be downloaded over the Internet to personal computers or dedicated reading devices.

Printed books may gain enhanced functions, such as copyright relationships in which an individual book number will give access to an updated online edition, fully searchable with live hypertext links, and audio and visual annotations.

Of critical interest to those who create content, writers may get paid as often as every purchase. They may even become the main risk-taker, and the main beneficiary of any commercial success.



A book about future of book, C-2-C, Creater to Consumer (Australia)

Bhutan

School-based Reading Programme

The Supplementary Reading Programme was first initiated in 20 primary and community schools in 1999. It was expanded to 140 schools in 2002, and in 2003 it will be introduced to 110 more primary and community schools. Coordinated by the Curriculum and Professional Support Division of the Education Department, this programme is an effort towards instituting a reading programme in the schools. It has a multi-pronged approach, the schools being supplied with library books and furniture for the library, while teachers are trained on library management and reading guidelines are developed. With such an approach there is no doubt that students will be encouraged to read not only for information but leisure too.

India

100 Years of Spiritual Journey

The first inaugural centenary celebration of Motilal Banarsidass, a reputed Indo-logical publishing house in Delhi, began at their place in Naraina on 5 January 2003. It will continue in phases the entire year at its branches all over the country. The first session of the celebration was held in the presence of Hon'ble Shri T. N. Chaturvedi, governor of Karnataka. He spoke about the services of Motilal Banarsidass in sowing seeds of Indian culture and ancient wisdom all over the world. Motilal Banarsidass was the oldest and first ever in India to publish valuable Vedic and Sanskrit Literature. Mr. Chaturvedi himself was associated with its architects, Lala Sunderlal Jain and Padmashri Shantilal Jain, who brought much reputation and goodwill to the company. He himself was fond of collecting and reading books from Motilal Banarsidass Bookstores.

Shri N. P. Jain, the Director of the Motilal Banarsidass, gave a brief history of the firm and described how the work of publication and distribution was faced with several problems, especially during the partition of the country in 1947. In the communal frenzy the family home and the Motilal Banarsidass Bookshop were reduced to ashes, but rose like a phoenix against all odds. It took 11 years to re-establish the publishing house in Varanasi.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Chaturvedi presented gifts to the old and present staff members for their honest and sincere contribution to the firm. Five of the old workers received special honours and awards. The inauguration concluded with great joy.

X-Pressions 2003 Quiz 'o' Books Carnival

The Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Association in India (FPBAI) along with Salwan Public School (SPS) has organized a unique Quiz 'o' Book Carnival on 8 and 9 February 2003 in New Delhi to promote reading habits among schoolchildren. Approximately 10,000 schoolchildren participated in the two-day book carnival.

Sukumar Das, President, FPBAI, said that the Carnival was neither a Book Fair nor a commercial enterprise but that its sole objective was to bring children to books, and stressed the need for developing in children a passion for reading books.

Sushil Dutt Salwan, Chairman, SPS expressed his anguish at the decline of reading habits and also failure to recognize important authors. He rued that today students can identify Bollywood & Cricket stars but hardly anyone can identify a Ruskin Bond in the crowd. He said that there was an urgent need to glamorize books and authors just like superstars. He felt the need to take this up as a challenge and find ways and means of making children love books. He explained that the whole concept of this Carnival was to "ignite" in children good reading habits and make parents also realize the importance of books. He said that in this 2-day Carnival books should become the buzz of the town.

Vandana Puri, Principial, SPS, said that the Quiz 'o' Book Carnival was to make children associate excitement and joy with books and to let them have a feel of books throughout the 2-day Carnival through different book stalls., quizzes, competitions, attraction, prizes, etc. She firmly believes that love for reading can be induced through innovative strategies by which children can be lured towards books. This carnival was a step in that direction. She also expressed hopes that all parents would try to take advantage of this unique "mega-event".

Terry O'Brien, the Quiz Master, was asked how quizzing is related to books, he answered that just as the fundamentals of education are the 3 Rs, Reading, Recording and Recalling are the ingredients of Quizzing. It is through quizzing that a child is able to understand the importance of reading and how interesting reading can be. Quizzing can actually goad a child gently into embarking on a journey into the world of books and literature. In a lighter vein he said that the carnival and other competitions would actually enable a child to "race" for books. A number of publishers and many eminent writers participated in the Book Carnival.



Dr. Terry O'Brien, the quiz master, conducting quiz for school children at Quiz 'o' Books Carnival (India)



Games for reading promotion in remote area (Lao PDR)

Iran

Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults

The 10th Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults was held from 18–27 December 2002 by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon), and attended by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Managing Director of Kanoon, writers, scholars, students and many interested people. At the festival, writers, illustrators and translators won fifty-three prizes; including a golden plaque, and Honorable Diplomas for their works published during 2000–2002.

Twenty-eight judges studied and selected from 1,400 titles in six fields, as follows: Plays; Science; Young Adults' Poems; Design (Book Cover Illustrations); Humanities; and Stories. The special prize, a "Flying Pencil", went to Bahram Khaef and Keshavarz, two eminent illustrators.

Donating 1,000 Books to Tatarstan

Iran donated 1,000 volumes to the Kazan Library of the Muslim Russian Republic of Tatarstan.

The Head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) referred to the cultural religious and artistic features of the two nations and mentioned that Iran is eager to enhance bilateral relations with Tatarstan in various fields.

Cultural and music festivals, translation of selected literary works by prominent figures from both sides, participation in joint cultural projects, exchange of writers and publishers, literary and poetry-reading sessions and gatherings for renowned poets and writers are some of the activities planned for the near future.

It also provides bilateral cooperation in establishing centres for displaying and distributing the valuable works of distinguished literary figures from both countries.

Japan

Publishing Situation in 2003

Due to the current recession, it is difficult to predict what will happen in the publishing industry in Japan in 2003. The main points presented by leaders in the industry in their New Year's messages can be summarized as follows:

1. Sales for 2002 fell short of the previous year for the sixth consecutive year.
2. The sales slump appears to have hit bottom, particularly in books, which registered a slight increase of 0.4%.
3. The government is moving to implement the total price system (the inclusion of tax in the price) from April 2004 along with a future consumer tax hike. The publishing industry has lodged a protest with the Taxation System Research Council, appealing for continuation of the current method in which the book price and tax are indicated separately (book price + tax).
4. The publishing industry is working for legislation on publishing company rights.
5. Various programmes are being implemented to promote reading.
6. Protests have been launched against the media control bills (legislation introduced to restrict media activities).
7. Flexible operation of the resale price maintenance system will be continued.

The key issue in the industry is low sales. However, the volume of books borrowed from libraries has leaped dramatically, reaching 500 million a year. Annual sales of bargain bookstores, the new trend in second-hand bookstores, amount to 90 billion yen. New *manga* coffee shops, where clientele can read as many comic books as they like, continue to open.

Despite low sales for new publications, books are clearly being read. The real problem may be that readers are not attracted to recent publications simply because they are not good books. Up to 73,000 new titles are published annually. Because of mass-production of inferior goods, books quickly become boring stereotypes that no one wants to buy, creating a vicious circle. It is time for publishing companies to slow down and publish only after careful examination of each manuscript.

Lao PDR

Young Readers Ferment New Love of Books

Librarians from the Mobile Library Project say that primary school children will soon be more enthusiastic readers than their older teenage brothers and sisters, even their parents.

The project run by the National Library in Vientiane, involves vans packed with books travelling to primary schools in the countryside and encouraging poor students to spend their time reading. Director of the National Library, Kongdeuane Nettavong, said that since its inception in 1990 the Mobile Library National Reading Promotion Project has been a great boon to primary education. The Library encourages children who live in remote areas to read five times per week. Some new books are available for students to read in the mobile libraries at their school. This year the project will have three vehicles for its mobile library service.

Library plans to send staff to foreign countries for training as librarians and to construct a new library building for readers' comfort to accommodate 500 people.

Myanmar

National Literary Awards

Myanmar has had 85 weekly journals, 134 monthly magazines and several hundred registered private publishers during the past year. The National Literary Awards Selecting Committee has scrutinized about 1,500 books eligible for the Award for published works during the preceding year of 2001.

The year 2003 saw author awards, this time for unpublished manuscripts in five categories, and one Life-long Achievement Award. Eleven writers won prizes for their manuscripts in five categories. The Life-long Literary Achievement Award goes to U Myo Thant, Ex-chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Advisor to the Ministry of Information, who writes under the pseudonym: Maung Hsu Shin. The prize-giving ceremony was held at



Life-long Literary Achievement Award presented to U Myo Thant (Myanmar)



King Gyanendra with the recipients of Mahendra Vidya Bhusan for Ph. D. degree holders on the occasion of the 28th National Education Day on 25 February 2003 (Nepal)

the National Theatre in Yangon, attended by the State Secretary and high-ranking officials along with Myanmar literati.

Nepal

Use of Indigenous Languages

A veteran geographer and planning expert of Nepal, Dr. Harka Gurung, has asserted that the ethnic and aboriginal minorities of Nepal have attained an enhanced level of awareness of their tribal existence and languages. Speaking at a seminar organized by Nepal Janajati Mahasangha on the topic: "Challenges to Development of Indigenous Languages", Dr. Gurung stated that the 10th national census concluded in 2002 had collected data on 97 ethnic languages as against 32 languages recorded in the previous census held in 1991. He felt that the increase in the number of peoples speaking indigenous tongues was in proportion to the rise in population. During the last ten years, the number of people speaking indigenous languages showed an increase by 36.4% as against a 22% increase in the population of Indo-European languages.

New Copyright Act to Protect the Interest of Authors

A two-day national seminar on Copyrights Regulation was held in Kathmandu on 26-27 February with a view to gather suggestions from the stake-holders in the wake of formulating the regulatory measures by the government. The new Copyrights Act replacing the old Act of 1965 was promulgated in August 2002 and the Regulation is in the process of finalization by the government. The seminar was held under the joint aegis of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and Copyright Protection Society of Nepal (CPSN) with the assistance of Japan Copyright Office.

Enforcement of the copyright legislation is a big challenge in the absence of an efficient mechanism, said Kuber Sharma, Minister of Culture and Tourism. The minister also emphasized the need for launching a public awareness campaign at grass-roots level against copy-

right violations that take place in various forms such as illegal copying, piracy, infringing and counterfeiting.

WIPO has been assisting Nepal in upgrading the copyright laws, ensuring their conformity with international treaties and conventions in the field of copyrights and related areas and the WTO's Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Santosh Sharma, Chairman of Copyright Protection Society of Nepal, called on Nepal to join the Berne Convention so that Nepal's creative works get protection in more than 140 countries of the world.

Dairaku Mitsue of the Hokuriku University spoke about the Japanese experience in reaping benefits from the copyright industry.

Nepal's new copyright law covers economic and moral rights of the authors on art-related works such as musical compositions, operas, films, choreography, dramas, computer programmes and databases, research works, architectural designs, literary works, paintings and sculptures.

New Zealand

NZ Presence at Frankfurt Book Fair

At the 2002 Frankfurt Book Fair, the New Zealand stand was again supported by a grant from the NZ Trade Development Board, the Government's trade promotion agency mandated to help increase NZ's foreign exchange earnings. Thirteen NZ publishers attended, representing educational and children's publishing, cook books, fiction, pictorials, non-fiction, university and mass-market titles.

Though the main aim was to sell rights and co-editions of NZ books, some publishers also picked up agencies or individual titles to distribute in NZ. NZ publisher Ann Mallinson, noted particularly for books for children, as reported in *The Publisher*, the newsletter for the Book Publishers Association of New Zealand, says that coming from a country as far away from the rest of the world as NZ, it is vital to maintain a presence at the fair each year. If there is not very much new product, it is still important to attend as it is still possible

to sell back-list material as well as make crucial new contacts.

New Award in National Book Awards

This year there is provision in the annual Montana New Zealand Book Awards for a Maori Language Award in addition to the awards for the eight categories of Fiction, Poetry, History, Biography, Environment, Lifestyle and Contemporary Culture, Illustrative, and Reference and Anthology. The new discretionary award, judged independently from the other categories, is to reward excellence in books written in the Maori language. The judge is looking for a well written book of high literary merit which demonstrates creative insight. A winning book will be a significant addition to the literature of New Zealand Aotearoa.

Pakistan

Encouragement and Support to Creative Pakistani Publications

Books are highly important for the cultural growth of society and as input for the development of human resources. There exists a general consensus that book promotional activities need encouragement. In this regard, the NBF is playing a very positive role by running a highly innovative book promotional scheme entitled "Encouragement and support to creative Pakistani publications" particularly in the field of science, technology, social sciences, history, etc., which aims to meet the ever increasing demand of the students/public and to motivate the public to read quality reading material at affordable prices.

The scheme is advertised in the press to invite submission of manuscripts. The entries are scrutinized by the in-house committee, and the selected titles are then sent to the subject experts for evaluation and for final approval.

The printed copies of the approved manuscripts are then purchased from the authors. Each year 400 copies of about 30 titles in a year are being purchased from the authors. These books are distributed to national and public libraries of the country, free of cost. In addition, four cash awards of Rs.25,000 each are given to the authors of the best four manuscripts.

The scheme is highly beneficial for writers to publish their new work. It has always received highly encouraging response from all circles of society.

Dr. Prapatpong Senarith, Director-General, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development, the chairman of the meeting giving a speech and special lecture at the Meeting (Thailand)



Philippines

Legislation and Executive Order Affecting Educational Publishers

Stakeholders in the book industry would like to seek clarification by holding a conference to be spearheaded by the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (PEPA) on the mechanics of the new law R.A. 9184 or the "Government Procurement Reform Act". The highlights of the law are as follows:

- a) To put a specific timeframe, notice of award to the winning bidders must be given within 15 calendar days from the time the Bid and Awards Committee (BAC) submits its recommendation; if the head of office purchasing does not act on the contract within that period, the contract is deemed approved.
- b) Interested bidders must accomplish a sworn affidavit that neither he or she nor any officer of his or her corporation is related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity within the 3rd civil degree.
- c) Penal sanctions such as imprisonment from 6–15 years await public officials for the following acts: (1) opening or divulging the contents of a sale bid prior to appointed time for the public opening; (2) delaying any stage of the bidding process beyond the period fixed by law; (3) causing splitting of contracts.—C.1 Private individuals pay sanction particularly when, after qualifying as the winning bidder, he or she refuses to accept by not submitting requirements within the specified period to force the procuring entity to award to another bidder;
- d) Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) is established to ensure a sustained training programme to develop the capability of BAC, BAC Secretariat and Technical working group of procuring entities. The law provides for incentives for members of the BAC in the form of honoraria. To be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, the GPPB is tasked to prepare a standardized form and procurement manual for all offices and agencies.
- e) To encourage development in the province, if the lowest bidder for a provincial bid is not based in the province where the project is to be undertaken, the lowest bidder among the local provincial contractors will be given the chance to match the lowest bid within five years from when the law takes effect.
- f) To prevent collusion, the law institutionalizes the online publication of the invitation to bid, thus encouraging

many to participate in the bidding process.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo recently issued an order that the medium of instruction in schools shall be English; thus all subject areas and their corresponding textbooks and related materials except Filipino and Social Studies are to be taught and written in English.

Rep. of Korea

Publishing and Printing Industry Promotion Law to Take Effect

The Publishing and Printing Industry Promotion Law was established on 26 August 2002 with the aim of promoting the publishing and printing industry as the hub of the knowledge industry with the advent of the era of knowledge and information in the 21st century. Its enforcement decree was passed at the State Council on 18 February 2003 and took effect on 27 February 2003.

One of the remarkable features of the law is the provision about the fixed book price system. The system has been in operation since 1977 with the goal of normalizing the distribution system. However, book discounts have been spreading recently, causing turbulence in the market. The director of the Fair Trade Committee and the minister of Culture and Tourism agreed that it should be mandatory to sell books at cover prices as long as they were published not more than 1 year ago. Violators of this law will be fined.

However, discounts of up to 10% are allowed for book sales on the Internet, which are regarded as a refund of the distributional margin for the readers.

The provision about the fixed book price system will be enforced for five years from the day the law takes effect.

Thailand

The Production and Development of Learning Materials Policy

In order to respond to the New Basic Education Curriculum B.E. 2544 (A.D. 2001), and the National Education Act of B.E. 2542 (A.D. 1999), the Ministry of Education, Thailand has launched a Policy on the Production, Development and Utilization of Educational Materials and Technologies. This policy prescribes that the Ministry of Education support and promote the production and the refinement of educational materials and technologies for all types, all 8 learning strands, and all grade levels; that it give the private sectors the opportunities to compete under fair conditions; and that it ensure the educational institutes have

adequate utilization of quality educational materials and technologies in the teaching-learning process.

The operation process is that the producers must establish a quality assurance system by setting up a proof-reader committee and an editorial committee to audit the quality of their learning materials, and the Ministry of Education shall evaluate the quality and efficiency of the production before and after the distribution.

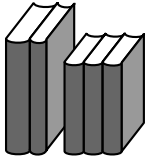
In this regard, the Ministry of Education also organized the meeting to explain and make sure the publishers and producers of the educational materials understood the policy, standard and guideline for implementation of the policy on 6 February 2003. Another meeting was organized for 26 February 2003, inviting the experts, who will be the Ministry of Education's evaluation committee, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to understand the policy, principles and standard of the evaluation of the quality of the learning materials produced by private sectors.

Viet Nam

Present State and Issues of Publishing Scene

The publishing scene in Viet Nam continues to boom, with the amount of publications increasing by 10% annually. According to the data given by the Book Distribution Agency in Ho Chi Minh City alone, 9.8 million copies were sold in 2002, bringing a turnover of 207.5 billion VND to the Agency. But literary books in general, constituted only 30% of the total sale, and the majority of those were translations. This is to say that, in the three years which have passed since the beginning of the new millennium, many new publications such as encyclopedias, scientific and technical books, textbooks, children's books, criticism, etc., have accounted for most of the domestic book market. Meanwhile, except for translated novels, and some collections of short stories, Vietnamese writers haven't made any striking impact in the literature world yet.

Some art critics comment that some eminent writers who are now in their 40s "are getting old before being grown up" and don't respond to the hopes of readers, their writings are now all the same, the subjects are not new, and their styles haven't improved.



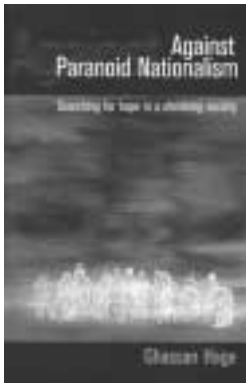
Outstanding New Books

Australia

Against Paranoid Nationalism: Searching for hope in a shrinking society

Ghassan Hage, who teaches Anthropology at the University of Sydney, defines societies as mechanisms for the production and distribution of hope and argues that the rise of paranoid nationalism throughout the world is linked to the shrinking ability of Western nations to distribute hope among their citizens. He makes a plea for a shift away from neo-liberal policies towards the creation of a caring society.

Against Paranoid Nationalism: Searching for hope in a shrinking society by Ghassan Hage, Pluto Press Australia (Locked Bag 199, Annandale, NSW), 174 pages, A\$29.95 (approx. US\$17.50), ISBN 0-b5036-533-3



Against Paranoid Nationalism (Australia)

India

Gitanjali

Coinciding with the Kolkata Book Fair, UBS Publishers' Distributors Pvt., Ltd. in collaboration with Visva Bharati released *Gitanjali* (song offerings) of Rabindranath Tagore in a new shape, size and style.

Even though the English translation of *Gitanjali* bears the same name as the original Bengali edition, the poems featured in the two editions are neither identical nor the same in number.

On the left-hand pages are featured the manuscripts of the original Bengali poems. The English translations done by the poet himself appear on the right-hand pages. Wherever the original Bengali manuscript is not available the Bengali version of the poem has been reproduced.

This edition features introduction to *Gitanjali* by W. B. Yeats, the English translation of the introduction to the French edition of *Gitanjali* by Andre Gide, Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Prize acceptance speech, a selection of



Prof. Sujit Kumar Basu, Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, releasing Tagore's *Gitanjali* (India)

newspaper clippings reporting the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Tagore, excerpts from introduction to *Gitanjali* translated in several languages which gives readers a taste of the impact of the work across the world, etc.

Gitanjali by Sujit Kumar Basu, originally by Rabindranath Tagore, 2003, 312 pages, Rs395, ISBN: 81-7476-427-5

Iran

The Eighth Valley

This book is a satirical look at the story; *The Conference of the Birds*, the world-renowned work of Farid Urdin Attar, the twelfth-century Sufi poet.

In *The Eighth Valley*, the birds gather again, to find their king, Simurgh. They should pass through seven valleys on their way again. But this time, a modern 21st century narrator is telling the story, so it seems quite different. The modern birds (humans), face many problems along the way, which Attar never mentioned in his work, such as jealousy, conspiracy, lying, dishonour, disbelief, etc. In satirical language, Ghasemzadeh confronts the dark side of human faith; even the king is not any more the glorious king that one may imagine.

From the glorious and ancient civilization and thought of Iranian culture, only a shadow has remained, a shadow of despair. But the author doesn't believe so, as he believes that the language of satire is still a powerful tool in the hands



The Eighth Valley (Iran)

of the Iranian nation, and they can still use it to overcome any obstacle that blocks their ways toward their goals.

This book is winner of the First Paulo Coelho Literary Prize in the fiction category.

The Eighth Valley by Mohammad Ghasemzadeh, Caravan Publishing House (PO Box 14145-186, Tehran), 2001, 145 x 210 mm, 136 pages, ISBN: 964-7033-06-0

Japan

Let's Go to the Library

There has been much debate surrounding libraries recently. Authors have accused libraries of being "free bookstores," claiming that because they lend large volumes of bestsellers and other books at no charge, they are partly responsible for low book sales. Libraries retort that in order to respond to local user demand, they must provide bestsellers along with other reading material and that the number of books borrowed does not amount to a significant number when compared to the total.

In the midst of this debate, a new book aimed at children *Toshokan e iko* ("Let's Go to the Library") has been published. It explains in easy-to-understand language what libraries do and how books are organized on the shelves, and introduces unique libraries. The book points out that, as opposed to bookstores, which mainly stock new titles that are likely to sell, the essential purpose of libraries is the provision of a well-balanced collection of titles most of which were published five or ten ago, and some of which are much older. Written by a librarian from her own experience in communicating with library users, the work is very convincing and has the potential to inspire children to visit the library.

Toshokan e Iko by Tanaka Kyoko, Iwanami Shoten, Publishers (2-5-5 Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8002), 2003, 192 pages, ¥740 (approx. US\$6.30), ISBN: 4-00-500423-7



Let's Go to the Library (Japan)



Meena's Three Wishes (Lao PDR)



Striking the Bell with a Stalk of Thatch Grass (Myanmar)

Lao PDR

Meena's Three Wishes

Recently, the "Meena's Three Wishes" cartoon book has been published in Lao language by UNICEF. The story tackles the issue of hygiene and sanitation. One wish was that people would use clean latrines, another was that people would use safe, clean water so that they would not fall ill, and the other was that people would wash their hands before eating and after using the latrine or bathing a baby.

UNICEF is using Meena, which is the name of a famous nine-year-old girl character in the animation cartoon, to teach the people about child rights in Laos. The cartoon products include posters, stickers, books and films.

Meena was produced in India in 1992 and it has already been reproduced in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in 13 series. It appeared in Laos in 1998.

Meena's Three Wishes, illustration: Lao adaptation by Chongkham Phonekeo, UNICEF, Lao PDR, 2003, 210 x 148 mm, 44 pages, not for sale

Myanmar

World of Books

Published by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association for the first quarter of 2003, it is a form of journal covering local and international literary scenes including review on books and writers. Contributors to the issue are noted-writers, translators and poets. The journal is a quarterly affair in Myanmar language.

World of Books, Myanmar Heritage (No. 197, B-33rd str. Yangon), 145 x 210 mm, 167 pages, Kyats500

Striking the Bell with a Stalk of Thatch Grass

This is a collection of short stories that mainly focus on the role of teachers depicting episodes with the human

touch. Twelve original short stories written mostly by writers from teaching profession mainly in rural schools. Many of them are personal accounts in the lives of teachers in diversified settings. The book was published to commemorate the 5 October, International Teachers Day for the year 2002.

Striking the Bell with a Stalk of Thatch Grass, Ministry of Education, 2002, 210 pages, 120 x 190 mm, Kyats500

New Zealand

Swallowing Diamonds

The fringes of New Zealand society are explored in this new novel by experienced New Zealand writer Marilyn Duckworth. Bundle, abandoned as a baby in a dormitory townlet and brought up in foster homes, is now a young woman existing on part-time work and unemployment benefit. Soon after she makes contact again with Stella Sumpster, the one teacher she found approachable at school, Stella places her elderly aunt in a retirement home and leaves the country. Bundle feels abandoned once again, but finds another companion in sixteen-year-old Arthur, who is flirting with transsexualism. The novel shows Duckworth's tangible realism and strong feeling for character.

Marilyn Duckworth has won many honours including a Fulbright Visiting Writers Fellowship in the US. In 1996 her novel *Leather Wings* was shortlisted for the Southeast Asia and South Pacific Writers Prize.



Swallowing Diamonds (New Zealand)

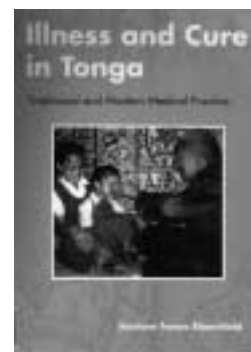
Swallowing Diamonds by Marilyn Duckworth, Vintage, Random House (18 Poland Drive Glenfield Auckland), 197 x 125 mm, 236pages, approx. US\$14.00, ISBN: 1-86941-548-5

Pacific Islands

Illness and Cure in Tonga: Traditional and Modern Medical Practice

A look at traditional cures and their practitioners in Tongatapu and the remote Nuias of Tonga, with emphasis on maternal and child health and family planning. The author examines values and belief systems related to sicknesses and their cures. Tongans are very concerned with health, but emphasize the social aspect of health and the spiritual side of social life. Good health, in the Tongan context, is related to the feeling of freedom and of knowing that one has performed all family and social duties. Sickness is believed to be caused by breakdowns in social relationships, thus, forgiveness is vital in regaining health.

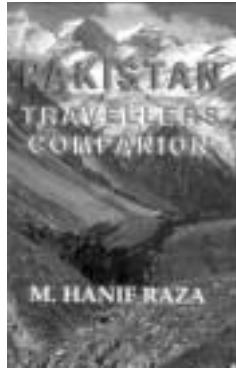
Illness and Cure in Tonga: Traditional and Modern Medical Practice by Siosiane Fanua Bloomfield, Vava'u Press (PO Box 958, Nuku'alofa, Tonga), 2002, 147 x 210 mm, 192 pages, ISBN: 982-213-005-8



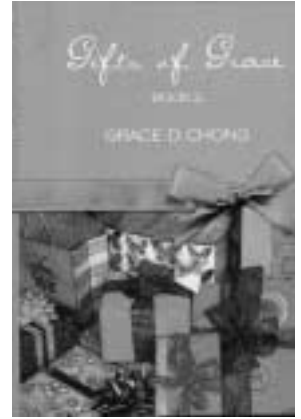
Illness and Cure in Tonga (Pacific Islands, Tonga)



Nauru One Hundred Years Ago (Pacific Islands, Nauru)



Pakistan Travellers Companion (Pakistan)



Gifts of Grace Book 2 (Philippines)

Nauru One Hundred Years Ago

Father Alois Kayser, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, arrived on Nauru in 1902. He stayed for 40 years, then was exiled along with many Nauruans to Chuuk by the Japanese during the Second World War. He and most of his flock died far away from their home. His legacy to Nauru has not been forgotten, however. Besides Nauru's enduring Catholic Church, he left a rich record of Nauru's ethnography.

This series of books on the use of pandanus, fishing tackle and practices, games and sports, and oil processing marks the 100th anniversary of Nauru's Catholic Church. It also marks Father Kayser's service to the Nauruan people. Most of all, the series shares Nauru's past with contemporary society. Volume 1 is about the pandanus tree and the uses of its fruits for food and leaves for clothing.

Nauru One Hundred Years Ago; volume 1, Pandanus by Alois Kayser, MSC, University of the South Pacific Centre (Nauru), and the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific (PO Box 1168, Suva, Fiji), 147 x 210 mm, 30 pages, ISBN: 982-02-0353-8

Pakistan

Pakistan Travellers Companion

The author has been documenting life for the past twenty years, and this book is the product of several years observing the most difficult regions of the world and its people.

The book starts by giving basic facts about Pakistan and some useful tips for travellers. The major part of the book is an A to Z companion guide to various places, hotels, sights etc.— whatever comes to the mind of a traveller can be easily found in this book. Most important are its very impressive photographs and for each topic, more than one photograph is given. In short, the book is descriptive as well as fully illustrated with scores of colour pictures, maps etc. In its annexes, details about foreign missions, hotels, and accommodation are provided.

It also contains information about the highest mountain peaks and their world

rating, including the highest peaks of Pakistan. There is exact and accurate information about Pakistan's mountains, details of major glaciers, Pakistani cuisine, regional food specialities, transportation used along the trails, famous rivers, picnic spots, tribal systems, etc. The author has also focused on the archeological sites and monuments; details about the main art; facts recovered from various sites of the Indus civilization have also been highlighted.

The cultural and historical aspects of these areas are also covered in the book. The author has also narrated love stories from some regions of Pakistan, like "Sussi Punnun" "Heer Ranjhan", etc. Details about famous tombs, mosques and shrines, historical personalities, etc. are also given.

At the end of the book, all the relevant maps and accurate guidance are given. This book combines all his wandering through various parts of Pakistan. Going through this book, one can know a lot about Pakistan without even going there.

Pakistan Travellers Companion by M. Hanif Raza, photography by M. Hanif Raza, Waqar Hanif and Tariq Hanif, Best Books, 2002, 528 pages, 215 x 139 mm, US\$15.00, ISBN: 969-8657-01-0

Philippines

Gifts of Grace Book 2

In this sequel to the bestselling *Gifts of Grace*, be touched and cheered by the stories of people whose lives impart life-lessons on faith, contentment, honesty, excellence, humour, and many more acts of grace.

Grace Dacanay-Chong recently left her post as EVP Creative of the ad agency DYR-Alcantara to do "new things" and creative writing. A graduate of the University of the Philippines, Columbia College in Illinois, USA, and the Chicago Art Institute, Grace is now a lecturer at the Southville International School and Creative Consultant for an NGO and Prime Advertising Systems, Inc. Among her published works are two advertising books, and five children's books, two of which won first prize in the Carlos

Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature (one was nominated for a 2001 National Book Award).

Gifts of Grace Book 2 by Grace D. Chong, OMF Literature, Inc., 2002, 125 x 175 mm, 184 pages, US\$7.25

Rep. of Korea

All about Seonbi or Men of Virtue of Joseon

Seonbi or men of virtue began to appear in Korea a thousand years ago and established themselves through the 500 year-old history of Joseon. They can be regarded as the model of the Korean-style noble leadership. In particular, the leadership of *Seonbi* played its pivotal role during social turmoil, invasions by foreign forces and other national crises.

What kind of role models do Koreans need in the time of changes as well as reforms in society and politics and especially, when war clouds hang over international society? This book proposes such models by examining 25 *Seonbi* from various perspectives. It will be fun for readers to choose inspirational figures whom we need in our own time— some of whom contributed a lot to the sustainability of the Joseon dynasty which lasted as the longest single dynasty in the world. Furthermore, it will provide readers not only with culture but also with insights into the times.



All about *Seonbi* or Men of Virtue of Joseon (Rep. of Korea)



Encyclopedia of Sri Lanka
(Sri Lanka)

Uriga jeongmalro araya hal uri Seonbi by Jeong Ok Ja, Hyonam Publishing Co., 2002, 424 pages, 148 x 210 mm, 25,000 won (approx. US\$20.00), ISBN: 8932311560

Sri Lanka

Encyclopedia of Sri Lanka

The *Encyclopedia of Sri Lanka* is an A to Z guide to Sri Lanka. It is the first work of its kind in English and fills a gap in the reference literature on the island. It is a comprehensive general encyclopedia, covering almost every aspect of the country. It offers a wealth of information culled from a wide variety of sources. The range of information—presented in an easy-to-find style—is not to be found in any other single publication.

There is information on the country's geography and history, places and people, politics, religions, artists, academics, scientists and writers, presidents and prime ministers, economy and trade, education and health, agriculture and industry, and, art and culture. There is also information on the island's banking, cinema, cuisine, ethnic problems, population growth, telecommunications and much else.

The Encyclopedia is intended for the general reader and will be found useful in libraries, institutions, officers and homes. Visitors to Sri Lanka will welcome it, as will people abroad who have an interest in the country

The book is illustrated with nearly 100 pictures, including 20 in colour.

Encyclopedia of Sri Lanka by C. A. Gunawardena, Sterling Publishers Private Lts. (A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II New Delhi 110020, India), 336 pages, LKR1,500, ISBN: 81207 2536 0

Thailand

Biography of a Pet Dog: The Story of Tongdaeng

This book was written by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, telling the charming story of the life of his favourite pet dog named Tongdaeng (it means 'copper' for her reddish-brown colour), who used to be a stray, and is



Biography of a Pet Dog: The Story of Tongdaeng (Thailand)

now a common dog who is uncommon.

It is a bestselling book that has captured much attention from the press and the public. 50,000 copies were sold out in a few hours and 100,000 copies were ordered in the first day of its launching.

Tongdaeng is a four-year-old dog with special features including a white spot on her nose and the tip of the tail, a half necklace on her neck, four white socks, and a curly tail. Her dominant characteristics are cleverness and quickness to understand, good manners, gratitude, respect and utmost consideration.

The Story of Tongdaeng shows that with kindness, stray dogs can be taught to be good pets and man's best friends as the King says that, "Most adopted stray dogs are usually humble and exceptionally faithful to their owners as if they are grateful for this kindness. Some are attractive or have a distinctive smart look like Tongdaeng". This book is also a parable with clear messages, offering readers a rare insight into the private world of the King, his kindness and ideas that provide us with lessons of morality, gratitude and social manners. It is written in the third person style in Thai and English languages included with one hundred attractive photographs of the King and his pet.

Biography of a Pet Dog: The Story of Tongdaeng, content and picture by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Amarin Printing and Publishing Company Limited (phone: 662-882-2000), 2002, 266 x 172 mm, 84 pages, 299 Baht (approx. US\$ 7.00)

Uzbekistan

Arbain Qirq Khadis

This book, consisting of forty quatrains, was written by Alisher Navoi in 1481 on the basis of forty kaddishes (prayers) of prophet Muhammad and in reference to Arbain by the Persian poet Djami. These poems carry ideas of kindness, nobleness and spiritual perfection in a person. It is especially relevant now, after years of Soviet ideological pressure, due to the national spiritual renaissance in Uzbekistan and Central Asia as a whole. Now



Arbain Qirq Khadis
(Uzbekistan)

that this work has been translated into Russian language by Aydin Nadjafov it is accessible to an even wider audience. This book is also currently available at this web-site: www.islam.ru

Arbain Qirq Khadis by Alisher Navoi, translated into Russian by Aydin Nadjafov, Ijod Dunyosi (Tashkent), 2002

Viet Nam

A Journalist, a Diplomat, a Personality and His Writings

In this collection of memoirs and articles from this late hero's friends, colleagues and family members, a historical period of Viet Nam re-appears before the readers' eyes. That was the hardest moment of the struggle for national salvation and for the reunification of Viet Nam in which these persons and Truong Xuan Tham himself had been involved, and he himself had written about it in various ways: diaries, articles, reportages by a special style of a journalist, reporting about his diplomat's life travelling the world over.

This might not be just a story of a brave man's life, but also a relic for researchers to understand about Viet Nam and Vietnamese in the light of the past.

Truong Xuan Tham, Nha bao, nha ngoai giao, con nguai va tac pham, A collection of writings edited by Chu Giang, Vietnam Literature Publishing House, 2003, 145 x 200 mm, 336 pages, 60,000 VND (approx. US\$4.00)



A Journalist, a Diplomat, a Personality and His Writings (Viet Nam)

GATHERINGS



| Date | Title | Country (City) Organisers | Content | Bangkok International Book Fair 2003 sticker (Thailand) |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| 2003 Mar. 27 –Apr. 7 | Bangkok International Book Fair | Thailand (Bangkok) Ministry of Education, Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT) | This book fair is organized with the slogan “Open a Book: Open the World”, which conveys the idea that books are the gateway to the world. The aims of the fair are to foster a love of books and reading habits among children and the public, to stimulate the publishers in Thailand to publish a wide variety of quality books, and to provide a global meeting place for the exchange of ideas for people interested in the publishing industry. Programme comprised of exhibitions, workshops, seminars, training courses, speed reading contest, and lectures by Thai writers who received the S.E.A. Write Award. Contact: Book Development Centre, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development, Ministry of Education, phone: (66) 2 2821816 ext. 502, and PUBAT, phone: (66) 2 9549563, e-mail: pubat@inet.co.th, http://www.bangkokibf.com/ | |
| Apr. | Asia International Book Fair (AIBF) and International Library Expo (ILE) | Singapore | AIBF/ILE is to provide Asian book and library professionals with the opportunities to network with business contacts at international level, conduct rights business, obtain the latest products and services, and view the latest technologies. http://www.aibf.com.sg | |
| April 2 | International Children’s Book Day (ICBD) | International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) | It is to inspire love of reading and to call attention to children’s books on or around 2 April, Hans Christian Andersen’s birthday. Brazil is the sponsoring country of this year’s ICBD with a poster by the Peruvian artist Rafel Fabrice Yockteng Benalcazar. The theme is “Books: The World in an Enchanted Network”. Contact: Brazilian Section of IBBY, e-mail: fnlij@alternex.com.br | |
| Apr. 22 –24 | Book Conference 2003 | Australia (Cairns) | This conference will address a range of critically important themes relating to the future of the book, as well as its past and the state of the book industry, books and reading today. Themes: An Enduring Information Architecture, New Technologies of the Book, Transforming the Book Business, and Changing the Work of the Writer. http://book-conference.com | |
| Apr. 23 | International Book and Copyright Day | UNESCO | UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright by celebrating this Day throughout the world. | |
| Apr. 24 –27 | Tokyo International Book Fair (TIBF) 2003 | Japan (Tokyo) Japan Book Publishers Association (JBPA) and others | TIBF is the gateway to the world’s second largest publishing market, Japan. 6 specialized fairs are concurrently held with TIBF 2003, such as Children’s Book Fair, Editorial Production Fair, Digital Publishing Fair, etc. TIBF 2002 welcomed 541 exhibitors from 28 countries and attracted 42,565 visitors. http://web.reedexpo.co.jp/tibf/english | |
| May 4 –14 | 16th Tehran Book Fair | Iran (Tehran) Iran Cultural Fairs Institute | At this fair, publishers supply books directly, negotiate for future business, and exchange ideas. For Iranian society, this fair is the festival of books. e-mail: info@tibf.co.ir, reqbook@tibf.co.ir, URL: http://www.tibf.co.ir/ | |
| May 19 –25 | Sydney Writer’s Festival | Australia (Sydney) | A very popular annual event attracting writers from around the world. http://www.swf.org.au | |
| June 2 –27 | Book Development Fair | Philippines National Book Development Board (NBDB) | The fair aims to showcase to the public the best of the book publishing industry. It will be held at the Glorietta in Ayala Center, Makati City. Paper manufacturers/suppliers, suppliers of printing machinery, and book forwarders, among others will be invited to show-case their wares in forty booths. | |
| June | Public Reading Programme on Book Publishing and Marketing/Forum on Book Exportation | Philippines NBDB | In June, in the 1st and 3rd week, the reading programme is in line with the agency’s commitment to promote good reading habits among Filipinos. It will initially be implemented in Metro Manila and will cater to various sectors, such as out-of-school youth; parents/housewives, and skilled workers. In the 2nd and 4th week, the Forum will be undertaken in coordination with the Book Exporters Association of the Philippines (BEAP), Philippine Educational Publishers Association (PEPA) and Book Development Association of the Philippines. Contact: NBDB, URL: http://www.nbdb.gov.ph/ | |
| Aug. 21 –22 | 2003 APPA Annual General Assembly | India (New Delhi) | 2003 Asian Pacific Publishers Association (APPA) Annual General Assembly and APPA Publishing forum will be hosted by Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP). Contact: FIP, 18/1C Institutional Area (near JNU), New Delhi 110067, phone: (91) 11 696 4847, fax: (91) 11 686 4054 | |
| Sep. | Colombo International Book Fair | Sri Lanka (Colombo) | The 2003 Colombo International Book Fair will be held in connection with the literary month, September, when many book exhibitions and fairs are held every year. | |
| Oct. | International Congress | Iran | International Congress of “Seda-ye Pa-ye Ab” (Foot Step of Water) will be held to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of contemporary poet and painter, Sohrab Sepehri. e-mail: info@sohrab-sepehri.org, http://www.sohrab-sepehri.org | |