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A Record of Cambodia: The Land and Its People

By Daguan Zhou, Peter Harris

Silkworm Books / Trasvin Publications LP. Paperback. Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A Record of Cambodia: The Land and Its People, Daguan Zhou, Peter Harris, Only one person has given us a first-hand account of the civilization of Angkor. This is the Chinese envoy, Zhou Daguan, who visited Angkor in 1296-97 and wrote "A Record of Cambodia: The Land and Its People" after his return to China. To this day Zhou's description of the royal palace, sacred buildings, women, traders, slaves, hill people, animals, landscapes, and everyday life remains a unique portrait of thirteenth-century Angkor at a time when its splendors were still intact. Very little is known about Zhou Daguan. He was born on or near the southeastern coast of China, and was probably a young man when he traveled to Cambodia by boat. After returning home he faded into obscurity, though he seems to have lived on for several decades. Much of the text of Zhou's book has been lost over the centuries, but what remains gives us a lively sense of Zhou the man as well as of Angkor. In this edition, Peter Harris translates Zhou Daguan's work directly from Chinese to English to be published for the...

Reviews

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As a casual reader its not a novel and not a flowing story. You have to think of a traveller seeing things for the first time and wonder what he didnt understand of the language or missinterpreted himself in reporting their culture. I cannot believe that for all the libraries and culture of that civilization that the Thais have destroyed all other records.. Read more. 3 people found this helpful. This short work provides a fascinating glimpse into an empire nearing its end and nearly unimaginable in present day Cambodia. The Introduction, nearly as long as the work itself, provides necessary background and is itself very readable. The work is somewhat dated and fragmented, but still a worthwhile read. The Customs of Cambodia (Chinese: 輿地紀勝; pinyin: Zhǎnǐ Fāngtǐ Jìshèng), also translated as A Record of Cambodia: the Land and Its People, is a book written by the Yuan dynasty Chinese official Zhou Daguan who stayed in Angkor between 1296 and 1297. Zhou's account is of great historical significance because it is the only surviving first person written record of daily life in the Khmer Empire. The only other written information available is from the inscriptions on temple walls. This is the Chinese envoy, Zhou Daguan, who visited Angkor in 1296-97 and wrote A Record of Cambodia: The Land and Its People after his return to China. To this day, Zhou's description of the royal palace, sacred buildings, women, traders, slaves, hill people, animals, landscapes, and everyday life remains a unique portrait of thirteenth-century Angkor at a time when its splendors were still intact. Very little is known about Zhou Daguan. He was born on or near the southeastern coast of China, and was probably a young man when he traveled to Cambodia by boat. After returning home he faded into obscurity, though he seems to have lived on for several decades. Only one person has given us a first-hand account of the civilization of Angkor. This is the Chinese envoy, Zhou Daguan, who visited Angkor in 1296-97 and wrote A Record of Cambodia: The Land and Its People after his return to China. To this day Zhou's description of the royal palace, sacred buildings, women, traders, slaves, hill people, animals, landscapes, and everyday life remains a unique portrait of thirteenth-century Angkor at a time when its splendors were still intact. Very little is known about Zhou Daguan. He was born on or near the southeastern coast of China, and was probably a yo Probably the best record of Cambodian history around. In A History of Cambodia David Chandler manages to cover the entire history of the country in less than 400 very interesting pages. The book was revised in 2007 to include recent research, more information about the Khmer Rouge period, and a section on the challenges facing Cambodia today. Although pricey, the book is well worth it. If you read only one book about Cambodia, this is a good choice. Although widely criticized for its bleak outlook, Cambodia's Curse is recommended reading for every grumpy expat who worries that he may be alone in his frustration with the Kingdom of Wonder. Buy it on Amazon or Amazon UK. Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare by Philip Short.