

Thai Amulet

JR Anderson

Thai Amulet:

The Thai Amulet Lyn Hamilton, 2003 Toronto shopkeeper Lara McClintoch must sift through the layers of Bangkok Mediums, Monks, and Amulets Pattana Kitiarsa, 2012-08-15 Mediums society to find a fellow antique dealer alive or dead Monks and Amulets is a sophisticated yet accessible study of the state of popular Buddhist beliefs as they are practiced in Thailand today Using a combination of focused case studies and analysis Pattana Kitiarsa explores the nature and evolution of popular Buddhism over the past three decades by focusing on those individuals who practice popularize and profit from it The case studies profiled in this book include prominent spirit mediums and magic monks the lottery fever surrounding the posthumous cult of folk singer Phumphuang Duangchan the Chatukham Rammathep amulet craze and the cult of wealth attributed to preeminent monk Luang Pho Khun It also explores the history of both popular and official opinion surrounding supernatural Buddhism and its clashes with the rationalist modernizing policies of Thailand's monarchy and government Mediums Monks and Amulets contests the viewpoint that supernatural elements within popular Buddhism are a symptom of the decline of the religion Instead it argues that this hybridity between traditional Buddhist beliefs and elements from other religions is in fact a symptom of the health and wealth of Buddhism as it negotiates large scale commercialization and global modernity What others are saying Pattana Kitiarsa's ability to weave his personal experiences in with sophisticated anthropological methods makes this book a fascinating and moving read It is a welcome addition to the field and should be read by everyone interested in religion and modernity in Southeast Asia and beyond Justin McDaniel author of Gathering Leaves and Lifting Words 2008 and The Lovelorn Ghost and Magical Monk 2011 Medium Monks and Amulets sheds light on the changing landscape of contemporary Thai religion that is increasingly influenced by prosperity cults from both inside and outside the Buddhist establishment This book helps us to make sense of the religious universe where magic monks spirit mediums amulets deities and other religious commodities of different sorts keep appearing endlessly Phra Paisal Visalo Highlights Focused case studies on individual cult practices including magic monks spirit mediums amulet cults and other prosperity cults Written by the perspective of an anthropologist who is also a follower of popular Buddhism Discusses not only the interaction of popular Buddhist practices with modern day lawmakers but also of nineteenth century royal interaction with supernatural cults Thai South and Malay North Michael John Montesano, Patrick Jory, 2008 The portion of the Malay Peninsula where the Thai Buddhist civilization of Thailand gives way to the Malay Muslim civilization of Malaysia is characterized by multiple forms of pluralism This book examines a broad range of issues relating to the turmoil afflicting Thailand Timothy D. Hoare Ph.D., 2004-11-23 The definitive guide to Thailand providing a comprehensive the region beyond the basics overview of the country its history economy society culture and language An essential guide that goes beyond the surface of food and fantasy Thailand A Global Studies Handbook offers important insight into the nation s history culture politics fine arts religion and language It sheds light on many often little understood facets of everyday Thai life and

customs The work covers a historical period of 800 years documenting pivotal events and personalities and presents an overview of the Thai economy with a focus on the economic crisis of the 1990s and recent developments Thai society is examined in detail including education and the monarchy the roles of religion the effects of Westernization home and family life and current social issues Specifically designed for general readers students and businesspeople this book is a must read when seeking an in depth yet straightforward introduction to Thailand **In Buddha's Company** Richard A. Ruth, 2010-09-16 In Buddha's Company explores a previously neglected aspect of the Vietnam War the experiences of the Thai troops who served there and the attitudes and beliefs that motivated them to volunteer Thailand sent nearly 40 000 volunteer soldiers to South Vietnam to serve alongside the Free World Forces in the conflict but unlike the other foreign participants the Thais came armed with historical and cultural knowledge of the region Blending the methodologies of cultural and military history Richard Ruth examines the individual experiences of Thai volunteers in their wartime encounters with American allies South Vietnamese civilians and Viet Cong enemies Ruth shows how the Thais were transformed by living amongst the modern goods and war machinery of the Americans and by traversing the jungles and plantations haunted by indigenous spirits At the same time Ruth argues Thailand's ruling institutions used the image of volunteers to advance their respective agendas especially those related to anticommunist authoritarianism Drawing on numerous interviews with Thai veterans and archival material from Thailand and the United States Ruth focuses on the cultural exchanges that occurred between Thai troops and their allies and enemies presenting a Southeast Asian view of a conflict that has traditionally been studied as a Cold War event dominated by an American political agenda The resulting study considers such diverse topics as comparative Buddhisms alternative modernities consumerism celebrity official memories vs personal recollections and the value of local knowledge in foreign wars The war s effects within Thailand itself are closely considered demonstrating that the war against communism in Vietnam as articulated by Thai leaders was a popular cause among nearly all segments of the population Furthermore Ruth challenges previous assertions that Thailand's forces were merely America's mercenaries by presenting the multiple overlapping motivations for volunteering offered by the soldiers themselves In Buddha s Company makes clear that many Thais sought direct involvement in the Vietnam War and that their participation had profound and lasting effects on the country's political and military institutions royal affairs popular culture and international relations As one of only a handful of academic histories of Thailand in the 1960s it provides a crucial link between the keystone studies of the Phibun Sarit years 1946 1963 and those examining the turbulent 1970s Capitalism Magic Thailand Peter A Jackson, 2021-12-13 By studying intersections among new cults of wealth ritually empowered amulets and professional spirit mediumship which have emerged together in Thailand's dynamic religious field in recent decades Capitalism Magic Thailand explores the conditions under which global modernity produces new varieties of enchantment Bruno Latour's account of modernity as a condition fractured between rationalizing ideology and hybridizing practice is expanded to explain the

apparent paradox of new forms of magical ritual emerging alongside religious fundamentalism across a wide range of Asian societies In Thailand novel and increasingly popular varieties of ritual now form a symbolic complex in which originally distinct cults centred on Indian deities Chinese gods and Thai religious and royal figures have merged in commercial spaces and media sites to sacralize the market and wealth production Emerging within popular culture this complex of cults of wealth amulets and spirit mediumship is supported by all levels of Thai society including those at the acme of economic and political power New theoretical frameworks are presented in analyses that challenge the view that magic is a residue of premodernity placing the dramatic transformations of cultic ritual centre stage in modern Thai history It is concluded that modern enchantment arises at the confluence of three processes neoliberal capitalism's production of occult economies the auraticizing effects of technologies of mass mediatization and the performative force of ritual in religious fields where practice takes precedence over doctrine Thailand's Buddhist Kingship in the 20th and 21st Centuries Marie-Sybille de Vienne.2022-03-30 Based on two decades of fieldwork including over a hundred interviews with various political and economic actors at different social levels as well as documentary and media analysis this volume presents an account of the Buddhist monarchy in Thailand offering a sociology of elites an analysis of the economic influence of the Crown and an examination of the magic and ritual dimension of kingship An exploration of the role and status of the Palace over the last century whether as a guarantor of democracy a symbol of stability a source of power or an object of popular discontent Thailand's Buddhist Kingship in the 20th and 21st Centuries will appeal to scholars of sociology and anthropology with interests in material religion politics and Southeast Asian studies Thai Tattoo Magick Sheer Zed, 2025-08-12 Details the author's profound encounters with Thai magick during 4 separate pilgrimages to Thailand Explains the ritual process of the author's multiple Sak Yant tattoos as well as other powerful magickal rituals and initiations he experienced Shares how his initiatory experiences with Thai Buddhist magicians helped him destroy his destructive former selves and discover profound healing for his mind and soul Sharing his profound encounters with Thai magick during 4 separate pilgrimages to Thailand writer and musician Sheer Zed details the intense personal initiations and rituals he experienced with the sect of Thai Buddhist magicians known as Ajarns The author describes powerful Thai magickal rituals such as the Gold Face Blessing where the face is covered in gold leaf and a Satuang ritual that crescendos with the release of 21 large catfish into the Ping River during a Wolf Moon He explains in detail the ritual process of his multiple Sak Yant tattoos including how receiving a magickal tiger tattoo spiritually transformed him into a tiger during the ritual He shares his experience of an intense Serm Duang ritual bath as well as how he had a gold Takrut needle inserted into his arm and a rare initiation to connect him directly with spirits Revealing the extreme personal losses and traumas that led to his spiritual transformation Zed shares how his initiatory experiences with Thai Buddhist sorcerers helped him destroy his destructive former selves and discover profound healing for his mind and soul Exploring chaos magick pop culture and esoteric Buddhism the author also examines

the artistic and occult influences that shaped him into a magickal practitioner ranging from the underground electronic music scene and the work of the Beat Poets to the writings of Aleister Crowley and the Buddhist Anarchism of Gary Snyder

Paranormal States D. E. Osto,2024-09-10 A number of converts to Buddhism report paranormal experiences Their accounts describe psychic abilities like clairvoyance and precognition out of body experiences near death experiences and encounters with other beings such as ghosts and deities and they often interpret these events through a specifically Buddhist lens This book is a groundbreaking exploration of these phenomena and their implications for both humanistic and scientific study of the paranormal D E Osto examines accounts of paranormal phenomena experienced by convert Buddhists from around the world collected through an online survey and interviews placing them in the context of Indian Buddhist sources and recent scientific research They focus in detail on the life stories of two interviewees and the important role the paranormal has played in their lives These contemporary first person narratives demonstrate the continued importance of the psychic and paranormal within the Buddhist tradition and they can be interpreted as a living Buddhist folklore Osto considers the limitations of both traditional religious views and Western scientific studies of the paranormal and proposes instead a new Buddhist phenomenological approach Ultimately Paranormal States contends these deeply mysterious and extraordinary experiences exceed current understandings and they can help bridge the gap between religious and scientific worldviews

Material Culture and Asian Religions Benjamin Fleming, Richard Mann, 2014-03-26 Traditionally research on the history of Asian religions has been marked by a bias for literary evidence privileging canonical texts penned in classical languages Not only has a focus on literary evidence shaped the dominant narratives about the religious histories of Asia in both scholarship and popular culture but it has contributed to the tendency to study different religious traditions in relative isolation from one another Today moreover historical work is often based on modern textual editions and increasingly on electronic databases What may be lost in the process is the visceral sense of the text as artifact as a material object that formed part of a broader material culture in which the boundaries between religious traditions were sometimes more fluid than canonical literature might suggest This volume brings together specialists in a variety of Asian cultures to discuss the methodological challenges involved in integrating material evidence for the reconstruction of the religious histories of South Southeast Central and East Asia By means of specific test cases the volume explores the importance of considering material and literary evidence in concert What untold stories do these sources help us to recover How might they push us to reevaluate historical narratives traditionally told from literary sources By addressing these questions from the perspectives of different subfields and religious traditions contributors map out the challenges involved in interpreting different types of data assessing the problems of interpretation distinct to specific types of material evidence e g coins temple art manuscripts donative inscriptions and considering the issues raised by the different patterns in the preservation of such evidence in different locales Special attention is paid to newly discovered and neglected sources to our evidence for trade migration and inter regional cultural exchange and to geographical locales that served as contact zones connecting cultures In addition the chapters in this volume represent the rich range of religious traditions across Asia including Hinduism Buddhism Taoism Shinto and Chinese religions as well as Islam and eastern Christianities

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