



# **The Enduring Sacred Landscape of the Naga**

## **(Mekong Press)**

*Mayoury Ngaosrivathana, Pheuiphanh Ngaosrivathana*

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Capturing the vanishing memory of ancient rituals, recited texts, and places imbued with echoes of the past, The Enduring Sacred

Landscape of the Naga recounts the lived texture of human experience in the Mekong River valley. The book reconstructs the history of those areas fused with legends and lore of the tutelary spirits of the region known as the *ngu* (serpent), *ngeuak* (salt-water crocodile), and *naga* (supernatural beings with both snake and human attributes).

While *naga* iconography adorns Buddhist temples throughout Southeast Asia, particularly in Laos and northeastern Thailand,

the *naga*'s pervasive presence is slowly fading from collective memory. By recording extant oral traditions and relying on the fourteenth-century palm-leaf chronicle *Urangkhathat*, which

many Western scholars have found to be undecipherable, the authors take the reader on a journey of the sacred sites and culture of the region, its reality and nether world, and the flesh, bone, and soul of the *naga*. Richly illustrated with nearly a hundred photographs, this book will serve as an evocative testament to the unique cultural traditions of the Mekong Basin.



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