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MELODY JAX

**Jewish Treasures of the
Caribbean** Minnesota
Historical Society Press
The story of Mai Ya Xiong
and her family and their
journey from the Ban
Vinai refugee camp in
Thailand to a new life in

Madison, Wisconsin, is
extraordinary. Yet it is
typical of the stories of
the 200,000 Hmong
people who now live in
the United States and who
struggle to adjust to
American society while
maintaining their own
culture as a free people.
Mai Ya's Long Journey
follows Mai Ya Xiong, a
young Hmong woman,
from her childhood in

Thailand's Ban Vinai
Refugee Camp to her
current home in
Wisconsin. Mai Ya's
parents fled Laos during
the Vietnam War and
were refugees in Thailand
for several years before
reaching the United
States. But the story does
not end there. Students
will read the challenges
Mai Ya faces in balancing
her Hmong heritage and

her adopted American culture as she grows into adulthood.

War and Aesthetics

Independently Published

The untold story of how America's secret war in Laos in the 1960s transformed the CIA from a loose collection of spies into a military operation and a key player in American foreign policy. January, 1961: Laos, a tiny nation few Americans have heard of, is at risk of falling to communism and triggering a domino effect throughout Southeast Asia. This is what

President Eisenhower believed when he approved the CIA's Operation Momentum, creating an army of ethnic Hmong to fight communist forces there. Largely hidden from the American public—and most of Congress—Momentum became the largest CIA paramilitary operation in the history of the United States. The brutal war lasted more than a decade, left the ground littered with thousands of unexploded bombs, and changed the nature of the

CIA forever. With “revelatory reporting” and “lucid prose” (The Economist), Kurlantzick provides the definitive account of the Laos war, focusing on the four key people who led the operation: the CIA operative whose idea it was, the Hmong general who led the proxy army in the field, the paramilitary specialist who trained the Hmong forces, and the State Department careerist who took control over the war as it grew. Using recently declassified records and

extensive interviews, Kurlantzick shows for the first time how the CIA's clandestine adventures in one small, Southeast Asian country became the template for how the United States has conducted war ever since—all the way to today's war on terrorism.

Portraits of Hmong Women DIANE Publishing
For centuries the mysterious region of Southeast Asia known as the Golden Triangle has exerted a powerful hold over the Western imagination. Today it

continues to figure in world news because of the infamous traffic in opium and heroin. Yet this fascinating area is also of considerable interest for a different reason: within it live six culturally distinct peoples - the Karen, Hmong, Mien, Lahu, Akha and Lisu - struggling to maintain the integrity of their beliefs and way of life against all the pressures of the rapidly changing society around them.

Contested Territory Ten Speed Press
"Demystifying Hmong

Shamanism" is the first book to provide a comprehensive discussion of shamanism as practiced and experienced by Hmong Americans. A broad range of case examples are discussed that not only represent the initiation and maintenance of the shaman's practice, but also a variety of ceremonies performed to promote spiritual health and well-being across the life span. Case examples are described in rich detail and presented within a real-life context.

Shamanism as practiced in the United States remains consistent with that practiced in their homeland of Laos, with minor adaptations as described throughout the text. The book is unique in that it addresses a traditional form of shamanism that continues to be practiced widely within Hmong American communities across the United States.

"Demystifying Hmong Shamanism" provides a comprehensive exploration of the practice and use of shamanism by

Hmong Americans that incorporates a first-hand perspective from recipients, family members, shamans, and the shaman assistants. "Demystifying Hmong Shamanism" is the result of over ten years of research and close collaboration with Hmong shamans and other members of the Hmong American community. As practicing Hmong shamans advance in age, they have identified the importance of documenting their legacy for future generations.

Their cooperation and collaboration with Dr. Gerdner has provided a unique opportunity for the documentation and recording of ceremonies normally restricted to family members. The shamanic ceremonies and practices reported here reflect the diversity with regard to purpose and performance found within the Hmong shamanic world. Recorded and presented for the first time, "Demystifying Hmong Shamanism" is a landmark publication in the field of Hmong and

Hmong American studies, shamanism, and religion.

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American History, Art, and Culture in 101 Objects

Beacon Press

Queen of Needlework is a fictional story about a girl who was taken from her family and raised in the jungle by the most surprising animal. She learns who she is and discovers that she has an amazing talent for needlework. She has many ups and downs, but manages to find her way. This is an uplifting story

that inspires you to believe in yourself, and to follow the path you think is best. It is also a very informative book that teaches you the history of Hmong people, as well as the importance and beauty of needlework. Follow Mai See on her path in life and see what surprises come her way!

Craft in Art Therapy

Millbrook Press

Siho and Naga are the most powerful mythological figures in Lao tradition manifested in their textiles. This book focuses on the history and

culture of the creators of exquisitely hand woven fabrics that have attracted textile connoisseurs all over the world. The study leads not only to rare weaving techniques, patterns and natural dyes, but also to a vast ethnic diversity of people who used to live self sufficiently of their natural environment in rural areas or under royal patronage in ancient cities. Textiles have always been an integral part of the social and spiritual life of Lao people who now, after a

devastating war, are challenged to come to terms with tourism, cash, and global market strategies. Siho and Naga shall raise awareness for urgent educational reform countrywide and encourage local and international preservers of Lao culture to continue their efforts to the benefit of Lao's young generation, who eventually will grasp the value of their own textiles in order to set them against cheap imports.
Siho and Naga--Lao Textiles Yale University

Press
 The unique culture & heritage of the Hmong people are celebrated in this collection of folktales. Includes an introduction to Hmong history. The first collection of authentic Hmong tales to be published commercially in the English language, this book focuses on 27 captivating tales including creation myths; how/why stories; and tales of love, magic, and fun.
Hmong Story Cloths
 Minnesota Historical Society

A fascinating survey of the entire history of tall tales, folklore, and mythology in the United States from earliest times to the present, including stories and myths from the modern era that have become an essential part of contemporary popular culture. Folklore has been a part of American culture for as long as humans have inhabited North America, and increasingly formed an intrinsic part of American culture as diverse peoples from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania arrived. In

modern times, folklore and tall tales experienced a rejuvenation with the emergence of urban legends and the growing popularity of science fiction and conspiracy theories, with mass media such as comic books, television, and films contributing to the retelling of old myths. This multi-volume encyclopedia will teach readers the central myths and legends that have formed American culture since its earliest years of settlement. Its entries provide a fascinating

glimpse into the collective American imagination over the past 400 years through the stories that have shaped it. Organized alphabetically, the coverage includes Native American creation myths, "tall tales" like George Washington chopping down his father's cherry tree and the adventures of "King of the Wild Frontier" Davy Crockett, through to today's "urban myths." Each entry explains the myth or legend and its importance and provides detailed information about the

people and events involved. Each entry also includes a short bibliography that will direct students or interested general readers toward other sources for further investigation. Special attention is paid to African American folklore, Asian American folklore, and the folklore of other traditions that are often overlooked or marginalized in other studies of the topic. [The Asian Pacific American Heritage](#) Princeton University Press A wonderful and funny

fictional biography of the artist's friendship with Soviet dictator Stalin.

I Begin My Life All Over

Smithsonian Institution

The story cloth made for the author chronicles the life of the Hmong people in their native Laos and their eventual emigration to the United States.

Includes a compendium of Hmong culture--their history, traditions, and stitchery techniques.

Demystifying Hmong

Shamanism Taylor & Francis

Of an estimated twelve million ethnic Hmong in

the world, more than 160,000 live in the United States today, most of them refugees of the Vietnam War and the civil war in Laos. Their numbers make them one of the largest recent immigrant groups in our nation. Today, significant Hmong populations can be found in California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Michigan, and Colorado, and St. Paul boasts the largest concentration of Hmong residents of any city in the world. In this groundbreaking

anthology, first-and second-generation Hmong Americans--the first to write creatively in English--share their perspectives on being Hmong in America. In stories, poetry, essays, and drama, these writers address the common challenges of immigrants adapting to a new homeland: preserving ethnic identity and traditions, assimilating to and battling with the dominant culture, negotiating generational conflicts exacerbated by the clash of cultures, and

developing new identities in multiracial America. Many pieces examine Hmong history and culture and the authors' experiences as Americans. Others comment on issues significant to the community: the role of women in a traditionally patriarchal culture, the effects of violence and abuse, the stories of Hmong military action in Laos during the Vietnam War. These writers don't pretend to provide a single story of the Hmong; instead, a multitude of

voices emerge, some wrapped up in the past, others looking toward the future, where the notion of "Hmong American" continues to evolve. In her introduction, editor Mai Neng Moua describes her bewilderment when she realized that anthologies of Asian American literature rarely contained even one selection by a Hmong American. In 1994, she launched a Hmong literary journal, Paj Ntaub Voice, and in the first issue asked her readers "Where are the Hmong American voices?"

Now this collection--containing selections from the journal as well as new submissions--offers a chorus of voices from a vibrant and creative community of Hmong American writers from across the United States.

Musical Memories

Routledge

This photographic essay highlights the little-known history of the first Jewish communities established in the New World dating to the 1600s. Award-winning photographer Wyatt Gallery documents the oldest synagogues

and cemeteries on Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Eustatius, and Suriname through his singular style of photos with histories written by Stanley Mirvis. The enclaves, formed by Sephardic Jews who fled the Catholic Inquisition, became so influential that they helped fuel the success of the American Revolution and partially finance the first synagogues in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island. Once home to thousands, today these historic communities are

rapidly dwindling and could soon disappear. Only five historic synagogues remain in use, and many of the cemeteries have been damaged or lost to natural disasters, vandalism, and pollution. These photographs bear witness to the legacy of New World Judaism and provide a record for future generations.
Hmong and American
Wisconsin Historical Society
"A tale of diversity within our damaged landscapes,
The Mushroom at the End

of the World follows one of the strangest commodity chains of our times to explore the unexpected corners of capitalism. Here, we witness the varied and peculiar worlds of matsutake commerce: the worlds of Japanese gourmets, capitalist traders, Hmong jungle fighters, industrial forests, Yi Chinese goat herders, Finnish nature guides, and more. These companions also lead us into fungal ecologies and forest histories to better understand the promise of

cohabitation in a time of massive human destruction."--Publisher's description.

Frontier Livelihoods

Bloomsbury Publishing
USA

The Hmong were driven out of Laos by the turmoil of the Vietnam War and settled in America in such large numbers that they are now the second largest Southeast Asian population in the United States. Twelve Hmong immigrants, including a female shaman, an ex-military officer, a reformed gang member, a

doctor, and a woman who was snatched from her mountain village at the age of eight, deposited in Laos's French culture and finally returned to Laos years later, tell their stories of struggling with American life while preserving the values of their own ancient culture. The author also considers the 5,000 years of Hmong history and its lasting influence.

A Great Place to Have a War Peter Lang

The pages that follow, rich in descriptive detail, are the fruits of their labor.

The women in this survey vary in age, education and level of literacy of American culture. Some were born in Laos and came here as adults. Others arrived as children or in their teens and have been educated as Americans. Portrait of Hmong Women conveys their stories. It brings to light their voices, thoughts and perspectives. In doing so, it shows how the lives of Hmong women are complicated by a multitude of social and cultural factors, including

difficult choices they must regularly confront. We will learn that some of those choices were made by them; others have been made for them. Each personal narrative is thus about life in a community that is bounded by strong traditions on the one hand and informed by the need to exercise some autonomy within the spaces of those traditions on the other.

Folk Stories of the Hmong
Routledge

Tragic Mountains tells the story of the Hmong's struggle for freedom and

survival in Laos from 1942 through 1992. During those years, most Hmong sided with the French against the Japanese and Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh, and then with the Americans against the North Vietnamese.

[Jews in Minnesota](#)

Perfection Learning

Based on more than 200 interviews during 2002-2009 under the auspices of the Hmong Oral History Project.

Several full-text

interviews are available on the project's website.

Dia's Story Cloth

University of Washington Press

Hmong Archives was founded as a nonprofit on 10 February 1999 to collect, preserve, research and interpret materials by and about Hmong.

[Portage Lake](#) Simon and Schuster

A global exploration of the many writing systems that are on the verge of vanishing, and the stories and cultures they carry with them. If something is important, we write it down. Yet 85% of the world's writing systems are on the verge of

vanishing - not granted official status, not taught in schools, discouraged and dismissed. When a culture is forced to abandon its traditional script, everything it has written for hundreds of years - sacred texts, poems, personal correspondence, legal documents, the collective experience, wisdom and identity of a people - is lost. This Atlas is about those writing systems, and the people who are trying to save them. From the ancient holy alphabets of the Middle East, now

used only by tiny sects, to newly created African alphabets designed to keep cultural traditions alive in the twenty-first century: from a Sudanese script based on the ownership marks traditionally branded into camels, to a secret system used in one corner of China exclusively by women to record the songs and stories of their inner selves: this unique book profiles dozens of scripts and the cultures they encapsulate, offering glimpses of worlds unknown to us - and ways

of saving them from vanishing entirely.

Asian Tofu Schiffer Publishing

Cresciuto in una famiglia modesta e molto religiosa, Craig ha lavorato dai dieci ai vent'anni nei campi di ginseng del Wisconsin. Ma che ci fa una millenaria radice medicinale cinese nel cuore rurale degli Stati Uniti? È un po' quello che, guardandosi allo specchio, si chiede il giovane Craig: «Ma che ci faccio qui?». Ogni centesimo guadagnato raccogliendo ginseng, lo spende per comprare fumetti, un

hobby che gli permetterà di lasciare quel piccolo mondo di sacrifici e rimpianti. Oggi, molti anni dopo, parlando con il padre, la madre, il fratello Phil, la sorella Sarah e molta gente del suo paesino d'origine (la cui economia da anni ruota

at- torno al ginseng), Thompson scava nei propri ricordi, ripensa al dolore che un'opera nuda e travolgente come Blankets ha inflitto a chi gli ha sempre voluto bene e va alla ricerca delle proprie radici. Radici che a volte, proprio come il

ginseng, con-tengono il segreto per guarire ogni male.

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