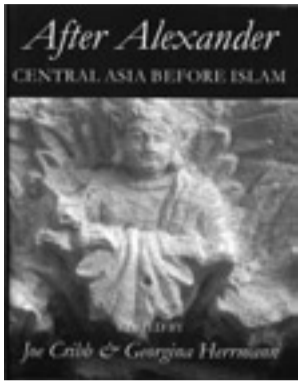


Bookmarked



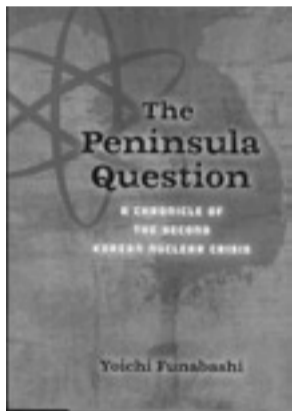
After Alexander: Central Asia Before Islam

Edited by Joe Cribb & Georgina Herrmann
Published for the British Academy by Oxford University Press. 2008
ISBN 978 0 19 726384 6

This is a new study of the history, archaeology and numismatics of Central Asia, an area of great significance for our understanding of the ancient and early medieval world. This vast, land-locked region, with its extreme continental climate, was a centre of civilisation with great metropolises. Its cosmopolitan population followed different religions (Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Buddhism), and traded extensively with China, India, the Middle East, and Europe. The millennium from the overthrow of the first world empire of Achaemenian Persians by Alexander the Great to the arrival of the Arabs and Islam was a period of considerable change and conflict.

The volume focuses on recent investigations in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. It provides a complex analysis of the symbiosis between the city life based on oases, and the nomadic peoples grazing their animals in the surrounding semi-deserts. Other topics include the influence of the Greek colonists on military architecture, and the major impact of the Great Kushans on the spread of Buddhism and on the development of the Central Asian metropolis. And although written documents rarely survive, coinage has provided essential evidence for the political and cultural history of the region.

These essays will be of interest to the scholar, the student, and the armchair traveller.



The Peninsula Question: A Chronicle of the Second Korean Nuclear Crisis

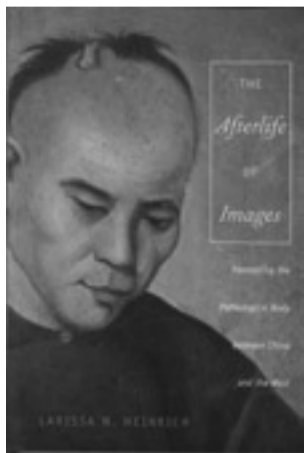
By Yoichi Funabashi
Brookings Institution Press. 2007.
ISBN 978 0 8157 3010 1

In October 2002 the United States confronted North Korea with suspicions that Pyongyang was enriching uranium in violation of the Agreed Framework that the nations had worked out during the Clinton administration. North Korea subsequently evicted international monitors and resumed its nuclear weapons program. The Peninsula Question chronicles the resulting second Korean nuclear crisis.

Japanese journalist Yoichi Funabashi, informed by interviews with more than 160 diplomats and decision makers from China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States, provides a behind-the-scenes look at the negotiations to denuclearize

the peninsula. Between 2002 and 2006, a series of top level diplomats, including the prime minister of Japan, attempted to engage with North Korea. Funabashi illustrates how the individual efforts of these major powers laid the groundwork for multilateral negotiations, first as the trilateral meeting and then as the Six-Party Talks. The first four rounds of talks (2003-2005) resulted in significant progress. Unfortunately, a lack of implementation after that breakthrough ultimately led to North Korea's missile tests in July and subsequent nuclear tests in October 2006.

The Peninsula Question provides a window of understanding on the historical, geopolitical, and security concerns at play on the Korean peninsula since 2002. Offering multiple perspectives on the second Korean nuclear crisis, it describes more than just the U.S. and North Korean points of view. It pays special attention to China's dealings with North Korea, providing rare insights into the decision-making processes of Beijing. This is an important, authoritative resource for understanding the crisis in Korea and diplomacy in Northeast Asia.



The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West.

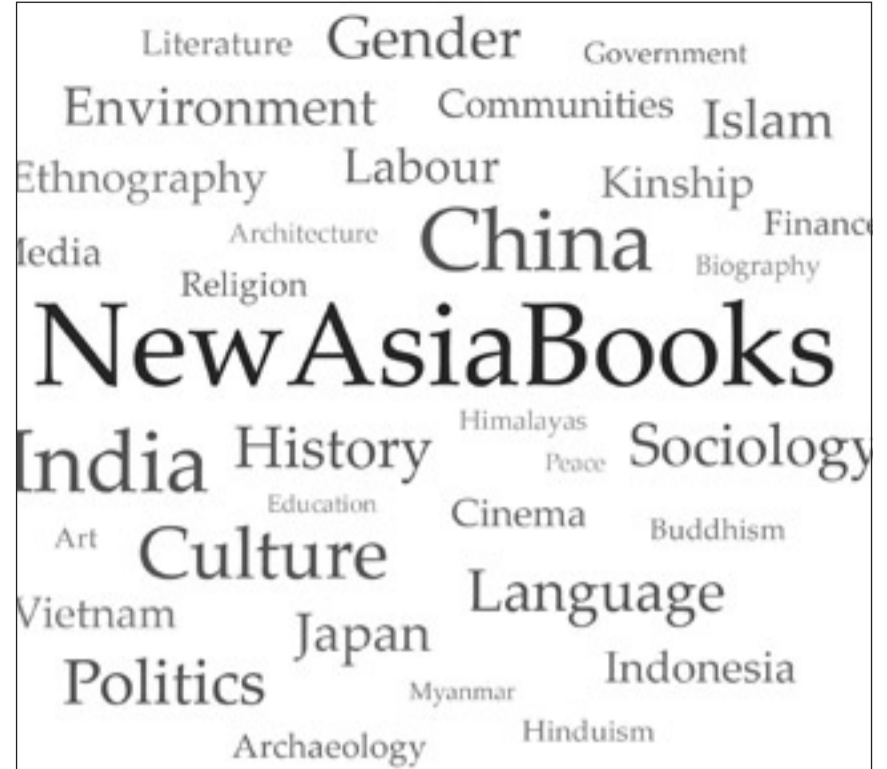
By Larissa N. Heinrich
Duke University Press. 2008.
ISBN 978 0 8223 4113 0

In 1739 China's emperor authorised the publication of a medical text that included images of children with smallpox to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Those images made their way to Europe, where they were interpreted as indicative of the ill health and medical backwardness of the Chinese. In the mid-19th century, the celebrated Cantonese painter Lam Qua collaborated with the American medical missionary Peter Parker in the creation of portraits of Chinese patients with disfiguring pathologies, rendered both before and after surgery. Europeans saw those portraits as evidence of

Western medical prowess. Within China, the visual idiom that the paintings established influenced the development of medical photography. In *The Afterlife of Images*, Larissa N. Heinrich investigates the creation and circulation of Western medical discourses that linked ideas about disease to Chinese identity beginning in the 18th century.

Combining literary studies, the history of science, and visual culture studies, Heinrich analyses the rhetoric and iconography through which medical missionaries transmitted to the West an image of China as "sick" or "diseased." She also examines the absorption of that image back into China through missionary activity, through the earliest translations of Western medical texts into Chinese, and even through the literature of Chinese nationalism. Heinrich argues that over time "scientific" Western representations of the Chinese body and culture accumulated a host of secondary meanings, taking on an afterlife with lasting consequences for conceptions of Chinese identity in China and beyond its borders.

If you would like to review one of the titles featured in Bookmarked or New For Review, email : iiasnews@let.leidenuniv.nl



Who is using NewAsiaBooks.org?

One year after the launch of New Asia Books a clear picture emerges about the published topics in the field of Asia studies, what visitors have been looking for and how they use the site. Our webserver registered 250 visitors on an average day, who looked at 26 product pages per session. A daily average of 6,352 page views may not seem much, but we expect the number of (especially returning) visitors to increase steadily. Currently only 13% of our traffic is returning visitors; 87% is new visitors who find our site mainly via search engines.

Search engines love New Asia Books



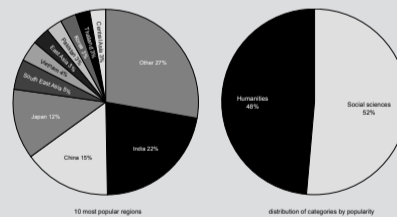
Almost immediately newasiabooks.org was established, searchbots like those of Google, Yahoo, and Windows Live began indexing the site thoroughly. Although the site is very new in the field, we are glad to see high rankings on search pages of these popular web services. By keeping up with the latest web standards we try to keep search engines happy. This is good for everybody: visitors quickly find what they are looking for, reviewers and publishers are being noticed by an increasing number of readers. The graph below shows that the majority of our visitors found the site via search engines:

- Geographically, they come from cities such as:
- New Delhi,
 - London,
 - Paris,
 - Singapore,
 - Amsterdam,
 - New York and
 - Sydney.



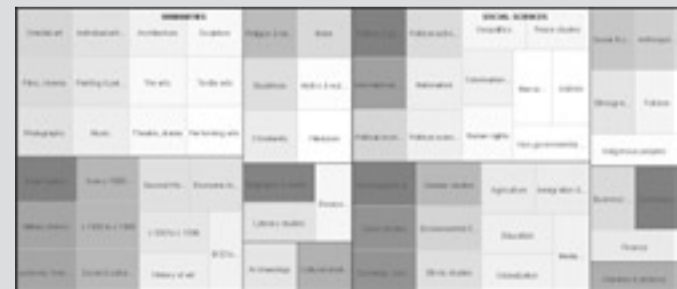
Popular categories

Each book presented on the site is tagged with a regional and one or two thematic categories. The regions India, China, and Japan are most popular: half of all search requests were about these regions. Furthermore, we see that the interest in Humanities and Social Sciences themes are pretty much equally divided.



From all the keywords used in site searches and from category page visits, we can see that within the main category Humanities the subcategories about 'History' are very popular, and to a lesser extent those about 'Arts' and 'Language & literature'. Popular subcategories within the Social sciences are 'Sociology', 'Anthropology' and 'Politics & government'. In the treemap below we see how the 100 most

popular categories are nested within the larger categories of Humanities and Social Sciences; the darker the square, the more popular the category.



Have your say

Forums are a new feature on New Asia Books. This is a space for users to discuss issues on Asia studies and publishing in the academic field. You'll find the forums by clicking on the 'Discuss' link in the main menu. As ever we hope to get feedback from you about what you would like from New Asia Books. Leave your remarks on the forum at www.newasiabooks.org or send an email to info@newasiabooks.org

Thomas Voorter
New Asia Books