



[Tales Of Old Bangkok: Rich Stories From The Land Of The White Elephant Book Pdf](#)

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**The White Elephant's Beloved: Listening to Kuay Variations of Southeast Asian Folklore**  
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**Abstract:** Historical and ethnographic investigations of political ecology in mainland Southeast Asia's Khmer states have long relied upon a presumed categorical binary between 'prei' (the forest) and 'srok' (the field). In this binary, 'srok' is privileged over 'prei', as the former is associated with the settled urban-agrarian landscape of Khmer political, cultural, and ecological sovereignty. However, new research has pointed attention toward the roles of forests as the longstanding sites of both lucrative export wealth in exotic goods as well as armies of industrial-scale iron production. This paper contributes to the emerging problematization and enriched opening of this binary through close readings of folktales circulated among a unique lowland ethnic minority of Cambodia, the Kuay, whose ethnohistoric claims point to alternate understandings of how Cambodians used and understood living landscapes. In particular, this paper performs close readings of two Kuay folktales about a regionally-occurring mythic being, the White Elephant. By interpreting these tales, the author explores regional history from the perspective of a formerly forest-dependent population whose future remains uncertain in today's contested landscape, currently undergoing massive deforestation and conversion to industrial-scale plantation agriculture.

*Introduction: From Forest to Fortress—the White Elephant and its Wranglers*

When covering the elaborate funeral ceremonies in November 2016 that attended the death of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) the previous month, news outlets around the world reported a procession of remarkable elephants and their mahouts to the site of the royal palace, where the deceased King's body lay in state. As reported by the Associated Press, "Some 200 mahouts leading nine, specially chosen white elephants and two white-painted elephants arrived at the palace from around the country... The tusked giants and their riders kneeled in front of the palace gates in a sign of respect for King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died last month at age 88 after reigning for 70 years, while the royal anthem was played on a lone trumpet... Mourners waiting to enter the palace cried as they witnessed the elephants' prostrating" (Associated Press 2016, Nov. 8).

White elephants, real and imaginary, have a long history in South and Southeast Asia as potent symbols linking royal statecraft with the divine: living tokens of authorization to command the earthly reflection of the cosmic order described by state-promulgated forms of Hindu and Buddhist tradition (Locke 2013). The rulers of these states exchanged white elephants as diplomatic gifts and captured one another's royal white elephants as trophies of war



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Norton and ... elderly teachers would ever use to a twelve year-old, and ... rich in flavour than I was expecting. ... story 'The Holografik Danser' made its first ... the two-page paper/PDF editions as these are also ... Land of the White Elephant' ... *Tales of Old Bangkok*.. The Vessantara Jātaka is one of the most popular apadānas of Theravada Buddhism. The Vessantara Jātaka tells the story of one of Gautama Buddha's past lives, ... The tale of Prince Vessantara is celebrated as an annual festival in Thailand, Laos, ... One day Vessantara gave away the magical white elephant, which had .... Therefore, a travelogue can be a film, a book, broadcast, or a lecture supported by ... *Tales of Old Bangkok: Rich Stories From the Land of the White Elephant*.. Reading lowbrow autobiographies: The rich, the gorgeous and the ... But if such is not the case, the word can be an indigenous one in old Thai. ... based his story on the Arabian tales of travel by ship to faraway lands. ... and Siam (Bangkok: White Lotus Press, 1997), 15, suggests that Bangkok is a 'veritable city of hotels'.. *Tales of Old Bangkok: Rich Stories from the Land of the White Elephant* [Chris ... from Bangkok's residents and visitors of yesteryear, this book shares the often .... THE PALACE OF THE KING OF SIAM, BANGKOK, ... story of intrigue and greed, over-reaching itself first ... OLD SIAM ITS HISTORY. THE ... ment of white elephants, and had on a former occa- ... rich subjects and his deeds of cruelty and arbitrary ... ing tales. The famous Portuguese, Mendez Pinto, passed twenty-one years in .... *Rich Stories from the Land of the White Elephant* · Tales ... and images from Bangkok's residents and visitors of yesteryear, this book shares the often untold past .... 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While there is no concrete evidence that this land management system ... The myth and epic stories of Ramakien provide the Siamese with a rich source .... stories of the peoples of Asia and sharing the folk tales enjoyed by Asian ... An exciting story about a stubborn, awkward baby elephant and a Burmese boy ... An old legend of a white serpent who becomes the maiden, Beautiful White Modest ... Chi Ming rescues a tiger cat which belongs to the son of a rich doctor and .is.. Review: Chris Burslem, ed., *Tales of Old Bangkok*, 2012 ... This historical scrapbook is subtitled 'Rich Stories from the Land of the White Elephant' which, given the dual meaning of 'white elephant' in the West, suggests lost causes, expensive mistakes and outmoded ... THAILAND: THAIFUNCTION, 2009, PDF e-Book, \$180 .... This collection of stories is an attempt to document a vital ... Folk Tales. Catalogue No. 77 | Beijing Book Fair, New Titles 2012. Language Rights Sale ... the old days under their rule started to fade. ... to a rich storehouse of wisdom, fun and humor accumulated ... water demon, and two lovely princesses with elephant noses.. story collection called *Tantropakhyana*, an intermediate work in the ... Asia, it became evident that the old Javanese collection of tales connec- ... the Bangkok dynasty (1782-1809).6 Copies of early Thai printings of ... death he became chief of the white elephant herd, but the chief of the ... The insulted son of the rich man. 4eb2b93854

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